A decorative border made of large, colorful numbers 0 through 9, arranged in a rectangular frame around the central text. The numbers are filled with various patterns like stripes, polka dots, and geometric shapes in colors like purple, green, yellow, and orange.

Getting Ready for KINDERGARTEN in the Lynden School District

Bernice Vossbeck Elementary

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Lynden, WA 98264

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School Office Hours:

7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.





Dear Parents,

We want to personally welcome you and your child to kindergarten. The first year in school is a great adventure away from home for children, and is very important for later achievement in school.

This booklet has been prepared to assist you in helping your child make the best possible adjustment to kindergarten and the many new experiences of school. The information presented in this booklet will help you in assisting your child to reach his/her potential.



WHY KINDERGARTEN?

The aim of kindergarten is to provide a basic foundation for your child's education. It is a program designed to make the transition from home to school as smooth as possible, and to make your child's first experience with school a successful and happy one.

Our kindergarten program is designed to help stimulate a good self concept, providing each child with many experiences of achievement. Kindergarten children will work and create independently and learn to cooperate with others in a group setting. The program will provide opportunities for social and emotional growth, inspire language development and expand physical and mental growth.

The content of the kindergarten program will be adjusted to meet the needs and skill levels of each student. Curriculum may be presented in a variety of ways. Teachers will work with individuals, small groups or the whole group as appropriate.



COOPERATION BETWEEN HOME & SCHOOL

Cooperation between parents and teachers is especially important during your child's first year at school. Both the parents and the school are partners in the total education experience of the child. Any concerns that may arise should be brought to the teacher's attention. If your child develops or already has a particular fear or dislike, it will be overcome more easily if both the parents and the school are informed and work together cooperatively.

If there is a change in routine at home or in the method of transportation, please send a note to the teacher to prevent confusion for both the child and the teacher. If your child does not ride to school on a bus, arrival should not be more than 15 minutes before the class starts.

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP BEFORE SCHOOL BEGINS

1) Teach your child his/her full name, parents' name, address, and phone number. Learn to print name beginning with a capital letter and then lower case (Susan).

2) Teach your child to be independent about appropriate toilet habits.

3) Teach your child to get dressed independently (how to put on, take off, zip and button and hang up outer clothing).

4) Let your child share with home responsibilities, conversations and activities.

5) Give your child duties around the house to develop self-confidence and responsibility (putting away toys, taking out the trash, setting the table, etc.)

6) Establish a regular pattern for sleep, meals and play.

7) Be sure your child listens to others and follows directions (one at a time) and check to see that the directions are carried out.

8) Teach your child to help others (brothers, sisters, pets, etc.).

9) Teach appropriate safety procedures around streets and vehicles.

10) Supervise and limit viewing of screen time: t.v., computer, i-pad, phone to less than one hour per day

11) Provide opportunities to play and share with other children and make friends inside and outside.

12) Read and discuss nursery rhymes, poems, and stories to your child to stimulate a love of good books.

13) Encourage your child to look forward to kindergarten as a happy place.

ONCE SCHOOL BEGINS

- 1) Make sure labels are on all outer personal belongings, with both first and last names (jackets, sweaters, boots, mittens, books, etc.).
- 2) Encourage regular attendance and punctuality.
- 3) When you bring your child to school the first day, your child's fears and tears will most quickly be overcome if you do not linger. Sometimes the first day of school is more difficult for the parents.
- 4) Show interest in the work your child brings home to 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 unique and will develop skills at different rates than other young learners.
- 7) All children become discouraged at times. Help your child to be happy in the activities he/she can do well, but not to become frustrated and give up when difficulties occur. Each child needs to feel he/she is loved, that he/she belongs, and that his/her successes outweigh failures.
- 8) Remember, a parent is the child's first and most important teacher.

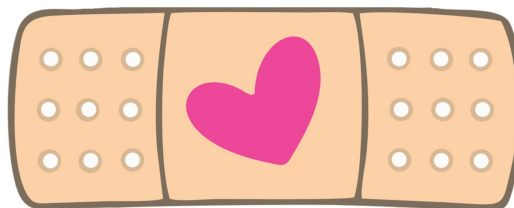


ATTENDANCE & HEALTH

Your child should attend school each day he/she is well. Every absence, even part of a school day, interferes with your child's progress at school. Each subject is taught in sequence that builds understanding and correct habits of study. In order to be ready for new steps in learning, your child must have mastered the previous steps and be sufficiently ready to profit from new material. Please call the school office each time your child will be absent.

For the protection of your child and others, please do not send your child to school with symptoms of any of the following:

- 1) an upset stomach
- 2) runny nose with a cold
- 3) sore throat
- 4) fever
- 5) rash
- 6) swollen glands
- 7) diarrhea
- 8) earache
- 9) persistent cough
- 10) other communicable illnesses
- 11) untreated head lice



If a child is injured or becomes ill at school, the parents will be notified. If the parents are not available, then the person designated to be called in an emergency will be contacted. Be sure to keep the school notified of any changes in telephone numbers, addresses, places of work and emergency contacts.

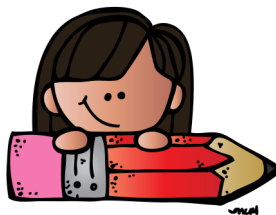
Each child has a permanent Health Record on file in which pertinent information is recorded. Please keep the school notified of any health concerns. All information is kept confidential.

