

Welcome to Shaler Area Kindergarten



Here are a few things you may want to review before school begins:

How do I know if my child is ready?

- Child can attend to an activity for 15-20 minutes
- Child can care for their own belongings with little support
- Child can separate from you with minimal anxiety
- Preschool program has indicated your child is ready
- Child is mature in social situations and able to function as a part of a group
- Child can eat a meal with little to no assistance
- Child can follow a two step direction

How can you prepare your child?

- Practice identifying their name and spelling first name with a capital letter at the beginning and the rest of the letters lowercase
- Give your child opportunities to write and draw with crayons and pencils.
- Give your child opportunities to cut with scissors, cut along straight and curved lines with scissors, and use glue
- Let your child play with play dough, sidewalk chalk, etc.
- Read to your child daily and talk and ask questions about what you are reading
- Have your child take responsibility for getting dressed and caring for himself/herself. Practice zipping, buttoning, and tying shoelaces
- Have your child help you with jobs around the house and becoming more independent
- Review and recognize capital letters and most lowercase letters
- Know letters make sounds and know a few of those sounds
- Talk about numbers and count things up to 10
- Know your address, bus information, and stop
- Learn your bus color (given out on 1st day)
- Care for his/her own belongings
- Read to your child DAILY and have him or her retell the story to you
- Recite nursery rhymes and sing familiar children's songs

What supplies will your child need?

- A backpack **large** enough to hold folders and a lunch box (preschool size backpacks are too small) labeled with child's name and teacher
- A towel for rest time (beach towel size)
- A change of clothes labeled and in a large Ziploc baggie
- A lunch box or bag for packing lunch labeled with child's name and teacher
- A peanut-free snack (daily) packed separate from lunch labeled with "snack" and child's name
- Weather appropriate clothing, no flip flops permitted
- All personal belonging should be labeled , fit in your child's backpack, and should be sent in on the first day of school
- Some schools request pencil boxes/bags please check with your child's specific teacher.

What will my child learn in English Language Arts this year in kindergarten?

- Identify first and last name
- Write first and last name (by end of year using upper and lowercase letters)
- Know all letter names and their sounds
- Use letter to sound correspondence to read and write short vowel words and long vowel words with a "silent e" (cane, line, tone, tune)
- Blending sounds to read CVC read words and CVCe words
- Orally segmenting sounds they hear in words into sound parts
- Identifying the beginning, middle, and end sound of words
- Rhyming (identify and produce)
- Fluently read over 50 kindergarten sight words independently and in text
- Read decodable text independently
- Use rich vocabulary orally
- Understand and respond to a variety of literary selections both fiction and non-fiction that are read, listened to, or viewed
- Ask and answer relevant questions and share experiences individually and in groups
- Discuss characters, setting, events in stories
- Discuss the main idea of a story
- Compare and contrast two different texts.
- Recognize the characteristics of various types of texts

- Create a focus for both a piece of narrative and informational writing
- Write a complete sentence using appropriate syntax, capitalization, and punctuation
- Write upper and lowercase letters and use in creative writing activities
- Write an opinion piece and support their opinion
- Use technology to publish writing (word document)
- Participate in a research project

What will my child learn in Mathematics this year in kindergarten?

- Counting aloud to 100
- Counting up to 20 objects
- Patterning (identify, create, and extend)
- Identify basic shapes and solid figures
- Draw and compose basic shapes
- Identify numbers 0-20
- Write numbers 0-20
- Count by 10's to 100
- Putting together and taking apart numbers to 19
- Basic addition and subtraction to 10 with manipulatives
- Fluent with addition facts to 5 and subtraction facts from 5
- Positional words
- Calendar skills
- Identify numerals and sets as greater than, less than, or equal to other numerals or sets.

Are there any websites that would be helpful to my child?

- www.starfall.com
- www.abcya.com
- www.apples4theteacher.com
- www.everythingpreschool.com
- www.enchantedlearning.com
- www.ixl.com
- www.sproutonline.com
- www.brainpopjr.com
- www.kindertown.com
- www.abcmouse.com

Are there any apps that may be helpful to my child?

- **Toontastic**
- **Little Writer by Alligator Apps**
- **Phonemic Awareness by BUGbrained**
- **Sight Words by Eflashapps**
- **Kindertown (a comprehensive list of apps)**
- **Snap Words Set A**
- **Snap Words Set B**