

HOLY FAMILY - KINDERGARTEN 2016 - 2017

Dear _____

Welcome to kindergarten! I am looking forward to having you in my class! Here is a list of supplies you will need for school. We pool our supplies so you only have to label your backpack. You may drop off your supplies at Welcoming Day, we will let you **know the date and time**. If you are unable to make it you may bring your supplies the first week of school. If anyone needs help with supplies please let me know.

Everyone will need:

Sturdy backpack (no wheels)
3 plastic folders with pockets
1 box washable markers
2 large glue sticks
1 pkg. thin, dry erase markers
1 box of thin markers
10 pencils (sharpened)
2 tubs of disinfecting wipes
2 boxes of Crayola (16 or 24) crayons
2 boxes of tissues
2 rolls of paper towels
3 pkgs. of baby wipes
Small stuffed animal for quiet time

**** Also, a 5lb. bag of Pillsbury or Gold Medal flour for the HF Apple Pie Sale. Thanks!

Boys bring:

1 bottle of hand sanitizer
1 box quart size zip lock (slider) bags

Girls bring:

16 color watercolor paint
1 box of snack bags

There is a **\$40.00 kindergarten fee**. This covers special projects, extra materials, holiday parties, our sandwich service project, and their subscription to *Let's Find Out*. If paying by check, please make it payable to me. **Due by Sept. 15th**. Thank you.

Dear Parents,

Please take a few minutes to write me a letter about your child. Your letter will help me get to know your child a little better before school begins. Please return your letter and the 'All About Me' form to school by August 20th.

If you have a question or concern, please call the school @ **487.8515** or email me at ksparkes@syrdiocese.org. Enjoy your summer and don't worry about a thing!

God bless.



'All About Me' Bag and Poster

To help us get to know more about each other, here are two easy activities you can do all by yourself or with a little help someone in your family.

1. Collect 5-6 objects that will help you tell us things you like and more about you. Bring them in a bag to share with our class during circle time.

Please bring your bag to share on Thursday, September 9th or Friday, Sept. 10th.

2. Create an "All About Me" poster (any size). You may use drawings, stickers, photos, magazine pictures, and words that tell us all about you. We will display them for all to see. Use your imagination, but keep it simple.

Please bring your poster in when you are finished, or by September 13th.

Your poster and bag will both be returned to you.
Have fun!



All About Me!

Please complete this form and return to school with your letter by August 20th. The more information that I have prior to the opening day of school, the better I will know your child. Thank you.

Child's full name: _____

Name you would like us to call your child: _____

Preschool /daycare experience (Prior to September, please provide copies of any end of year report cards/evaluations, and their IEP if they have one):

Special health concerns/allergies, medications:

Child's favorite activities:

Parent's marital status:

Custody arrangements (if applicable):

Siblings:

Three words that describe your child:

Other information or concerns:

Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten

Let's face it: Kindergarten isn't what it used to be. Right or wrong, it is the world we live in. The following list is intended to help prepare your child in a variety of developmental areas to make the transition into kindergarten as smooth as possible. Believe it or not, just 15-20 minutes of playing and learning with your child can make a world of difference!

Social/Emotional Development

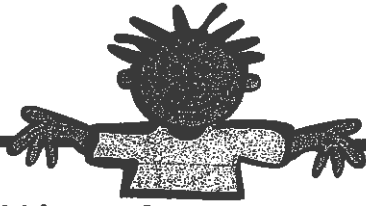
- Encourage your child to persist in tasks when encountering a problem by giving him tasks slightly above his current ability level. When your child cannot find a solution on his own, encourage him to calmly ask for help.
- Play board games to practice taking turns.
- Set up several play dates with friends of various ages.
- Allow your child to stay with other trusted adults for a few hours at a time prior to kindergarten (especially if she has rarely been in the care of someone other than mom and dad).
- Tell your child you expect her to clean up after play. You could implement a ransom box for toys left out like this one:
www.madsmemories.blogspot.com/2009/08/moms-ransom-rubbage.html

Language Development

- Verbally give your child specific one-step and two-step directions and encourage him to follow through.
- Read to your child for a combined total of at least 20 minutes each day.
- While reading, point out how to hold a book (right-side up with the spine on the left) and the orientation in which we read the words and look at the pictures (left to right).
- After reading, ask your child what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the story.
- Give your child plenty of opportunities to draw (without coloring books). Ask her to draw the things she sees around her.
- Teach your child the uppercase and lowercase letters and, most importantly, the sounds each letter makes through play and games. Need some ideas? Go here:
www.icanteachmychild.com/alphabet

Cognitive Development

- Have your child help you sort items according to color, size, and shape (laundry, blocks, silverware, toys, and other household items work well).
- Teach your child to make various patterns (red, blue, red, blue). Garage sale dot stickers or craft pom-poms are great for this purpose.
- Practice counting aloud to 20 while driving in the car.



10 Ways To Get Ready For Kindergarten

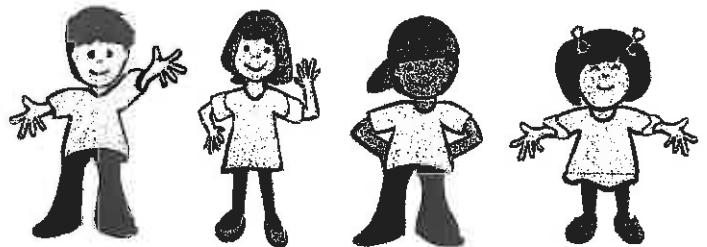
1. Create a routine over the summer. Give your child a bedtime (8:00 PM is great!) and stick to it.
2. Have your child practice writing their first name. If your child can do this, try the last name, or practice lower case letters.
3. Use counting in your daily activities. Count how many steps it takes to get to the mailbox or the park. Count out fruit, placemats, napkins, and so forth.
4. Take your child with you to the grocery store, post office, library, and other errands. Talk with them about what they're seeing, hearing and touching. *It's all part of learning!*
5. Visit your local library and help your child get a free library card. Then use the card to visit the library each week and borrow a book. Suggested readings can be found at: www.countdowntokindergarten.org/activities
6. Let your child practice their independence by allowing them to make certain choices ("Do you want an apple or a banana?"), and by encouraging them to try new things and to problem solve.
7. Set a limit to the amount of TV your child watches (1-2 hours should be the maximum). When possible, watch TV with them and talk about what you see.
8. Prepare a "study spot" for your child and supply it with crayons, paper, scissors and other kindergarten "tools." Set aside a time each day for your child to draw there. Once school starts this can become the time and place where your child does their homework.
9. Help your child know or be able to do the following before they enter kindergarten:
 - Their name, address, and telephone number
 - Use the bathroom on their own and button and zip their clothes.
 - Share and play with other children. This will help them to adjust to their new kindergarten classroom.
10. Read, Read, Read!
(In English or any native language!)

Talk about the books you read.
Ask questions like:

- What was your favorite part of the story?
- Which part did you like the least?
- Half way through, ask your child what they think will happen at the end?

This list is appropriate for children getting ready to enter K2 kindergarten. If your child is younger, be advised that he or she may not be ready to do all of these activities.

For more helpful tips, visit
www.countdowntokindergarten.org



This tip sheet was prepared by a team of kindergarten and preschool educators as part of the Boston Making Connections project, sponsored by the Boston Children's Museum and Countdown to Kindergarten and funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



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