

# Kindergarten Counts



## The Kindergarten Experience



One of the most important events in your child's life is the first day of elementary school. We are looking forward to it being an exciting and rewarding experience.

Reading, writing and math skills will be combined with art, social studies, health, science, computer, and physical education to insure a well-rounded curriculum. In addition to academic skills, kindergarten children will be taught important social skills as they work together throughout the school day.

Remember, your own reactions and attitudes have a great influence on how your child feels about school. We look forward to working with you to make kindergarten the best possible experience for your child.

---

## Parents are Important

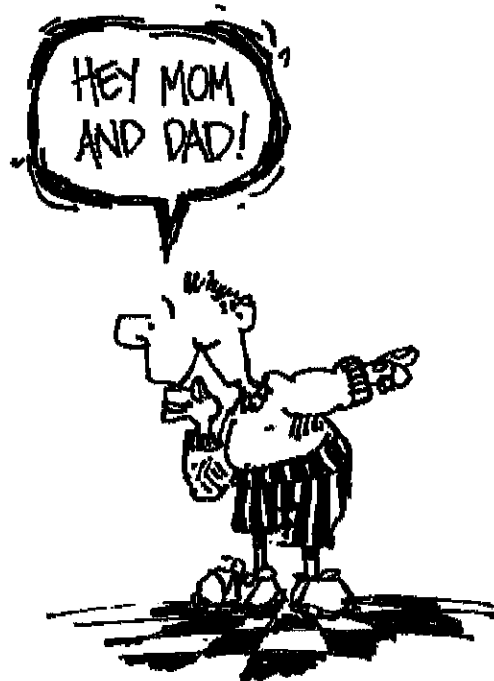
As a child's first teacher, a parent can offer important experiences at home to help a child grow and learn.

A checklist for parents:

Do I let my child know he/she is important and unique?

- by praising my child?
- by not comparing my child to others?
- by encouraging special interests?
- by appreciating my child for who he/she is?
- by giving opportunities for meaningful choices?

(see "Parents. . ." Page 2)



## Parents are Important (cont.,)

### Do I talk with my child?

- about feelings?
- about experiences we share?
- about goals and achievements?
- about what is important to my child?

### Do I give my child daily routines?

- times for eating?
- times for sleeping?
- times for reading?
- times for chores?

### Do I listen to my child?

- giving my undivided attention when he/she talks?
- to be sure I understand what is meant?
- with my heart as well as with my ears?
- being able to repeat what he/she said?

### Do I teach my child respect for others and their property?

- by making my child responsible for behavior and providing consequences?
- by giving my child jobs and responsibilities?
- by helping my child see things from someone else's viewpoint?

### Do I teach skills of independence?

- how to tie shoes?
- how to zip and button?
- can my child dress himself?
- does my child know our address and phone number?
- do I give my child opportunities to be away from me from time to time?  
by encouraging my child to try new things?
- appropriate use of the bathroom?

### Do I use daily activities to teach my child?

- by reading to my child regularly?
- by using time waiting in line as learning time?
- by singing, counting, and reading as we cook, clean, and shop?
- by using clean up time to teach sorting, and organizing skills?



### Number Awareness...

...is being familiar with what numbers are and what they mean.

### Parents can...

- help their child count everything, like steps to the house, plates on the table, M&M's in the bag.
- show your child numbers all around them, on license plates, signs, price tags, television channels.
- match numbers to what they count (DDDD = 4)

### Shapes Awareness...

...is being familiar with shape names and what they look like.

### Parents can...

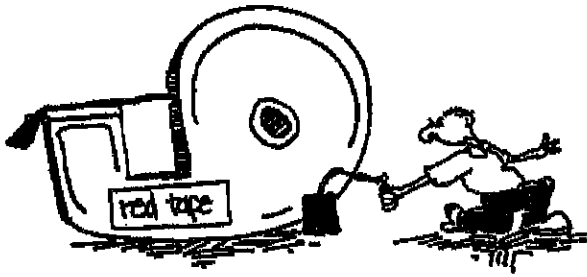
- use the words circle, square, triangle, and rectangle.
- point out shapes in their child's world; buildings, toys, furniture.
- show how to draw shapes.

### Classification...

...is being able to see similarities and differences in objects.

### Parents can...

- show putting toys into groups; cars, blocks, animals.
- see if their child can sort objects by color, size, use, or kind. (i.e.: fruits/vegetables, tools/silverware/clothing, etc.).



## Registration Requirements

To register for school, each child must have the following:

1. A copy of the child's birth certificate.
2. A current immunization record.
3. A physical record filled out by the doctor.
4. A vision screening record. (This can be done by the physician).
5. A completed school registration form.



## Student Performance

### Pre-Kindergarten Assessment

All Utah kindergartners participate in the Pre-kindergarten Assessment. This tool is used to measure the skills and abilities of children as they enter kindergarten. Children and their parents are given an appointment time at the beginning of the school year to meet with the teacher to complete this assessment.

The assessment is not meant to be used as a screening instrument, nor as a reason for excluding a child from kindergarten.



## Report Cards

Four times during the year, children will be given a report card showing their school accomplishments. These are given at the end of each school quarter.

## Student Education Plans/ Conferences

Two times during the school year, parents, students and teachers meet to discuss children's progress. During this meeting, everyone will work together to praise a student's accomplishments and set goals to improve areas of weakness.

## Attendance/Tardiness

Children need to be in school every day in order to take advantage of the program the teacher has planned. If your child does not attend regularly, it effects your child's social and academic performance. When children are sick, please keep them home until well. It is also important for children to arrive at school on time so they do not miss the important first part of their school day.

## Behavior

Students are expected and encouraged to be responsible for their behavior. Students need to behave in a way that will neither prevent teachers from teaching nor other students from learning. Students need to show respect for others while at school. Being responsible for behavior builds self-esteem and benefits the student, school and community.

ABCABCABCABCABCABCABCABC  
123123123123123123123123

## All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten

All I really need to know about how to live and what to do and how to be I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate-school mountain, but there in the sand pile at School. These are the things I learned. Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess.

★ Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Live a balanced life—learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some. ★ Take a nap every afternoon. ★ When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together. ★ Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that. ★ Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup – they all die. So do we. ★ And then remember the Dick-and-Jane books and the first word you learned – the biggest word of all – LOOK.

★ Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The Golden Rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and equality and sane living. ★ Take any one of those items and extrapolate it into sophisticated adult terms and apply it to your family life or your work or your government or your world and it holds true and clear and firm. Think what a better world it would be if we all – the whole world – had cookies and milk about three o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankies for a nap. Or if all governments had as a basic policy to always put things back where they found them and to clean up their own mess. ★ And it is still true, no matter how old you are – when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

By Robert Fulghum

ABCABCABCABCABCABCABCABC  
123123123123123123123123

ABCABCABCABCABCABCABCABC  
123123123123123123123123

ABCABCABCABCABCABCABCABC  
123123123123123123123123