

Welcome to



Kindergarten

**Frank K. Hehnly School
590 Raritan Road
Clark, New Jersey 07066**

Kindergarten Objectives

Language Development

- ✓ To develop the ability to talk with others
- ✓ To become more expressive and to improve vocabulary
- ✓ To use verbal skills to solve problems
- ✓ To be able to listen to others
- ✓ To exchange ideas and ask questions
- ✓ To become familiar with nursery rhymes, stories, and poems
- ✓ To listen to stories and directions and retell them
- ✓ To improve the ability for simple recall (remembering) and sequence (order)



Social and Emotional Development

- ✓ To develop a positive self image
- ✓ To follow directions willingly
- ✓ To begin a development of responsibility
- ✓ To increase self-reliance
- ✓ To develop self-control
- ✓ To display good manners
- ✓ To enhance curiosity
- ✓ To explore new concepts and ideas
- ✓ To become both a leader and a follower
- ✓ To share belongings and experiences
- ✓ To respect others' rights, to wait for turns
- ✓ To respect participate as part of a group



Academic Growth and Development

- ✓ To master basic concepts, including in, on, under, beside, behind, in front of, next to, and in back of
- ✓ To develop an understanding of math readiness through counting, ordering and serration of objects (largest to smallest), and one-to-one correspondence
- ✓ To build visual and auditory reading readiness skills

Physical Growth and Development

- ✓ To become aware of body parts
- ✓ To develop large muscle coordination through activities such as running, skipping, jumping, hopping, bouncing, and catching a ball, etc.
- ✓ To build fine motor skills including cutting, tracing on lines, stringing beads, etc.

Pre-reading Skill Development

Pre-reading skills are the readiness skills children need before formal instruction begins. These skills include:

- ✓ Perceptual and auditory skills: the ability to visually differentiate objects, numbers and letters, and to listen to and hear differences in sounds
- ✓ Motor skills: general physical coordination and fine eye-hand coordination
- ✓ Language skills: the ability to organize thoughts and relate to others
- ✓ Listening skills: give attention and follow directions
- ✓ Number knowledge: To understand size differences, number names, etc.
- ✓ Reading for recreation: Show a desire to read and enjoy reading readiness activities

Special Activities

Music Activities to encourage children to

- ✓ Appreciate and enjoy music
- ✓ Release emotions through rhythmic activities
- ✓ Develop self-expression
- ✓ Become aware of the basic vocabulary and Concept of music

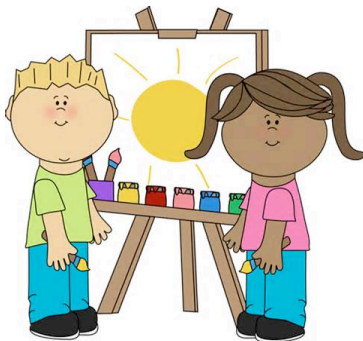


Physical education activities to encourage children to

- ✓ Enjoy and appreciate group games
- ✓ Develop muscular strength and endurance
- ✓ Release emotions by controlled physical means
- ✓ Develop a sense of fair play, and individual and group responsibilities



Art activities to encourage children to



- ✓ Develop a greater awareness of the beauty of his/her surroundings
- ✓ Develop self-expression
- ✓ Explore and experiment with different art medias
- ✓ Strengthen eye-hand coordination

Is My Child Ready?

Children are alike in many ways. Each goes through the same stages of growth, yet each is different from all the others. In most instances, kindergarten children start school on the basis of age. However, all five-year-old children have not reached the same level of development. Each child is as “old as his/her behavior,” and everything a child does is learned from something or someone. You cannot make a child learn, but you can help him/her to be able to learn and want to learn. The attitude a child develops may help or hinder the ability to learn.

In kindergarten, a child prepares not only for his/her future years in school, but also for the rest of his/her life. Sometimes a child has not matured enough to have a successful educational experience. Past experience has shown that if there is any doubt as to whether or not a child is mature enough, it is best to allow him/her another year of growth before entering kindergarten.

Some children may not progress sufficiently in kindergarten to allow him/her a chance for success in first grade. In these cases, the teacher and principal may suggest that a child will benefit from additional or extended kindergarten experiences. The question, “What is best for the child?” should always be the primary concern.

Kindergarten Checklist for Parents

A “yes” or “no” checklist is included in your materials for you to use to make the kindergarten year as successful as possible for your child. The more “yes” answers your child has in September the more time he/she can spend getting along and learning with his/her class next year. Some of the “no” answers at this time could be because he/she has not had the chance to do or practice the activity. By all means, teach your child the answers or activities, and give him/her the chance to do and practice things he/she hasn't done yet.

If you think your child has too many “no” answers and you would like to talk about it, call the school for an appointment to find out how the school staff may be able to help.

Cooperation Between the Home and School

Cooperation between parents and teachers is very important during your child's first year at school. Both parents and the school are joint partners in the total education of the child. Any concerns that may arise should be brought to the teacher's attention. Any teacher concerns about a child should be brought from the teacher to the parents as well. If your child develops or already has a particular fear or dislike, it may be overcome more easily if both the parents and school are informed and work together cooperatively. Any changes in routine should also be brought to the school's attention, via telephone call or written message.

