Prekindergarten
Language and Early Literacy

Before entering Prekindergarten, students should be able to...

- Move independently from one place to another (Ex. walking, wheelchair, etc.).
- Use independent self-help skills (Ex. bathroom; attempt to button, zip, snap; put on coat; etc.).
- Follow simple one-step directions.
- Respond verbally (one or two words) or non-verbally (pointing) to express needs
- Recognize his/her name verbally.
- Listen to a speaker or a story for a short period of time.
- Engage in conversation and answer simple questions.

During Prekindergarten, students will...

- Focus attention on a speaker during group and individual instruction.
- Follow simple one and two-step directions.
- Participate in rhyme, rhythm, and repetition of poems, stories, and fingerplays.
- Discuss personal experiences and role play to increase vocabulary.
- Share ideas, feelings, and stories through conversations and play, using complete sentences.
- Play with language (rhymes, Dr. Seuss books, alphabet song).
- Listen to and discuss stories read.
- Recognize first name in print.
- Participate in a variety of activities with letters (recognize letters of his/her name, street signs, and store names).
- Strengthen hand muscles and eye-hand coordination through activities such as coloring, drawing, cutting and manipulating playdough.
- Write first name.
- Write using marks and pictures.
- Distinguish the printed word from pictures.
- Identify parts of a book (Ex. front cover, back cover, title page).
- Demonstrate awareness that print is written and is read left-to-right and top-to-bottom.

As parents, give your child the opportunity to...

- Develop routines including nutritious meals and early bedtime.
- Engage in conversation about daily events and listen to your child. Play with your child. Play age appropriate games that require taking turns and following instructions. Play games with magnetic letters from the dollar store.
- Sing songs and rhymes (Ex. Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes).
- Check out books from the library; read to your child; discuss the stories or experiences.
- Encourage independence with dressing, buttoning, zipping, tying shoes, etc.
- Provide appropriate social activities outside of the school setting.
- Provide pencils, crayons, paper and scissors for practice at home.
- Name household items (Ex. food, clothing, furniture, etc.).
- Practice writing his/her name with upper and lower case letters (Ex. Bill, Judy, Mary).
- Talk about print in the environment: grocery stores, fast-food restaurants, and cereal boxes.
- Make simple books by drawing and writing about daily activities.
Before entering Prekindergarten, students should be able to...

- Count orally to 3.
- Recognize numbers 1-3.
- Be aware of numbers in the environment (Ex. clocks, birthday candles, age).
- Count sets of 1, 2, and 3 objects.
- Understand math vocabulary of more, big, little, same and different.
- Understand positional words (on, off, first, last, between, in, out, up, down, top, bottom).
- Recognize basic colors (red, yellow, blue).
- Recognize one or two shapes (circle, square).
- Sort simple items by color or shape.
- Sequence real-life activities, such as getting dressed and playing games.
- Follow one-step directions.

During Prekindergarten, students will...

- Match objects in one-to-one correspondence (Ex. touch each object as the number is spoken).
- Identify positional relationships.
- Orally count in sequence 1-30.
- Count small objects to 10.
- Write numbers 1-5; recognize numbers 0-10.
- Identify and form simple A B patterns (Ex. red-blue; red-blue).
- Recite the days of the week.
- Name and identify basic geometric shapes (circle, square, rectangle, triangle).
- Name and identify basic colors (red, yellow, blue, orange, green, purple, black, brown, white).
- Classify by attribute (Ex. shape/color/size).
- Compare similarities and differences of objects.
- Explore measurement: weight, volume, full/empty, long/short, more/less/equal, small/medium/large.
- Identify the temperature according to the weather.

As parents, give your child the opportunity to...

- Discuss numbers found in the environment, such as calendars, clocks, birthday candles, temperature, etc.
- Count toys, household, or environmental objects.
- Recognize and name colors in the environment.
- Discuss patterns in the environment.
- Use his/her toys to practice comparison skills, such as same/different, sorting by size, shape, and color.
- Use his/her toys or household objects to practice positional words.
- Play games and work puzzles (5-7 pieces).
- Sort laundry (socks with socks, towels with towels).
- Discuss and recognize shapes of things around the home and also in the community.
Practice measurement concepts (full/empty, more/less) by using things in the bath or kitchen.
Practice recognizing and writing the numeral 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

Prerequisite Skills

Before entering Prekindergarten, students should be able to...

- Respect the teacher and other school personnel as authority figures.
- Understand that there will be rules to provide for a safe learning environment.
- Request help for wants and needs in appropriate ways.
- Identify immediate family members, such as mom, dad, brother, sister.

Competencies

During Prekindergarten, students will...

- Obtain information through listening, speaking, and observing.
- Express ideas orally and by drawing pictures.
- Acquire vocabulary associated with the immediate environment (home and school).
- Identify basic human needs, such as food, clothing, and shelter.
- Identify jobs in the home, school, and community.
- Learn about and respect the differences in cultures.
- Describe family customs and traditions.
- Identify rules and purposes for having rules.
- Learn basic school social skills, such as respecting property, materials, and others.
- Learn to interact with others and solve conflicts in a positive manner.

Outside of School

As parents, give your child the opportunity to...

- Learn to say “please” and “thank you.”
- Make eye contact with a speaker.
- Ask for help when needed (tying shoes, buttoning, etc.).
- Talk about what you do together as a family.
- Participate in family celebrations.
- Develop responsibility at home by helping with simple tasks such as setting the table or helping care for a pet.
- Learn about and discuss the rules you follow as a family in your home.
- Make decisions independently. (EX: Would you like to wear your red or your blue Shirt today?)
- Before entering Prekindergarten, students should be able to...
  - Identify some body parts, such as eyes, nose, mouth, and ears.
  - Answer yes/no questions.
  - Show interest in the environment around them.
- During Prekindergarten, students will...
  - Use the five senses to make observations and discoveries.
  - Identify changes in daily life, such as weather, temperature, and seasons.
  - Practice and understand science safety rules, such as not tasting unknown items.
  - Make predictions by learning to ask “What will happen if…?”
  - Identify patterns.
  - Identify and name body parts.
  - Ask and answer simple questions.
  - Explain decisions and observations in their own words.
  - Distinguish between living and nonliving things.
- As parents, give your child the opportunity to...
  - Go for walks outdoors and discuss and name the things he/she sees.
  - Visit the zoo, parks, and museums.
  - Help care for a family pet or a plant.
- Observe and discuss daily weather changes.
- Help with cooking, such as measuring, pouring, and mixing ingredients.
- Collect items outdoors and use them for sorting and naming.
- Use scientific tools such as magnifying glasses or rulers to explore items.