

BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
Read Well by Grade 3

Parent Notification and Involvement Practices

Early Literacy in Pre-School

What is my child learning in the school district's early literacy pre-school program?

Teachers at your child's pre-school are working very hard to develop your child's reading readiness skills. The Minnesota Early Childhood Indicators of Progress document provides a list of early learning standards in many areas, including literacy and language. The instruction of the district's pre-school teachers is based on the recommendations in this document. To view a copy of the document, click on the link below:

- [Early Childhood Indicators of Progress – Minnesota Early Learning Standards](#)

Our pre-school teachers have condensed the literacy and language standards into 6 main areas. To view the descriptions of each of these 6 areas, please click on the link below:

- [Developing Early Literacy Skills](#)

Your child's pre-school teacher is using the Houghton Mifflin Pre-K "Journeys" Language Arts program – the same program that is used in Grades K – 6 in Bemidji. Before this program was chosen, administrators and teachers made sure that it contained the instructional pieces necessary to teach all of the recommended early literacy skills. Please contact your child's teacher to view the "scope" (skills taught) and the "sequence" (order skills are taught) of Pre-K "Journeys".

How Do Teachers Know What My Child's Early Literacy Abilities Are?

In order to be sure your child is learning important literacy skills, pre-school teachers will screen, or assess, him or her several times a year. This assessment can help teachers determine the instruction your child needs. Your child's literacy skills in the following areas may be checked: 1) Demonstrating Positions (on, under, over, etc.); 2) Rhyming, 3) Printing his or her name, 4) Identifying Upper and Lower Case Letters, 5) Recognizing own printed name, 6) Saying the Alphabet, 7) Printing some Alphabet Letters, and 8) Showing an Interest in Books and Stories. If you have a question about your child's assessments, please feel free to contact your child's teacher. Note: The district's pre-school staff members are considering the implementation of a new screening tool. Please check back for changes.

How Do I Know If My Child is Ready for Kindergarten?

Whether or not to send your child to kindergarten is an important decision. Children will have more success in kindergarten if they are ready for the skills they will be taught in class.

The resources below may help you determine if your child is ready for kindergarten:

- <http://www.isyourchildready.com/en/> (Information and an “Is Your Child Ready?” quiz from the MN Early Learning Foundation)
- <http://www.scholastic.com/resources/article/ready-for-kindergarten#Solid> (An article written by teachers)
- <http://www2.ed.gov/parents/earlychild/ready/preschool/preschool.pdf> (A U.S. Department of Education booklet called “Helping Your Preschool Child”)
- Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

Can My Day Care Provider Help?

Your day care provider can do many things to help your child get ready for kindergarten. Please share the handout below with your day care provider:

- Activities with Sounds and Words for Children

How Can I Help My Child at Home?

Parents and caregivers can do many things at home to build children’s early reading skills. Teachers may send home books or other resources you can use at home. In addition to the suggestions from your child’s teacher, you may find some helpful suggestions by clicking below:

- “Read Alouds with Parents”
- “Reading Aloud with Children”
- “Learning, Literacy, and Listening”

Many Internet websites can provide helpful information to parents. The “Minnesota Parents Know” website provides videos, recorded webinars, podcasts and A-Z topics for parents and caregivers. You can access and browse this website by going to: www.MNParentsKnow.info

Other parent informational brochures and resources can be found at the websites below:

- **Parent Power – Build the Bridge to Success:**
www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/parentpower/booklet.pdf
- **100 Ways for Parents to be Involved in Their Child's Education:**
www.pta.org
- **Put Reading First: Helping Your Child Learn to Read, A Parent Guide:**
www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/PRF-parents-guide.cfm
- **Growing Readers Newsletter:**
www.readingrockets.org/newsletters/extras/
- **Family Involvement Network for Educators (FINE):**
www.hfrp.org/family-involvement/fine-family-involvement-network-of-educators
- **National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS):**
www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/