

# **Welcome To**

## Getting Ready For

# **Kindergarten**

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chat.





Getting Ready For  
**Kindergarten**

# Launching into an Adventure

- ❑ The steps to enrolling in kindergarten
- ❑ What is expected in preschool and kindergarten
- ❑ The school readiness “building blocks” – skills and that will ensure your child’s success
- ❑ How to prepare yourself and your child for a successful kindergarten adventure
- ❑ Resources and tips on building successful routines



# What Happens in Preschool?

In Preschool children will learn:

- ❑ to use language through drama, song, story and rhyme
- ❑ to recognize letters of the alphabet and alphabet sounds
- ❑ to rhyme words and blend words
- ❑ to play and work cooperatively in a group
- ❑ to find solutions to conflicts
- ❑ to be persistent in challenging tasks
- ❑ to do lots of hands-on math
- ❑ to count objects to 30
- ❑ to develop their strength and abilities
- ❑ to practice writing the alphabet



# What Happens in Kindergarten?



**Near the beginning of kindergarten, children:**

- ❑ can sit at a table and write with a pencil.
- ❑ can listen to and follow one- or two-step instructions
- ❑ can learn to recognize the sounds of the alphabet and words (phonological awareness).
- ❑ can begin to write the letters of the alphabet.
- ❑ can manage their behavior, with help from adults.

# What Happens in Kindergarten?



By the end of kindergarten, children:

- ❑ know the sounds of the alphabet and can sound out words.
- ❑ recognize all of the upper- and lowercase letters of the alphabet.
- ❑ can read many short “sight words.”
- ❑ can tell what words rhyme and make a rhyme.
- ❑ can ask and answer complex questions about books.
- ❑ can speak their thoughts, feelings and ideas clearly.
- ❑ can write numbers from 0 to 20 in order.
- ❑ can retell a story.
- ❑ can write about something they like or don’t like.
- ❑ know how to hold a pencil and crayon correctly.
- ❑ are good at taking turns and following classroom rules.
- ❑ can pay attention to the teacher for 15 to 20 minutes.

# Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten



# Building Blocks of School Readiness

- ❑ Health and wellbeing
- ❑ Social and emotional development
- ❑ Language skills
- ❑ Mathematical thinking





# Building Blocks of School Readiness

## ★ Health and Wellbeing

- ❑ **Nighty-night.** A good night's sleep will help your child grow and be ready to pay attention during the school day. Young children need 10 to 12 hours of sleep each night. Without enough sleep, much learning is lost. If you struggle with getting your child to bed, enlist the whole family to help set a routine for good sleep habits.
- ❑ **Limit computers, smartphones and television.** Allow no more than one to two hours per day. Take an interactive approach with all digital media. ★
- ❑ **Eat good food.** Reinforce healthy eating habits. Your child needs to have energy and be alert for school. Focus on healthy choices for breakfast and school lunches or snacks.
- ❑ **Play.** Make time for active play and exercise, at least 60 minutes a day. The brain and the body are connected. Exercise is as important to brain development and learning as it is to physical and mental well-being.
- ❑ **Baby teeth matter.** If your child has not visited a dentist, now is the time. Tooth decay and pain are major causes of school absences and keep children from being able to focus. Teach your child how to take care of his or her teeth.



# Building Blocks of Kindergarten

## Social and Emotional Development

**Healthy social and emotional skills are connected to learning. They include:**

- ❑ Being able to recognize and label emotions
- ❑ Understanding other people's thoughts and feelings
- ❑ Having confidence and taking pleasure in their abilities
- ❑ Developing close relationships with adults
- ❑ Engaging in cooperative and pretend play with their peers
- ❑ Learning to solve problems
- ❑ Being curious and eager to learn
- ❑ Expressing needs and wants
- ❑ Being resilient and hardworking

### Tips for parents

- ❑ Teach your child "feeling" words, like frustrated, lonely, angry and bored.
- ❑ Teach your child that all feelings are okay but not all actions are okay.
- ❑ Talk about your own feelings and express love to your child.
- ❑ Help your child to identify and talk about his or her feelings.
- ❑ Practice imagining what others are feeling.
- ❑ Make time for playing with friends.
- ❑ Help your child to feel proud of his or her efforts, even when things don't turn out the way he or she wanted.
- ❑ Model good manners. Remember to say "please" and "thank you" and your child will too.
- ❑ Share your culture and traditions with pride.



