

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are so excited that your sons and daughters will be Willow Grove kindergartners!

You may be wondering what skills you can work on with your students between now and the start of the school year in August to support their success. In fact, you *can* help give them a significant advantage....

We encourage you to work with your children to develop these skills *before the school year begins*. That is, before starting kindergarten, your children should be able to:

- Put on and take off their coats independently
- Hang up their coats and backpacks on designated hooks
- Feed themselves independently using utensils (spoon/fork or chopsticks)
- Complete their bathroom routine with no help from adults. This includes:
 - Hand washing
 - Pulling their clothing up and down
 - Wiping
 - Fastening buttons (If they cannot, choose clothing with stretchy elastic waistbands or other appropriate fastenings for ease of bathrooming.)

Also, it would support your kindergartners' success if they *begin kindergarten with these skills*:

- Know the alphabet (the ABCs)
- Write their first name
- Cut with scissors
- Count aloud to 20
- Identify numbers 1 through 10
- Tie their shoes (or wear shoes that do not need to be tied)

A strong ongoing home-school partnership is essential to school success. We look forward to building this partnership with you—beginning right now—before your children enter their classrooms at Willow Grove!

