

Kindergarten Orientation

Welcome to Kindergarten Orientation. It is almost time for your child to start Kindergarten. Here are some important things for you to know when getting your child prepared for Kindergarten in the fall.

Fall Kindergarten Test Preparation

Listed below are skills that we will be testing your child on.

- Writing their name (First letter uppercase the rest lowercase. Ex. John, Mary)
- Recognizing alphabet upper and lowercase out of order
- Knowing letter sounds
- Sight words (Ex. the, is, me, I)
- Read CVC words (Ex. Dad, Mom, cat,)
- Writing words with each vowel sound (EX. sun, log, pet fit, sat)
- Count 30 objects
- Recognizing more and fewer (Have children count socks and things around the house)
- Subtraction
- Easy addition
- Rote counting 1-30
- Shapes and patterns
- Recognizing and writing 1-30
- Comparisons (Ex. big and small, tall and short)

Household Jobs that 3 and 4 year-olds can do by themselves:

- Pick up toys
- Fold dishtowels and washcloths
- Match socks
- Put small items in the garbage
- Give food to pets
- Water plants

Household Jobs that 5 and 6 year-olds can do by themselves:

- Answer the phone
- Sweep a deck/patio/porch
- Wipe the bathroom sink
- Put forks and spoons away
- Put their own clothes in the drawer
- Sort laundry into color piles
- Use a hand-held vacuum
- Put dirty clothes in the hamper

The Importance of Reading!

You might ask yourself, how important is reading? The answer is READ, READ, READ !!!!

- Read one-on-one with your child for 20 minutes every night!
- Read together as a family
- Reading creates a wonderful time for family bonding
- Start reading to your child as young as 6 months old
- When reading, check out different genres to see what your child likes (Ex. action, fiction, non-fiction, sports, science)
- Let your child pick a book out for you to read to them
- Let children make books at home for you or to give to grandparents
- Reading exposes children to sight words
- Have a set of magnetic letters on your refrigerator for your child to practice sight words
- Have children read environmental print (Ex. candy wrappers, cereal boxes, toy containers)

General Kindergarten Information

- Items in the bag your child is receiving: crayons, scissors, chant the chart, a list of websites.
- It is very important to be on time for school. Kindergarten has computer lab first thing in the day, Monday – Thursday. The students who are late miss out on this valuable time.
- Have children practice cutting with their scissors and writing with their pencils
- Your child should have a back pack, a coat, and good comfy shoes. Please put your child's name on all loose items of clothing, back packs, and lunch bags. This will make it much easier to find if it happens to get misplaced.
- Please review the class dress code when you receive the Western Hills Policy Manual. There are no spaghetti strap tops allowed (parent will be notified to bring them a shirt with sleeves), and make sure your child wears comfy shoes to school. They will be playing, running, and jumping. Tennis shoes would be great.
- Please do not send children in elastic waist pants (Ex. sweat pants, sports shorts)
- If you would like to help out with room celebrations throughout the year we will be looking for room mothers or fathers. Please contact your student's teacher to sign up. We love the help.
- Birthday treats –If you would like to bring treats to help celebrate your child's birthday, they need to be store bought. Ideas for treats are: mini muffins, cookies, mini cupcakes, suckers, candy.
- Children should know these independent skills:
 - Skipping
 - Crawling
 - Hopping
 - Bouncing
 - Coloring (staying in the lines)
 - Working with play dough