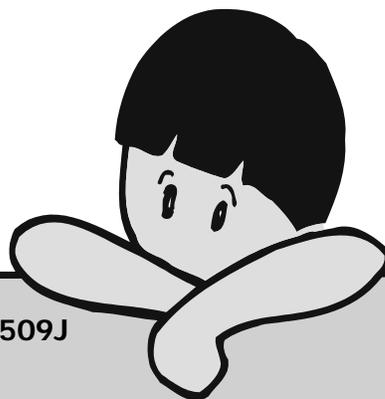
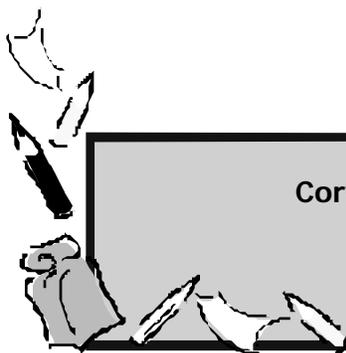
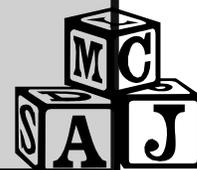




Welcome  
to  
Kindergarten



Corvallis School District 509J  
1555 SW 35<sup>th</sup> Street  
Corvallis, OR 97333  
(541)757-5811



Dear Kindergarten Parents,



This booklet has been put together by the Corvallis kindergarten teachers to give you important information to support your child as he/she begins kindergarten. Please keep it handy during the coming year, and follow the directions and suggestions carefully.

Kindergarten is an important part of your child's educational program. We have given a great deal of thought to what is the best educational experience for children of this age. Daily activities reflect careful planning, and are based on a commitment to provide a program which is age-appropriate, and which challenges children to grow emotionally, socially, and academically.

While many similarities exist between kindergartens in Corvallis, school organization may vary in different buildings, and this may affect the kindergarten program. In some buildings, schedules and other details are still being worked out. Your child's principal will keep you informed through the mail and through school-wide bulletins or newsletters.

We consider it a privilege to have your child begin his/her elementary school experience with us, and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

The Corvallis Kindergarten Teachers



# ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING...



## WHAT ARE SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF A KINDERGARTEN LEARNER?

- Generally has an open and eager attitude toward learning.
- Is basically self-centered, but is beginning to understand the feelings and views of others.
- Interprets situations and events literally, and bases thinking on his/her own perceptions and thinking.

### **Kindergarten children learn best:**

- Through handling and manipulating objects and through real life problems and experiences. They move to a more abstract level of learning as this experiential foundation is established.
- By using their senses of touch, sight, hearing, smell, and taste.
- By connecting learning with things they have already experienced.
- By being encouraged, nurtured, and directed, not forced and rushed.

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE TEACHER IN YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING?

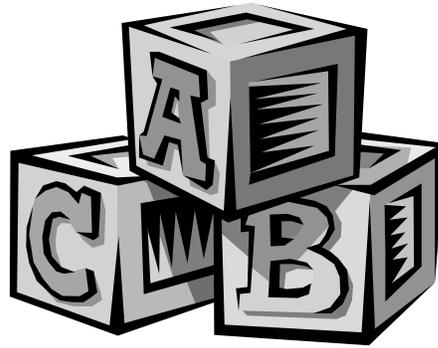
- To provide positive learning experiences that will promote your child's social, emotional, intellectual, physical, artistic, and ethical development.
- To recognize and address each child's uniqueness and abilities in all areas.
- To work with you in partnership by responding to your questions, concerns, and input; by providing you with ideas to encourage your child's home learning; and by informing you about available resources and special services.

## WHAT IS YOUR ROLE IN YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING?

- To work in partnership with your child's teacher.
- To share important information about your child that will help the teacher focus on your child's needs.
- To support your child's learning at home.
- To respond to teacher requests for support.
- To participate in school activities as much as you are able.



## ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S KINDERGARTEN YEAR...



The kindergarten year is an important step in your child's school experience. It is much more than childcare or a continuation of your child's preschool experience. The kindergarten year builds upon your child's home learning and previous school/child care experiences by providing many structured and unstructured opportunities for learning. This instruction, geared to the needs and developmental level of the children, supports your child's transition into the more formal elementary school setting.

### WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF KINDERGARTEN?

- To provide each child with many opportunities to develop communication and social skills.
- To facilitate learning appropriate to the kindergarten level in academics, the arts, and health and physical education.
- To encourage thinking and creativity skills.
- To establish a positive attitude toward school, adults, and other children.
- To provide opportunities for purposeful play as a teaching and learning strategy.
- To support and encourage each child to develop self-confidence, self-control, self-worth, self-responsibility, and respect for others.

### HOW WILL MY CHILD LEARN IN KINDERGARTEN?

- Through a nurturing environment where children are active participants in the learning process.
- Through projects, themes, and units chosen to allow students to explore many options.
- Through open-ended experiences which appeal to wide ranges of interests and skills.
- Through daily activities which provide hands-on experiences for children to learn and explore their world.



# WHAT WILL MY CHILD LEARN IN KINDERGARTEN?

## Social Skills

- Become more self-reliant and independent.
- Cooperate in groups.
- Practice good citizenship by following school rules.
- Follow directions promptly.
- Express positive feelings about themselves and others.
- Learn how to ask for help and give help to others.



## Physical Activities

- Learn to participate cooperatively in organized physical play.
- Develop muscle coordination and skills through physical games, movement exploration, and rhythm activities.
- Learn the importance of physical fitness and to explore ways to become fit.



## Music

- Appreciate music through singing, using rhythm instruments, listening, and rhythmic movement.

## Art

- Participate in the use of various art forms and media such as clay, chalk, colors, paper and paint.

