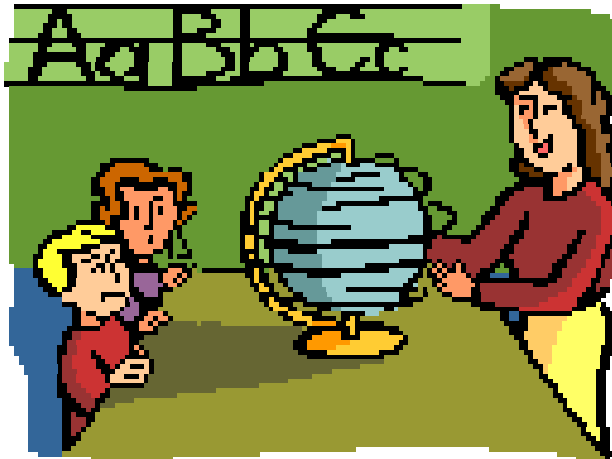


KINDERGARTEN HANDBOOK



2007-2008

INTRODUCTION



Children are individuals. They continuously grow and learn at their own pace. They learn more during their first five years than in any other period of their lives. Home provides the setting that is best suited to learning. Home is the place where language patterns are formed, where concepts are developed, and where emotional attitudes toward life are acquired. Children learn by listening, watching, doing, and talking. Your home has provided many and varied learning experiences for your child.

Kindergarten builds a bridge over which children move from learning at home to the broader world of learning at school. Help make your child's kindergarten experience one of pleasure and learning. This booklet is designed to introduce the kindergarten experience to you and to help you assist your child in taking that first step away from home. You will find an explanation of the kindergarten program and some practical ideas to assist you in preparing your child for kindergarten.

We would like to leave you this final thought from the Kindergarten teachers. We are committed to making your child's experience at the Clementon Elementary School a great success. Working together, we will work to instill in your child a love for learning.



CHILDREN MAKE THE WORLD GO ROUND!

Readiness....

Each child entering the kindergarten classroom is quite different. This difference is as much mental as it is physical. We refer to the child going through developmental stages at different times as being "ready" or not being "ready." The background of the youngster, his/her environment, and past experiences all play an important part in determining this readiness.

During this kindergarten period your child will be able to develop his/her state of readiness. However, physical factors as well as these experiences from ages 0 – 6 years, will have a great effect on how quickly he/she will proceed through each developmental stage.

Individually, the child will progress through varied learning experiences. Many of these experiences will be approached by this whole group, but what is perceived by each individual in this group will depend upon his/her state of readiness. We can expect that kindergarten children:

- Have been learning that school is a pleasant place to be; that it is good to work hard; that they are the kinds of persons who can learn and contribute.
- Have been increasing their understanding of the world around them and how to live in it.
- Have been learning to use their bodies more skillfully and to behave in ways that will safeguard their health.
- Have been learning to think of others as well as themselves.
- Have been growing in independence and initiative.
- Have been improving in expression of ideas; they can now understandably communicate through many different media.
- Have been developing better manners and self-discipline.
- Have continuously acquired good work habits; they realize that many of these habits are for the good of the group's benefit as well as their own.
- Have acquired new meanings and are adding to their information and experiences.



CLEMENTON KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM



This year will be a memorable year for your children. They are filled with enthusiasm and expectations. They waited as other family members and friends went off to school. It is now their turn to enter the exciting world of school.

Our program will provide your child with concrete experiences that will give your child building blocks for thinking, observing, and problem solving. These experiences include activities in science, social studies, language arts, mathematics, art, music, and physical development.

The goals of this program are divided into three major areas: social-emotional, intellectual, and physical development. The major objectives are:

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Making a smooth and pleasant transition from home to school.
2. Developing a feeling of belonging within the classroom.
3. Developing positive social habits such as self-control, fair play, courtesy, and consideration for others.
4. Establishing positive social experiences and self-concepts.

INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Developing interest in learning and gathering information through stories, films, excursions, and experiments.
2. Learning to reason, solve problems, make decisions, express opinions, and form conclusions.
3. Developing language skills.
4. Developing basic skills for success in first grade.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Developing physical abilities and experiencing opportunities for physical growth.
2. Developing motor skills.
3. Learning habits of healthy living.

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE

The Kindergarten session begins at 8:45 AM and is dismissed at 3:15 PM. Children should not arrive before 8:30 AM.

The Student Handbook lists School Holidays. Special notices will be sent home if changes are made.

Any student who is absent is required to have a note stating the reason for the absence. If the absence has been for five consecutive days, a doctor's certificate is required. Also, notification by 8:45 AM to the school attendance line (783-2300, prompt 2), is required if your child will be absent or late. This does not, however, take the place of a note.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

Parents will have many opportunities to find out how their child is progressing in school. Report Cards are distributed four times a year. This Report Card will tell you how well your child is progressing in Kindergarten, what skills he/she is developing, and what abilities need to be strengthened.

During Parent-Teacher Conferences you will have the opportunity to speak with the teacher about your child. You can discuss your child's strengths and needs, and plan with the teacher such steps as will insure maximum progress.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Now is a good time to get to know your child's school and entire staff. The PTA is always looking for new executive members and room representatives.

The Partners in Education (P.I.E.) Volunteer program starts in September. If you have some spare time to either work in school or at home, this program is a good way of helping our school and becoming involved.



PREPARING FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

This list of hints will help to make your child's first few days of school more pleasant.

YOUR CHILD SHOULD:

- Most importantly, be able to take care of all bathroom needs adequately
- Know his/her own name and address and be able to repeat them
- Be able to take off and put on his/her own outer clothing
- Know how to put away toys and materials after using them
- Follow simple instructions quickly and willingly
- Practice good safety traffic habits to and from school
- Get along well with others
- Speak clearly and respond readily to conversation
- Be able to remain, without a parent, in a friendly environment
- Use an adequate vocabulary when speaking
- Speak politely and mannerly to peers and adults

YOU CAN HELP BY:

- Talking with your child about school and the teacher in a happy and positive manner
- Showing an interest in your child's schoolwork and school activities
- Encouraging your child to be punctual and regular in attendance
- Joining the Parent Teacher Association and becoming an active member
- Meeting your child's teacher and talking with her about your child's progress
- Marking or labeling your child's belongings
- Being consistent in your demands on your child's behavior. Agree on limits and expectations and then follow through with them
- Providing your child with proper nutrition and rest
- Providing activities suitable to your child's ability and develop his sense of responsibility
- Being selective about movies and television programs that your child views
- Creating an area in the home for your child to read, work, and create
- Always reinforcing proper manners and respect for peers and adults



THE FIRST WEEK OF KINDERGARTEN



Here is a list of some activities planned for your child during the first week of school. These activities and experiences of course, will differ from classroom to classroom or teacher to teacher. In general, these suggestions are intended to provide a framework of ideas upon which a teacher may enlarge or limit according to the group or circumstances.

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH ONE ANOTHER:

- Teacher prints her name on the chalkboard
- Teacher wears her "name tag"
- Teacher places printed names on the children
- Teacher encourages the students to wear their tags
- Student will say their name aloud

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH THE CLASSROOM:

- Where to sit
- Where to hang clothes
- Where to find things for quiet activity
- Where supplies are kept
- Where the wastepaper basket is kept
- Where their storage cubby is located
- Where work and play equipment is kept
- Learning the classroom procedures (raising hands, etc.)
- Where the bathroom is located
- Where the drinking fountain is located
- To learn to share things and take turns in a group
- Games
- Answering each other's questions

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH THE SCHOOL:

- Talk about how to walk into and around the classroom
- Becoming familiar with all the rooms in the school
- Meeting the principal and other school staff members

- Find the proper places to play outside
- Practicing fire drill procedures

TIME FOR GOING TO THE BATHROOM:

