

## **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's 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 our 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 our 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.