# Building Blocks of Kindergarten

## Language Skills

### Speaking and listening skills include:

- ❑ Expressing needs, wants and views clearly
- ❑ Making longer sentences by connecting shorter sentences
- ❑ Talking about past, present and future events
- ❑ Having back-and-forth conversations
- ❑ Understanding jokes, word play and riddles
- ❑ Following directions, starting with one- and two-step sequences and building to four-step sequences
- ❑ Recognizing favorite songs and rhymes

### Tips for parents

- ❑ Talk to your child as often as possible. Talk in the grocery store, talk in the house.
- ❑ When having conversations, give your child time to answer.
- ❑ Listen carefully when your child is talking. Ask questions and show you care about what he or she is saying.
- ❑ Speak clearly so your child can hear how the words are meant to sound.
- ❑ Sing songs – start with nursery songs, folk songs and camp songs you remember from when you were young. If you can play an instrument, even better.
- ❑ Play storytelling games with your child and encourage him or her to tell you stories.
- ❑ Play listening games. Hide a small object and then give your child directions on how to find it.
- ❑ Be careful about using slang or swear words that your child may repeat.
- ❑ Continue to use your home language while engaging in these activities.

# Building Blocks of Kindergarten

## Language Skills

### Early reading and writing skills include:

- ☐ Enjoying stories and retelling them
- ☐ Describing characters and events in a book
- ☐ Understanding that words are made of letters
- ☐ Understanding that letters make sounds
- ☐ Learning how words rhyme
- ☐ Drawing pictures that tell a story
- ☐ Writing letters or letter-like shapes
- ☐ Knowing more and more letters by sight and name

### Tips for parents

You can help your child by:

- ☐ Reading to your child for at least 10 to 15 minutes every day. Before bed is a good time.
  - ☐ Read like you are having a conversation. Let your child set the pace, turn the pages, tell the story or ask questions.
  - ☐ Be expressive and enjoy yourself. If you don't like the book, find another one. Have fun.
  - ☐ Use the C.A.R. method:
    - ☐ **C**omment and wait for a response
    - ☐ **A**sk questions
    - ☐ **R**espond and wait
- ☐ Repeating books. Children love to hear the same stories.
- ☐ Getting a library card and visiting the library often.
- ☐ Using wordless books; telling a story with pictures.
- ☐ Keeping pencils, crayons and paper available for your child.
- ☐ Taking turns telling and retelling stories.
- ☐ Offering your child lots of encouragement.



# Building Blocks of Kindergarten

## Mathematical Thinking

### Mathematical skills include:

- ❑ Understanding numbers and counting
- ❑ Understanding the idea of more and fewer
- ❑ Measuring with tools, fingers, hands or feet
- ❑ Learning shapes and how they fit together
- ❑ Recognizing and creating patterns
- ❑ Using various strategies to solve problems
- ❑ Sorting and classifying objects

### Tips for parents

- ❑ Play games, including card games, board games or active games.
- ❑ Clean up. You can sort, match and compare while tidying up. Or you can talk about colors, textures and sizes by matching socks while folding laundry.
- ❑ Build with blocks. Children learn geometry, fractions, engineering and other concepts from blocks.
- ❑ Look for shapes in everyday objects. Doors are rectangles, pennies are circles.
- ❑ Count together. For example: “How many chairs are at the table? How many steps to the bedroom?”
- ❑ Work on puzzles of various sizes and difficulties.



# Preparing Over the Summer

## May/June

For his or her safety, make sure your child knows the following basic information:

- ☐ His or her first and last names
- ☐ Full names of parents
- ☐ Who will pick him or her up after school
- ☐ Whether he or she has any food allergies or food restrictions
- ☐ To walk away and find an adult he or she knows if he or she is approached by strangers
- ☐ Your phone number

## August

- ☐ Check with the school to find out your child's classroom and teacher. Some schools post this information right before school starts, while others tell you ahead of time.

## July

- ☐ Talk to your child about what a typical school day will look like.
- ☐ Walk or drive to school during the time you would normally have to once school starts– see how long it takes.
- ☐ Practice the routines that help get your child to school on time.
- ☐ Getting to bed early
- ☐ Getting up early
- ☐ Gathering supplies and clothes
- ☐ Preparing lunches the night before
- ☐ Eating breakfast
- ☐ Help your child choose his or her own backpack to bring on the first day of school.

# Kindergarten Transition Activities

- ❑ Kindergarten Playdates
- ❑ Kindergarten School Visits
- ❑ Kindergarten Send Off



# District 64 Kindergarten Options

## Half-Day Kindergarten

8:50 AM - 11:35 AM (M,T,TH,F)

8:50 AM - 11:05 AM (W)

- Full-Day Kindergarten is tuition-based (\$18/day). There is no tuition for half-day kindergarten.
- The FDK Student Fee is the same as grades 1-5, which is \$227. The Student Fee for Half-Day Kindergarten is \$114.
- Families may apply for a fee waiver, which is based on income level, or may set up a payment plan by contacting the Business Office anytime after Aug 1, 2023.

## Full Day Kindergarten

8:50 AM - 3:30 PM (M,T,TH,F)

8:50 AM - 2:40 PM (W)

- Beyond the Bell provides before or after-school care for full-day kindergarteners. Please contact the Park Ridge Park District for details.
- Bus transportation is available for both full and half-day kindergarteners (part of the registration process).



