

Kindergarten Information Night

January 31, 2024

The Purpose of the Kindergarten Program



The kindergarten program provides experiences that enhance each child's cognitive, social emotional, fine and gross motor, physical, and social skills.

Enrollment Eligibility

- A resident child must be five (5) years of age on or before September 1st in order to be eligible to attend kindergarten.
- If a child is not five (5) years of age by the September 1st enrollment eligibility date, but will be five (5) years of age no later than December 1st, the parent/guardian may submit a Kindergarten Age waiver to the enrollment department.

Overview

- Follows school district calendar
- Full day schedule (8:25 - 3:30)
- Lunch, specials, and school events
- Before & after school care is available
- Core curriculum: English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, & Science
 - Some learning in ELA and Math overlap, pacing is different
- Taught by Michigan certified teacher with early childhood endorsement
- Specials slightly differ between K & DK

Differences

Kindergarten (K)

- Will progress to first grade at completion of K
- Greater emphasis on mastery of skills

Developmental Kindergarten (DK)

- Is an additional year of school (DK students will attend K the next school year)
- Greater emphasis on experience, exposure, and stamina building



Example of Kindergarten Schedule

AM	PM
Arrival and Book Baskets	Lunch
Opening and Calendar	Read Aloud
Phonemic Awareness/Phonics Study	Specials (Art, Music, Physical Education, Spanish)
Readers Workshop	Math Workshop
Healthy Snack (provided by parents) and Recess	Healthy Snack (provided by parents) and Developmental Centers
Guided Reading	Social Studies/Science Block
Centers	Rest Time
Writers Workshop	Wrap Up and Closure of the day

Example of DK Schedule

AM	PM
Arrival and Fine Motor Centers	Recess
Morning Meeting and Calendar	Rest Time
Indoor/Outdoor Free Play	Math Centers/Small Group Work
Read Aloud/Whole Group Literacy	Whole Group Math
Literacy Centers/Small Group work	Outdoor Play
Handwriting Without Tears	Science/Social Studies
Phonemic Awareness	Free Play
Lunch	Clean Up and Dismissal

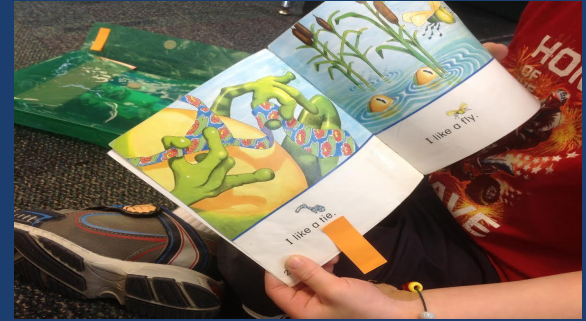
Curriculum

Typical Reading Development

Phases of Word Reading Development Typically developed ages 4-6			
Pre Alphabetic	Early Alphabetic	Later Alphabetic	Consolidated Alphabetic
Knows general print concepts No letter-sound knowledge	Knows some letter-sound linkages Early phonics and phonemic skills	Some automatic sight word recognition Uses letter-sound linkages	Continues developing sight word recognition Demonstrates advanced phonemic awareness skills

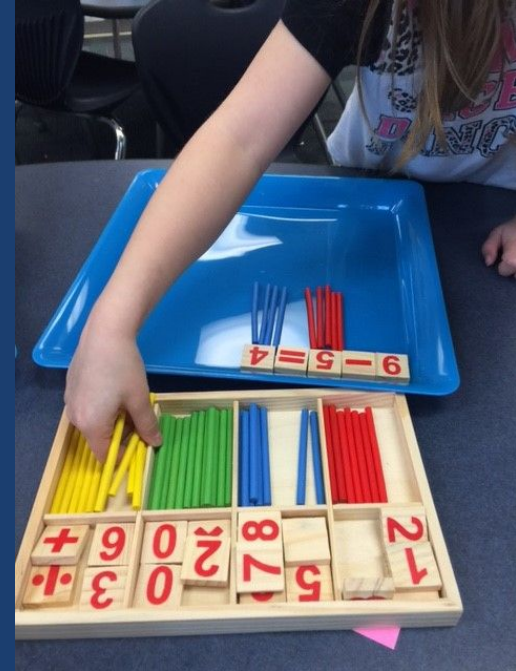
Literacy

- Upper and lower case letter recognition
- Association of a sound to each letter
- Rhyming recognition
- Independent reading of simple texts
- Understanding of speech components - a letter, a word, a sentence
- Reading in unison
- Retelling familiar stories
- Reciting poetry and nursery rhymes



Mathematics

- Know number names and the count sequence.
- Count to tell the number of objects.
- Compare numbers.
- Understand addition and subtraction.
- Work with numbers 0-20.
- Describe and compare attributes.
- Classify objects.
- Identify and create shapes.

