

Family Guide: Learning in 5K



About 5K:

Five year old Kindergarten (5K) offers students the opportunity to engage in developmentally appropriate and joyful learning experiences. Students are a part of a classroom community where their individuality is celebrated and their well-being is in the forefront of education.

Students become critical thinkers, creative problem solvers and self-directed learners through the inquiry process in social studies and science. Students learn and grow in their development of social skills through positive interactions during academic and play-based learning experiences.

In 5K, there are many opportunities for students to collaborate and communicate including partner work, small group work, and whole group instruction.

THIS GUIDE INCLUDES:

- **What Your Child Should Know & Be Able to Do**
- **Activities to Support Learning**
- **Education Words**
- **Questions to Ask your Child's Teacher**

LITERACY

Students are exposed to a literacy and language rich environment, which encourages students' continued growth in reading and writing. The foundational skills needed to succeed as readers and writers come from their awareness of the relationship between letters and sounds.

Throughout the year, students will enhance their love of reading through the workshop model. Students will learn specific reading strategies to apply when reading different genres. They begin building their identities as readers by engaging in independent and partner reading practice.

During Writer's Workshop students tell stories through book-making. Students start by drawing simple pictures and labeling which then grows into detailed pictures and full sentences. Kindergarteners are guided to use their letter-sound knowledge from reading to enhance their writing texts. As writers, Kindergartners are encouraged to share their writing with various audiences.

Speaking and Listening

Students in 5K should know and be able to:

- Listen for meaning and to understand others
- Adapt communication (comments and questions) for a variety of purposes, audiences, and situations

Reading/Phonics

Students in 5K should know and be able to:

- Identify uppercase and lowercase letters and sounds
- Apply knowledge of letter sounds to decode simple words
- Expand knowledge of how a book works by identifying the cover, last page, where words and pictures are in the book, and how print moves in a book
- Read and comprehend a variety of texts for many purposes including enjoyment, reflecting one's experiences and experiences of others

Writing

Students in 5K should know and be able to:

- Write routinely for a range of authentic tasks, purposes, and audiences over extended time frames and shorter time frames
- Use grade level appropriate spelling and letter-sound association
- Write using pictures, words, and dictation (teacher writes what the student is saying)



MATHEMATICS

In mathematics, kindergarteners become critical thinkers as they solve problems through interactive and hands-on activities. Students will have an opportunity to explore and interact with a variety of tools to help them understand how math works in the world around them.

Students are learning and growing as persistent, playful, flexible thinkers who collaborate with their peers to understand math concepts in their everyday lives. An overarching theme for Kindergarten is developing number sense. Number sense has many different components which include verbal counting, counting objects, identifying numbers and comparing numbers as well as adding and subtracting numbers.

Students in 5K should know and be able to:

- Name and write numbers to 20
- Count by ones and tens to 100
- Count out a set of 20 objects
- Understand addition as putting groups together
- Understand subtraction as taking groups apart
- Add and subtract fluently within 5
- Solve addition and subtraction story problems within 10
- Understand the numbers 11-19 are made of one group of ten and some extra ones
- Identify and describe shapes, such as square, triangle, circle, rectangle, and hexagon
- Describe and compare measurable attributes, such as length or weight
- Classify and count objects by category



ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT LEARNING

Literacy

- Read with your child
- Ask your child questions about the story
- Build your child's vocabulary by talking about interesting words and objects in books
- Ask your child to read to a stuffed animal
- Look through a photo album and orally tell stories
- Take an alphabet walk to find letters



Mathematics

- Play board, card or dice games with your child (such as Candyland, Chutes and Ladders, Uno)
- Count objects in your home
- Gather small items to create a counting collection
- Draw or build shapes with objects around the house
- Take a scavenger hunt around your house or neighborhood looking for numbers or shapes
- Measure and count as you cook and bake together

EDUCATION WORDS

Brave Speller (Inventive Spelling): Spelling a word using spelling attempts based on letters that the child knows to represent each sound.

Compose: To put together using its parts

Decodable Words: Words that can be sounded out easily.

Decompose: To break apart

Digit: Any of the symbols 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9.

Inquiry-Based Learning: Inquiry promotes engagement, curiosity, and experimentation. Students are empowered to explore topics through questioning, investigation, and research.

Mathematical Fluency: Fluency includes accuracy, efficiency, and flexible use of strategies in solving math problems.

Performance Task: A real-world task that requires students to apply their knowledge and skills that have been learned to show understanding.

Phonics: The relationship between sounds and their spellings, and is associated with print.

Phonological Awareness: The ability to recognize the sounds of spoken language, including rhyme, syllables, and the sounds in words.

Place Value: Every digit in a number has a place value based on its position in the number. (In the number 548, the digit 5 is in the hundreds place and its place value is 500. The digit 4 is in the tens place, and its place value is 40. The digit 8 is in the one place, and its place value is 8.)

Reading Fluency: Fluency includes accuracy, rate, and expression when reading out loud.

Rote Counting: Counting numbers in order (5, 6, 7, 8, 9...).

Snap Words: Words that a child can read automatically (also known as sight words).

Social and Emotional Learning: Learning to effectively manage emotions, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships and make responsible decisions.

Workshop Model: The workshop framework is designed to offer a simple and predictable environment. The workshop typically includes a mini-lesson (teacher-led instruction), independent work time, small group instruction, individual conferring (teacher meets with student), and sharing.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

- What can I do to help my child succeed in school?
- What classroom activities seem to keep my child best engaged in learning?
- What type of play does my child engage in?
- Does my child play with a variety of classmates?
- How does my child act in an unexpected situation?
- Does my child show concern for others?
- What book(s) is my child reading during independent reading time?
- What topics is my child learning about through reading and inquiry?
- What topics is my child writing about?
- What kinds of math problems are children learning to solve this year?
- What should my child be able to understand and talk about as a result of what they have learned?
- What are my child's overall strengths at this time?
- What are my child's overall challenges at this time?
- What specifically can I do at home to support my child's overall learning and growth?