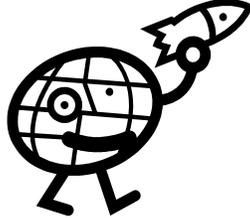


## Social Studies

- Participate in activities which increase understanding and appreciation of self and others as well as activities which increase understanding and appreciation of our history, geography, and civics.

## Science

- Understand simple concepts about the natural world.
- Explore and build using simple tools.
- Express curiosity about living and non-living things.
- Develop skills in observing, classifying, predicting, and evaluating.



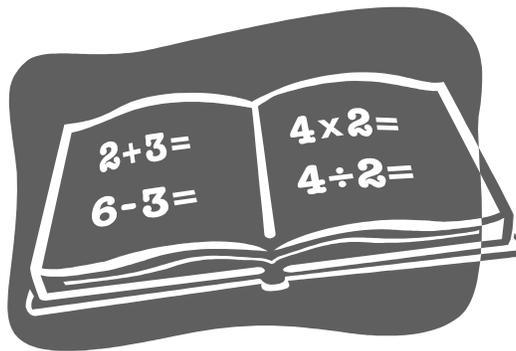
## Language Skills

- Expand vocabulary through storytelling, talking about experiences, and participating in sharing activities.
- Develop listening skills.
- Work with letters of the alphabet and their sounds.
- Recognize and explore rhyming words.
- Practice writing letters of the alphabet.
- Appreciate a variety of books.
- Develop beginning writing skills through use of responses to stories, labeling pictures, story writing, and journals.
- Develop emergent reading skills through shared reading, pattern books, and phonics.



## Mathematics

- Learn about numbers and their meanings through manipulatives and through everyday experiences.
- Learn about basic shapes.
- Practice counting objects.
- Practice writing numerals.
- Explore patterns, measurement, ordering and comparing objects by attributes, and processes such as addition and subtraction.



## GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL...



- Try to attend spring meetings or informal get-togethers for you and/or your child.
- Watch community newspapers and bulletins for activities such as Safety Town, Library Story Hour, children's plays, arts and crafts.
- Purchase school supplies using your child's teacher's supply list.
- Provide a large book bag or backpack to use daily.
- Label all personal items clearly with your child's name (backpacks and coats).
- Whether your child walks or rides the bus, practice the route with him/her several times. Talk about landmarks and safety rules as you go. If your child will go to/come from a sitter, practice that route also.
- Watch school bulletins for special welcoming events sponsored by parent groups.

**Watch your mailbox late in August for letters describing schedules and any changes or special procedures.**



## WAYS TO HELP ALL YEAR LONG...



- Have your children arrive on time and attend regularly. **This habit encourages good school work and provides continuity in your child's school experiences.**
- Discuss school experiences and show an interest in school activities. Talk about school as a happy, important experience so that your child leaves you with a smile when going off to school.
- Talk, share, read, and visit with your child daily. Ask questions that encourage your child to talk, to think, and to express ideas.
- Avoid discussing your child's abilities or inabilities in his/her presence.
- Provide increasing opportunities for your child to make independent choices.
- Volunteer as a room parent or offer help if you can do so. Getting to know your child's teacher and other parents and students in the class will benefit you and your child.
- For sharing, encourage your child to bring items or share experiences related to what is being studied in the classroom and not toys.
- If there is any kind of difficulty with your child just before coming to class, please tell the teacher either in a note or in person. Your teacher can help provide support for both you and your child in this situation.
- Quick messages to the teacher at student arrival time are appropriate. But if you need longer to talk, please contact your child's teacher to set up a more convenient time to meet. This will help the teacher stay focused on the children at this important time of the day.
- If you anticipate changes—such as trips, a move to a new home, rearrangement of child care or custody schedules, a new child in the family, the beginning or alteration of medication—let the teacher know as early as possible. We want to support your child as he/she adjusts to changes in his/her life.
- Have a nightly routine around doing homework, bedtime, and getting things put back into backpacks so your child is ready for school the night before.

## PRACTICAL TIPS...



- **Place your child's name on all removable clothing and sew loops on the inside neck of coats so they can be hung up easily.**
- **Let your child wear practical clothes so he/she may work and play on the floor with ease.** Accidents are inevitable and children may be upset if they ruin their best clothes.
- **Have your child wear appropriate shoes such as sneakers, which are great for active play. Flip flops and dressy slip-on shoes are not.**
- **Teach your child to put on, button, zip, take off, and hang up coats, and to put on and tie shoes.**
- Enclose money sent for various purposes in a sealed envelope marked with both the child's **full** name and the teacher's name. Never send loose money.
- Please consult the teacher in advance if you would like to share special occasions at school.



## FOR YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH AND SAFETY...



- Teach your child to know their family name, address, and telephone number. Notify your child's teacher and the office immediately of any changes in address or telephone during school year.
- Please keep your child home if there are any of the following signs of illness: sore throat, cough, headache, dizziness, running nose, earache or running ears, rash, itchy scalp, red or running eyes, flushed appearance, swollen glands, fever, chills, paleness, diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting. If in doubt, take his/her temperature. If it is above 98.7 degrees, keep your child home.
- In instances of illness with a communicable disease, your child may need an admission slip from your family doctor or the County Health Department.
- Dental and/or accident insurance is available through your school's office. Accident insurance covers your child during the school day, and on the way to and from school.
- When your child is absent or tardy, **telephone the school office**, and send a note with your child when he/she returns to school.
- Send a written notice to your child's teacher/school office whenever transportation or day care arrangements change. This includes play dates after school.
- The children should not arrive at school more than ten minutes prior to the opening of the class session. Your promptness at dismissal time will be appreciated. Your school may provide early morning supervision for students. Afternoon supervision is available through the Boys and Girls Club in most schools. Please check at your school office.