# Students Receiving Special Education Services

- Parents of students receiving special education services will participate in a transition meeting. At this meeting, families will meet with Jefferson's team and representatives from the receiving school team to discuss and consider potential goals, minutes and services, and placement for kindergarten.
- For families of students receiving speech only services, Jefferson's speech and language pathologist will recommend minutes and services for kindergarten through an amendment. This is done in collaboration with the receiving school speech and language pathologist.
- District 64 has been engaged in work on expanding the continuum of services offered in special education for the past three years. With the exception of SLC at Washington(the District's Structured Learning Community program for students with profiles that benefit from structured teaching), the elementary specialized programs will open for the 2026-2027 school year at Carpenter, Field, Franklin, and Roosevelt. If a student may be considered for a specialized program, families will partner with IEP teams for the most appropriate school placement.



# Kindergarten Schedule

## Half-Day

- Morning SEL Circle (20 min)
- Literacy (phonemic awareness, phonics, letter formation, comprehension, writing) (70 min)
- Math (40 min)
- May or may not include a special: PE, ART, MUSIC, Library

## Full-Day

- Morning SEL Circle (20 min)
- Literacy (phonemic awareness, phonics, letter formation, comprehension, writing) (70 min)
- Math (40 min)
- PE (1 session), Music (1 session), Art (1 session) + 1 additional session (varies by class and may be PE, Art, Music, or LRC)

**+**  
**PLUS**

- Additional Literacy experiences, including comprehension and writing (40 min)
- Additional Math experiences (20 min)
- Content Area Activities: Social Studies, Science, Health explored through activities and purposeful play (90 min per week)
- Additional sessions (PE, Art, Music, LRC)
- Flex Block to enrich and support learning (30 - 4x per week) - This includes Literacy/Math Intervention and Primary Challenge

# Registration

- ❑ District Registration Page
- ❑ Official Birth Certificate
- ❑ Home language survey
- ❑ Physical Exam & Immunizations  
\***Due** before the first day of school.
- ❑ Proof of Residency
- ❑ Vision Exam Form
- ❑ Dental Exam Form

**Complete registration by March 14th for the early bird discount!**



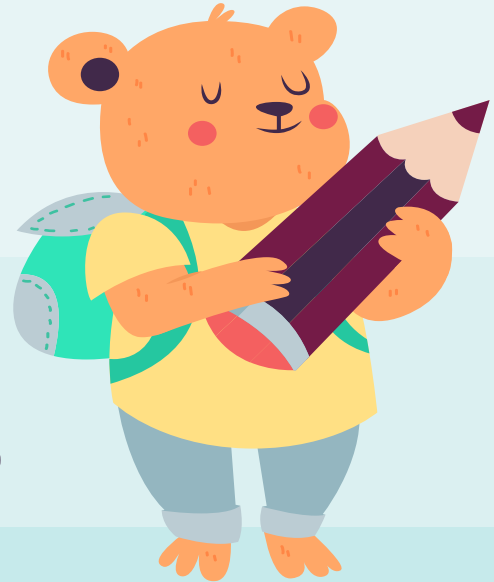
# Kindergarten Parent Orientation

Building principals will send emails to registered families with dates and further information for kindergarten parent orientation and kindergarten screenings.

**April:** Kindergarten Round Up (Parent Orientation)

**May:** Kindergarten Screenings

**August:** Kindergarten Orientation (Parents and Students)



# School Connections

## Carpenter

Principal- Brett Balduf

[bbalduf@d64.org](mailto:bbalduf@d64.org)

Assistant Principal- Sean Degman

[sdegman@d64.org](mailto:sdegman@d64.org)

## Franklin

Principal- Kristin Williams

[kwilliams@d64.org](mailto:kwilliams@d64.org)

Assistant Principal- Margaret Burke

[mburke@d64.org](mailto:mburke@d64.org)

## Washington

Principal- Angela Brito

[abrito@d64.org](mailto:abrito@d64.org)

Assistant Principal- Jennifer Adams

[jadams@d64.org](mailto:jadams@d64.org)

## Field

Principal- Courtney Goodman

[cgoodman@d64.org](mailto:cgoodman@d64.org)

Assistant Principal- Christa Donnelly

[cdonnelly@d64.org](mailto:cdonnelly@d64.org)

## Roosevelt

Principal- Kevin Dwyer

[kdwyer@d64.org](mailto:kdwyer@d64.org)

Assistant Principal- Jacquelyn Peters

[jpeters@d64.org](mailto:jpeters@d64.org)



# Additional Resources



**A.**

**Raising A School-Ready  
Child A Family Guide**

<https://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/sites/uhfamily.hawaii.edu/files/publications/School-ReadyChild.pdf>



**B.**

**Monthly Guide to  
Kindergarten Readiness**

<https://www.cmlibrary.org/getset4k>



**C.**

**Illinois Early Learning  
Project**

**Starting Kindergarten**  
<https://illinoisearlylearning.org/keyword/kindergarten/>



# From Kindergartener to Kindergartener



**Q&A**



# THANK YOU



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