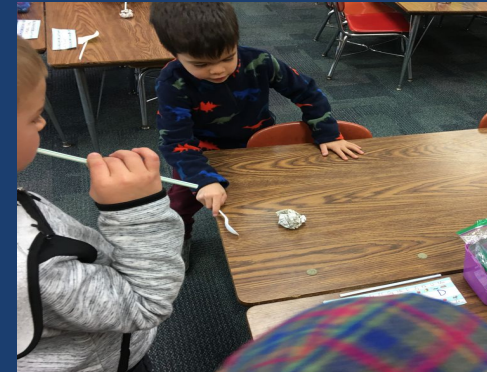
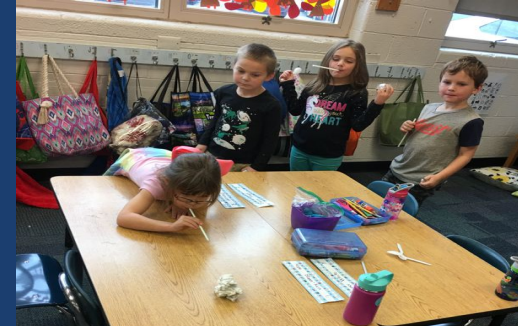


Science

Topics:

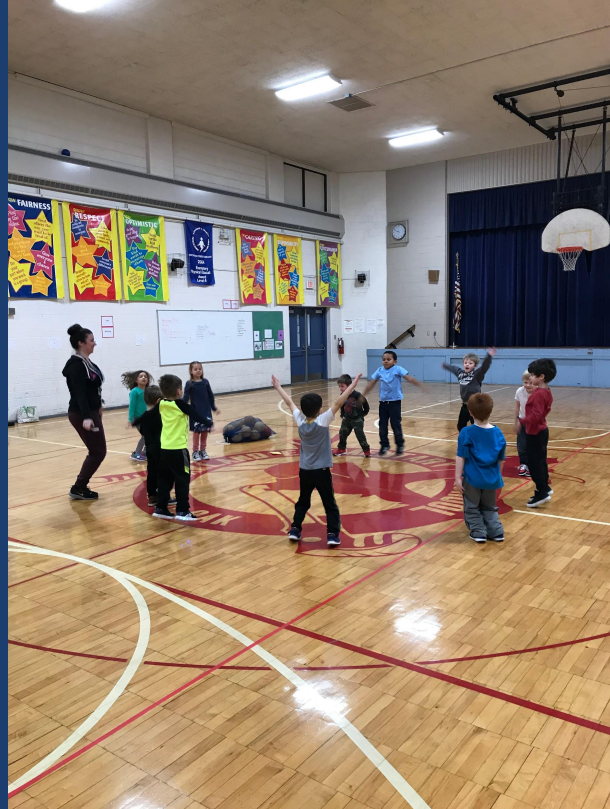
- Humans and Animal Needs
- Weather
- Living Things and Their Habitats
- Using Force to Change Motion

*Inquiry-based lessons!



Specials

- Art
- Spanish
- Music
- Physical Education



Social Studies

- Who am I?
- Where am I?
- Needs and Wants
- Safety
- Holidays and Culture
- Getting Along with Others
- Past, Present, and Future
- Core Democratic Values (truth, friendship, kindness)



Considerations & Communication

What level is best for my child?

- There is no single definition or assessment to determine placement.
- *Most* students will attend kindergarten (K).
- All enrolled K/DK students will be invited to a Kindergarten screening day in the spring at their resident school.
 - Engage in activity centers with K/DK teachers and ancillary staff
 - Will provide useful information for guidance of appropriate placement and to help start the students' first year in elementary school on solid ground
- Students with IEPs: IEP teams will consider all options.

School Safety

- School doors are locked during the day. Entry is permitted through the front lobby doors
- Safety check is completed daily for attendance. This involves a phone call from the school when your child is absent
- Oak Ridge Elementary has 24 hour surveillance cameras throughout the building
- Fire, severe weather, and lockdown drills are routinely practiced throughout the year
- Oak Ridge Elementary promotes Positive Behavior Intervention Support
- There are clearly defined behavioral expectations for all locations of the building

What to Expect as a Parent

- Events in the spring & summer:
 - Kindergarten Screening Day - April/May
 - Spring social Event - May/June
 - Meet & Greet - late August
- Meetings during the school year:
 - Curriculum Night - September
 - Parent/Teacher Conferences—November
- Written communications:
 - Report Cards—November, January, March, and June
 - Newsletters
 - Notes/Phone Calls/Emails
- Volunteer opportunities PTA events

How to Help Prepare Your Child

- Read to and with your child!
- Help develop their oral language:
 - Tell stories
 - Ask questions
 - Sing songs
- Practice:
 - identifying and forming letters & numbers
 - identifying basic shapes
 - Writing their first name

How to Help Prepare Your Child

Fine motor:

- Legos, Playdoh, stacking money, tearing paper.
- Practice using scissors and cutting on the line.
- Holding and using a pencil using the tripod grasp

Life Skills:

- Zip, button, tie shoes
- Put on, zip and hang up coat
- Bathroom etiquette (independent use)
- Open containers and food packages
- Share, take turns and follow multi-step directions

BENEFITS OF **READING** to your Child

Parents play an integral part in their children's education and helping them reach their full potential. Here are some benefits of reading to your children:

Helps them sleep.

Getting a good night's rest is important for developing children, and reading to them while they are in bed can calm their minds and bodies.

Improves communication skills.

When you spend time reading to children, they will be much more likely to express themselves and relate to others in a healthy way.

Creates new bonds.

With a majority of our days spent looking at computer, TV and phone screens, it's important to take a few moments to spend quality time with your children. Reading to your children also can build an emotional connection. It's a win-win.



Teaches them the basics.

Teaching children to read is like building a house — you need to have a solid foundation that you can build upon later in life.

Improves logical thinking skills.

Reading to children helps their ability to grasp abstract concepts, apply logic, recognize cause and effect, and use good judgment.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnX824XmVZY&authuser=0>

