McHENRY D15
Today's Learners... Tomorrow's Leaders

Literacy

OVERVIEW

Kindergarten literacy instruction is focused on building strong foundational skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking. A primary focus is to develop phonemic awareness (the ability to hear and manipulate sounds in words) which leads to using letters to read and write. Kindergarten students spend time listening and discussing a variety of texts to build oral language, vocabulary, and comprehension skills. They also practice literacy skills through purposeful play-based activities such as writing a menu as they play "restaurant" or building words with letter tiles or using playdough.

Benchmarks Learned:

- Naming upper and lower case letters
- Rhyming, counting syllables, blending and segmenting words
- Decoding CVC words and common high-frequency words
- Using drawing and writing to communicate ideas
- Retelling stories using characters, setting, and events in order
- Identifying the main idea and important details in non-fiction texts

KINDERGARTEN

Literacy

Helpful Home Tips:

- Begin with letters in your child's name; have them trace the letters and say the letter name. Have your child make letters with playdough, draw letters in sand, or play "I spy" to find letters on signs when traveling.
- Sing songs, read rhyming books, and say silly tongue twisters. "Playing" with sounds is important in developing phonics skills.
- Play games with sounds; ask "Can you guess what this word is? m - o - p." Hold each sound longer than normal.
- Provide opportunities for drawing and "writing" through play, even if they are just scribbling at first. Use various writing tools such as crayons, pencils, markers, sidewalk chalk, etc.
- Read to your child everyday; make predictions and talk about the characters, setting, problem, and solution.
- Read informational texts (magazines, books, etc) about non-fiction topics that interest your child (animals, space, etc). The library is a great place to find a wide variety of topics!

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Math

OVERVIEW

Kindergarten math instruction is focused on developing number sense. Students will practice counting numbers and develop number recognition. Students use objects (fingers, counters, cubes, etc.) to represent numbers to solve simple addition and subtraction problems. Kindergarteners also name and describe shapes. Math instruction in kindergarten is connected to real-world applications and problem-solving.

Benchmarks Learned:

- Count and write numbers 0-20. Represent numbers by counting out objects with one to one correspondence.
- Solve addition and subtraction problems within 10.
- Measure and compare objects.
- Identify and compare 2D and 3D shapes.

Math

Helpful Home Tips:

- Make everything a counting game! Count how many steps from one room to another or count how long you wait at a traffic light while in the car. Play games such as hopscotch and or memory with numbers.
- Work with your child to solve everyday math problems such as, "how many days until..." or "how many orange slices are in all?"
- Use phrases such as: shorter than, longer than, heavier than, lighter than to compare everyday items. Measure ingredients while cooking together!
- Find shapes in the real world; go on a "shape hunt" in your house or on a walk outdoors.

KINDERGARTEN

Social Emotional Learning

OVERVIEW

In Kindergarten, students learn about listening and paying attention. They also learn about feelings, managing strong emotions, solving problems, and getting along with others.

Skills:

- Identify likes and dislikes
- Recognize and label basic emotions.
- Follow classroom rules
- Express strong feelings in appropriate ways.
- Identify a trusted adult.
- List the traits of a good friend.
- Share feelings in a range of contexts (speaking, drawing, writing, etc.)

KINDERGARTEN

Social Emotional Learning

HELPFUL HOME TIPS:
- Label your likes and dislikes and explain why.
- Name the emotions of characters in stories, TV shows and movies.
- Model self-talk when you are frustrated
- Provide opportunities to make small choices.
- Provide structure by building routines into the day.