

# Kindergarten at Ellis School

## Home-School Connection

Learning new things is what kindergarten is all about! Your child will be excited about opportunities to make new friends and have new experiences.

Children enter kindergarten with varied backgrounds, coming to school for the first time or coming from various preschools or daycare programs. During the school year they will have many experiences learning and playing with their peers. These contribute not only to cognitive development, but also to their social, emotional, and physical growth. Kindergarteners learn through many concrete, hand-on activities.

By the end of the year, children will be talking about reading, recognizing letters and sounds, telling, writing or drawing their own stories. In mathematics, they will understand the concepts of adding and subtracting as well as counting objects and engaging in activities such as skip counting by 10's or 5's.

As a parent, you can do many things to help your child. The suggested home activities are not assignments, but ways you can help in your everyday activities. Please continue reading with your child even as he begins to read to you. It is important to talk about what you read! Reading is essential to the school success for your child.

You are also encouraged to communicate with the school regularly. We have school-wide conferences, but welcome phone calls, emails, and other scheduled appointments.

### **Social and Emotional Development**

By the end of the school year, a Kindergartner can:

- Express feelings in acceptable ways (using language, drama, music, art, etc.)
- Share and take turns
- Interact well and problem-solve with peers
- Follow daily routine and classroom rules
- Attempt new tasks willingly
- Work with persistence
- Work independently

### **Suggestion for home activities in social and emotional development**

- Establish a daily routine
- Encourage your child to make choices
- Identify and name feelings
- Assign simple chores to your child

### **Motor Development**

By the end of the school year, a Kindergartner can:

- Hold a pencil or crayon correctly
- Form upper case letters and numbers
- Cut along straight and curved lines
- Prepare independently for recess

### **Suggestion for home activities in motor development**

- Have your child practice dressing and undressing independently
- Provide a variety of materials for arts and crafts
- Provide drawing space on a vertical surface (easel or wall)
- Play outside – go to the park!

**Language Arts**

By the end of the school year, a Kindergartner can:

- Name upper and lower-case letters, matching those letters with their sounds, and printing them
- Compare the adventures and experiences of characters in familiar stories such as fairy tales
- Retell familiar stories and talk about stories read to them using details from the text
- Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and other writing to describe an event, including his or her reaction to what happened
- State an opinion or preference about a topic or book in writing (ex: "My favorite book is...")
- Take part in classroom conversations and follow the rules for discussion
- Speak clearly to express thoughts, feelings, and ideas including descriptions of familiar people, places, things and events
- Ask and answer questions about key details in stories or other read-aloud information
- Understand and use question words – who, what, where, when, why and how
- Recognize, spell and use grammatical words that hold our language together – a, the, I, is, are, it, and put

**Suggestion for home activities in language arts**

- Read a variety of texts with your child. Create a family reading time where everyone reads and shares information. Ask questions such "What comes next?", "What's happening here?" or "What do you think about this?"
- Visit the library or a book store and talk about books.
- Read street signs and road signs as you travel.
- Play alphabet games as you drive (ex. find objects that begin with a, b, c, etc.
- Keep paper, markers or crayons handy for your child to write letters or words, or draw a picture about her day and share it with you.
- Talk about how you use reading and writing in your everyday and work life.

**Mathematics**

By the end of the school year, a Kindergartner can:

- Count objects to tell how many there are
- Compare two groups of objects to tell which group has more, fewer, or equal amounts
- Compare two written numbers to tell which is greater
- Act out addition and subtraction word problems and draw diagrams to represent them
- Add with a sum of 10 or less
- Subtract from a number 10 or less
- Solve addition and subtraction word problems using 10 or less
- Add and subtract small numbers quickly and accurately (ex. 3+1)

Name shapes regardless of orientation or size (ex. a square oriented as a “diamond” is still a square)

**Suggestions for home activities in mathematics**

- Count objects you are using in daily activities (ex. setting the table, folding the laundry).
- Make simple word problems of daily activities (ex. you have one toy to put away from here and there are three toys over there – how many toys?).
- Name the shapes of objects around the room.
- Read numbers on road signs as you are driving.
- As you shop, ask questions about which has more or less.
- Talk about how you use mathematics in your everyday and work life.

**Science Topics**

By the end of the school year, a Kindergartner will have explored and discovered:

- Weather
- Animals and their babies
- Five Senses
- Planting and Growing

**Suggestions for home activities in science**

- Talk about different animals and the food they eat.
- Talk about the plants around your home and the care they need.
- Visit pet shops, gardens, aquariums and other venues to observe plants and animals.
- Talk about the weather and seasons with your child.
- Play with play dough, shaving cream, rice, water and sand.
- Let your child help you with cooking!

**Social Studies Topics**

By the end of the school year, a Kindergartner will have explored and discovered:

- Fire Safety
- Geography awareness
- All About Me
- Community
- Caring and concern for others
- Transportation

**Suggestions for home activities in social studies**

- Talk about your family – discuss relationships (ex. grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc.)
- Make certain your child knows your home address and the names of the streets in your neighborhood
- Take your child to different places in the community