How Parents Can Help

Parents can help in many ways to prepare their children for kindergarten. Implementing the following suggestions will help you to better prepare your child for kindergarten and to also help them maintain an open and positive outlook for a successful school experience.

Before school begins:

1. Let your child share in home responsibilities, conversations, and activities.
2. Give your child duties around the house to develop self-confidence and responsibility.
3. Establish a regular pattern for sleep (ten hours), meals (keep snacks to a minimum), and play.
4. Teach your child to get dressed independently.
5. Be sure your child listens to others and follows directions (one at a time) and check to see if the directions are carried out.
6. Teach your child to help others.
7. Have your child go some places alone. All kindergarten children should know how to cross the street without assistance.
8. Supervise viewing of television programs.
9. Read and discuss nursery rhymes, poems, and stories to your child to stimulate a love of good books.
10. Talk to your child as a friend, as well as a parent.
11. Discourage "baby talk".
12. Discuss experiences your child has had and places he/she has been.
13. Provide opportunities to play and share with other children and to make friends.
14. Teach your child his/her full name, parents' names, address and telephone number. When teaching them to print his/her name, use both uppercase and lowercase letters correctly. Ex: John, Mary

Once school has begun:

1. Make sure labels are on all belongings, such as sweaters, jackets, boots, mittens, gloves, etc. Use both first and last names.
2. Encourage regular attendance and punctuality.
3. When you bring your child to school the first day, your child's fears and tears will best be overcome if you do not linger.
4. Show interest in the work your child brings home to help develop a good self-concept. Admire those immature pictures. Encourage him/her to explain them and talk about them.
5. When asking your child what happened during his/her day in kindergarten, ask what happened first, second, and after that. If you ask to have things listed in order, it will eliminate answers of "nothing" or "we just played".
6. Recognize that each child is different and that some develop faster than others.
7. All children become discouraged. Help your child to be happy in the activities he/she can do well, but not to shed tears or give up when difficulties occur. Each child needs to feel he/she is loved, that he/she belongs, and that his/her successes outweigh his/her failures.
8. If you help your child with lessons, kindness will win out. Shouting at a child only locks all doors to learning.
9. Remember, a good parent is the child's first and most important teacher.

Your Child's Health and Well-Being

The first day is coming! The following list of recommendations can help your child to make a smooth transition during the first few days of school.

- ✓ Provide the school with your child's immunization record (written proof is required.) In recent years, some children have not received the proper immunizations. As a result, diseases we had all nearly forgotten have been appearing again.
- ✓ All children are required by the State of New Jersey to have the following immunizations recommended by the Academy of Pediatrics: diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus (DPT) – 4 doses. The last one is to be given on or after the fourth birthday. Polio vaccine (IPV or CPV) – 3 doses. The last one is to be given on or after the fourth birthday. Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is to be given after one year of age. Measles booster is required on children born after January 1, 1990. Hepatitis B for children born on or after January 1, 1990 – 3 doses. Tuberculin test (Mantoux type) is optional. One dose of Varicella is required to enter Kindergarten.

- ✓ If your child is ill, keep him/her home from school. Be alert to such symptoms as upset stomach, runny nose, fever or sore throat. Check with your doctor for diagnosis, treatment, and the proper time for returning to school. **Please call the school daily before 8:30 a.m. to explain the reason for the absence.** A child should be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.
- ✓ If your child becomes ill at school, he/she should tell the teacher who would send him/her to the school nurse. The school nurse will call you should there be an illness or injury that requires treatment or if she feels your child should go home.
- ✓ If a child is on **medication**, the parent/guardian should bring the medication to the health office in its original container, before classes start in the morning. **A doctor's note or note from the**
- ✓ **parent must accompany the medication**. The note should state what the medication is, when and how often to dispense it, and the reason for the medication to be taken. All medication is dispensed in the health office only. **The school nurse may not administer medication without a doctor's note**. This includes prescribed medication **and** over the counter medication (e.g., Tylenol, cough medicine, allergy medication, antacids, prophylactic medication before a dental appointment, etc.).
- ✓ Parents/Guardians should feel free to contact the School Nurse regarding health concerns for their children.
- ✓ Health screenings including weight, height, vision, and hearing will be scheduled at various times during the school year. If your child fails a screening, a note will be sent home, recommending that a doctor evaluate the child further.
- ✓ Help your child look forward to school. Talk about it in a friendly way so that your child will think of it as a happy place. Discuss school activities, school friends, new experiences, and new things to learn.

- ✓ If your child expresses fears or doubts, don't pass them off. Try to answer all questions in a positive, reassuring way and let your child know that there will be friendly people to help on those first uncertain days.
- ✓ Your child should get plenty of sleep. Ten to twelve hours is recommended for children this age.
- ✓ They should have a healthy diet including a good breakfast.
- ✓ They need to get up in plenty of time for school, so he/she does not have to hurry and is wide-awake when school starts.
- ✓ Children should wear neat, clean, comfortable clothes. Sneakers or shoes that fit securely to your child's feet are the recommended footwear for your child's safe participation in daily physical activity.
- ✓ Children should arrive to school at the proper time.