- How to "get ready" to leave our seats for the bathroom
- How to wash our hands
- Knowing how to flush the toilet
- How to dry our hands
- How to "get back" into the class activity

RELAXATION AND RESTING PERIOD:

- Learning the reason for relaxing
- Learning how to get ready and begin the resting period
- Learning how and why not to disturb your neighbor

READING A STORY:

- Learning how to organize into our listening group
- Beginning instruction on "how to listen"
- Learning how to behave while we are in a listening group

CIRCLE TIME ACTIVITIES:

- Playing a few simple circle games
- Listening to and moving to music
- Singing some familiar songs and finger plays

PLANNING FOR A GREATER VARIETY OF EXPERIENCES IN GROUP WORK:

- Use of blocks and puzzles
- Use of educational equipment
- Use of crayons and construction paper
- Use of scissors



ABOUT SCHOOL SUPPLIES.....



The Kindergarten Teacher will have an ample classroom supply of the following for all children:

- ✓ PENCILS
- ✓ CRAYONS
- ✓ SCISSORS
- ✓ A 9" X 12" POCKET FOLDER FOR EACH STUDENT TO HELP ORGANIZE HOMEWORK AND CLASSROOM PAPERS

Parents may wish to supply:

- ✓ A BOOKBAG OR BACKPACK LARGE ENOUGH TO HOLD A 9" X 12" FOLDER
- ✓ REPLACEMENT POCKET FOLDERS AS THE ORIGINAL BECOMES DAMAGED OR WORN

The following may be useful to keep on hand at home (a shoebox makes a great storage container for "homework supplies"):

- ✓ SHARPENED PENCILS
- ✓ CRAYONS
- ✓ CHILD-SIZE SCISSORS
- ✓ PENCIL ERASERS
- ✓ GLUE OR GLUE STICK

**Individual teachers will let you know if any special supplies are needed during the year.*

HELPFUL HINTS

These important suggestions will help make the Kindergarten experience more enjoyable for you and your child:

- Be certain that your child knows his or her "official" name as well as his "nickname," (ie. "Harry" as well as "Buster.")
- Your child is not to arrive at school before 8:30 A.M. **PLEASE REMEMBER THIS** as no supervision can be provided before that time.
- Keep your child home when he/she has a continual cough or a heavy runny nose. This will help keep colds and sickness from spreading to the other children, and the teacher.
- Put your child's name on everything, including raincoats, sweaters, hats, and boots to help facilitate the end-of-day routine.
- Keep an open line of communication between home and school if your youngster comes home from school with any unsolved social or developmental problem. Your child's teacher is anxious to help and can do this best when quickly informed.
- Remember that notes are a "must" when absence occurs. Please be prompt with these explanations of why your child was not in the day before.
- Inform your child's teacher and the school nurse of any medical problem or special handicap on the first day of school so that they may be aware of it.
- Show some "selectivity" and discrimination in what your child brings in for "show and tell." Put some emphasis on objects that encourage description or questions.
- Send your child to school in "clothes for learning"- wash and wear items are best. Please do not send your child dressed so that you must say, "Don't get dirty."
- Occasionally your child will bring home notes about special class activities. Please read them and be sure your child knows you have. Any message that must be signed and returned will be placed in your child's folder. Be sure to thank your child for being a good messenger.
- When your child's birthday arrives, please contact the teacher to plan an activity.
- For class field trips, we need a signed permission slip from parents. A few days before a trip by bus, you will be asked to sign a special permission slip. Please return them promptly.
- MOM AND DAD.....PLEASE..... Leave **promptly** after depositing your child at school on the first day! It will make things easier for the teacher, your youngster, and YOU too!

We know that you are looking forward to your visit to your child's Kindergarten classroom. During the year you will be able to visit your child's classroom during the evening OPEN HOUSE, during AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK, and at PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE time. You can also visit at other times with prior arrangements made by the principal. **The goal of any school visit, of course, is to gain greater understanding** of what is going on by communication between you and your child's teacher.

