

Kindergarten

READINESS ACTIVITIES

READ TO ME

Nursery Rhymes
Picture Books
Non-Fiction Books
Poems

MAY I HAVE

Crayons and Coloring Books
Old Newspapers and Round-End Scissors
Rope for Jumping
Cereal and Other Boxes for Play

SHOW ME

Scenery
Trees
Apartment Buildings
Small Homes
Street Lights
Stop Lights
Street Signs
Advertisements
House Numbers

TELL ME ABOUT

Mail Carriers
Doctors
Nurses
Bakers
Teachers
Fire Fighters
Police Officers

LET ME

Dress Myself
Help at Home
Set the Table
Help You Shop
Sort Clothes

ASK ME: Is It

Big, Small
Hard, Soft
Near, Far
Long, Short
High, Low
Fast, Slow

TAKE ME ON TRIPS

Museums
Taxi Rides
Zoo
Automobiles
Airplanes
Boats
Parks

TEACH ME

Table Manners
Listening Habits
Speaking Habits

ANSWER MY QUESTIONS

What is a family?
Why do we get up in the morning?
What is the difference between night and day?

EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE OF

The Sky
The Moon
The Stars
The Clouds
Rain
Thunder and Lightning



South Colonie

South Colonie

PARENT'S GUIDE to Kindergarten



Dear Parent:

We welcome you and your child to the South Colonie Schools. We look forward to working with you as your child begins this exciting experience in learning.

You are your child's first and most important teacher. Your child comes to school with the experiences learned at home. We use these experiences as building blocks to help your child acquire the best possible education.

Success in kindergarten and throughout school depends on the growth of the whole child. Your child will have experiences with people, events, and materials. Sensory skills, such as looking, touching, making believe, and laughing, are types of learning that are a part of growing up and just made for childhood. Our program will include activities to help your child grow intellectually, emotionally, and socially in optimum health.

This guide contains suggestions of activities for you, as well as a checklist of skills considered important by our teachers. This checklist can serve as a guide to help you determine the skills your child already possesses.

Starting kindergarten should be an exciting experience for you and your child!

Entrance Requirements

Your child must be five years of age on or before December 1 of the school year in which he/she enrolls in kindergarten. An original birth certificate, or passport must be brought to school at the time of registration along with three (3) proofs of residence.

A record of immunizations, signed by a physician, will need to be shown during registration. The following immunizations are required:

- Polio – three (3) doses
- Diphtheria - Pertussis - Tetanus (DPT) – three (3) doses
- Mumps, Measles, Rubella (MMR) – two (2) doses
- Hepatitis B series – three (3) doses
- Varicella (Chicken Pox) - one (1) dose or doctor's proof of having Chicken Pox

Immunization requirements must be completed prior to actual entrance into kindergarten.

Kindergarten Screening

New York State Education Law requires the screening of all new school entrants in kindergarten through grade 12. As required by law, the screening process must be completed by the first of December of each school year.

Through our screening process, we hope to identify students who may be in need of further evaluation. Our screening program is designed to obtain preliminary information regarding a child's development in the following areas: physical development, cognitive development, receptive and expressive language development, articulation skills, motor development.

The results from the screening process will be shared with you when completed and will indicate one of two possibilities: further assessment is required or no further assessment is required. The results also become a part of your child's record and are covered by the South Colonie board of Education's policy on Family Rights and Privacy which insures confidentiality.

Children Learn What They Live

- If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.
- If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.
- If children live with ridicule, they learn to be shy.
- If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.
- If children live with tolerance, they learn to be patient.
- If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.
- If children live with praise, they learn to appreciate.
- If children live with fairness, they learn justice.
- If children live with security, they learn to have faith.
- If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.
- If children live with acceptance and friendship, they learn to find love in the world.

Checklist of Skills



PRACTICAL SKILLS, ATTITUDES, AND INTERESTS

Practical Skills – Can your child:

- Open and use a glue stick?
- Take care of toilet needs without help?
- Do simple errands for you?
- Communicate personal needs to others?
- Use scissors?

Attitudes and Interests:

- Do you have books, magazines, and newspapers that your child looks at voluntarily if given the opportunity?
- Has your child played in groups at home or in some type of organized setting?
- Does your child pretend to read if the opportunity arises?
- Will your child stay with other people while you are away for short periods of time?
- Does your child take turns?
- Does your child share toys?
- Does your child share people's attention?
- Does your child attend during stories?
- Does your child talk to other children?

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Can your child tell you:

- His or her first and last name, home address, phone number?
- How many feet he or she has?
- How many ears a dog has?
- Which goes faster, a motorcycle or bicycle?
- What a key is for?
- What eyes are used for?
- What ears are used for?
- The names of three or four colors that you point out?
- What way a sweater, shoe, and hat are the same?

COORDINATION

Can your child:

- Tie shoelaces?
- Zip or button up a coat and pants?
- Walk backward for a distance of 5 to 6 feet?
- Stand on one foot for 5 to 10 seconds?
- Alternate feet walking downstairs?
- Walk a straight line?
- Fasten buttons looking at them from the front?

COMPREHENSION

Remembering – Can your child:

- Repeat a series of 4 numbers without practice, such as: "Say after me – 6-1-7-4" (2-5-8-3)?
- Repeat an 8 to 10 word sentence if you say it once? "Teddy ran all the way home from the store."
- Remember instructions and carry out two simple errands or tasks in the room after being told once? "Bring me the pencil" and "close the door."

Understanding – Can your child:

- Tell you the meaning of simple words such as apple, animal, shoe, hammer, water?
- Count six objects?
- Supply the last word to the following statements?
A fire is hot: An ice cube is _____.
A plane travels fast: A turtle travels _____.
- Tell what parts are missing if you draw a stick picture of a person and leave out a leg and an arm?

Your Child's

Health & Welfare

HEALTH AND DENTAL EXAMINATIONS

New York State requires that children have a comprehensive health examination including the BMI status in kindergarten and grades two, four, seven and 10. If this is not done by your family physician within 30 days of entrance into school, the school physician will administer the examination during the school year. In keeping with good health, the state is also recommending a Dental screening by your family dentist during the same years as the required physicals.

RECORDS

Health records are kept on file in the nurse's office. These records include a yearly update of your child's height, weight, diseases, and other health information. Please keep us informed of any changes regarding your child's health. Parents are notified if any medical attention is needed. You should consult your family physician and report the results to the nurse to aid in keeping your child's records up to date.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

If your child has contracted chicken pox or another communicable disease, please notify the school office as soon as possible.

MEDICATION

Medication can be administered in school ONLY with (1) written parent consent and (2) written instructions from the doctor

indicating the need of receiving the medication during the school day. The note should include the name of the medication, the dosage, and the time to be given. The medication must be brought to school by you in the original container.

EXCUSES

A written excuse is required when your child comes to school after an absence. Please send these excuses on the day the child returns to school.

ILLNESS IN SCHOOL

If your child becomes ill or is injured while in school, you will be contacted. Be certain that the school has an alternate emergency telephone number at which you can be reached. Keep your child home if he/she exhibits signs or symptoms of illness (fever, rash, sore throat, upset stomach). This will enable your child to perform at his/her best and possibly avoid spreading illness. Please contact school personnel when your child is absent.

YOUR CHILD'S CLOTHING

Please put your child's name inside coats, hats, boots, mittens, lunchboxes, backpacks, and other items of outerwear. Boots should be large enough so your child can put them on without help.