MEDICATION ALERT

Because of recent changes in Washington State Law in regard to administration of oral medication at school, the following rules now apply:

- 1) The medication must be furnished in the original container from the pharmacy, with the student's name, the name of the medication, and the dosage to be given with the signature of both physician and parent or guardian.
- 2) Non-prescription medication must be furnished in the original container from the manufacturer.
- 3) All medication should be ready to be administered and must not require any preparation by office staff.
- 4) It is the PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO DELIVER and maintain an adequate supply (not more than one month) of medication to the school.
- 5) The medicine MAY NOT be delivered by the child or school bus driver. If delivered by the student or school bus driver, medication will not be dispensed and the parent will be contacted to come to school to verify the medication and amount.
- 6) An Authorization for Administration of Oral Medication at School form must be completed prior to administration of any over-the-counter medication including, Tylenol, and MUST be signed by both a physician and parent or guardian.

END OF YEAR KINDERGARTEN GOALS



On the following pages is a listing of kindergarten year end goals. These are considered average levels to be attained as a child progresses through our kindergarten program. It is important to stress that each child will be allowed to seek his/her own level in relation to these norms.

LANGUAGE ARTS

LISTENING

- ♥ Recognizes the importance of listening while others speak.
- ♥ Listens to and carries out verbal directions.
- ♥ Demonstrates understanding of spatial concepts such as: below, top bottom, over, under, first, next, last, in, front, behind, next to, same, different, left & right.
- ♥ Understands rhyme.
- ♥ Gains an awareness of the difference between a question and a statement.

SPEAKING

- ♥ Develops increasing fluency in oral language.
- ♥ Expresses a thought in conversation with peers and adults.
- ♥ Verbalizes before a small & large group about an item of personal interest.



- ♥ Asks questions and expresses curiosity.
- ♥ Verbalizes short poems, finger plays and nursery rhymes.
- ♥ Tells a story about a picture or set of pictures.
- ♥ Tells simple events or stories in sequence.
- ♥ Participates in creative dramatic activities.

WRITING

- ♥ Develops an awareness of formation of letters and numerals.
- ♥ Demonstrates knowledge of left to right and top to bottom of paper.
- ♥ Positions pencil, crayons and paper correctly.
- ♥ Prints name using upper case for the first letter and lower case for remaining letters.
- ♥ Understands written language through the writing of creative stories.

READING BOOKS

- ♥ Develops an interest in books.
- ♥ Understands the concept of "book".
- ♥ Understands that reading is speech in a written form.
- ♥ Relates what is read to personal experiences.
- ♥ Summarizes a story.

- ♥ Understands the main idea of a story.
- ♥ Predicts an outcome of a story.
- ♥ Sequences a set of pictures to represent the main events in a story.
- ♥ Differentiates between true-to-life and make-believe stories.
- ♥ Describes details in pictures.

READING - ALPHABET

- ♥ Recognizes the difference between letters and numerals.
- ♥ Names random upper and lower case letters.
- ♥ Matches upper and lower case letters.
- ♥ Matches letters with initial consonant sounds.

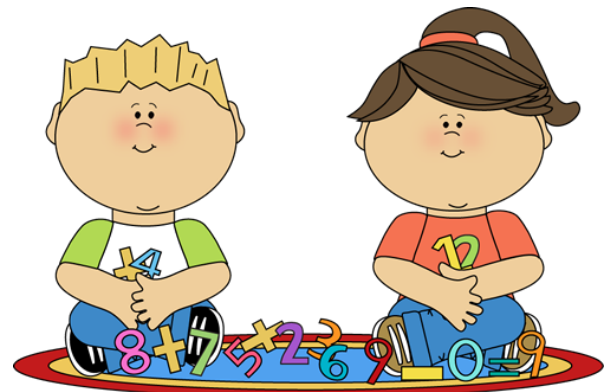
READING - WORD

- ♥ Understands the concept of a word.
- ♥ Matches printed words.
- ♥ Develops an awareness of symbols and words commonly seen in child's environment.



MATHEMATICS

- ♥ Demonstrates the ability to sort and to classify objects in relation to size, color, shape, use and other attributes.
- ♥ Recognizes 8 basic colors.
- ♥ Matches sets to show the same (equal number).
- ♥ Identifies which of two sets has more or fewer objects.
- ♥ Writes numeral for sets of 0-20 objects.
- ♥ Identifies which of two activities takes more or less time.
- ♥ Associates a given number of objects (0-20) with a numeral.
- ♥ Recognizes and names numbers 0-31 out of sequence.
- ♥ Counts objects to 100.
- ♥ Uses manipulatives, graphing, problem solving to develop and reinforce math concepts.



MOTOR SKILLS - GROSS

- ♥ Participates in activities that develop flexibility, strength, agility, coordination, endurance and balance.
- ♥ Becomes familiar with the safety procedures and the function of the equipment used to develop physical skills.
- ♥ Experiences locomotor activities such as walking, running, jumping, skipping, galloping and hopping.

MOTOR SKILLS - FINE

- ♥ Shows progress in the use of crayons, pencils, paint brushes, scissors, paste, glue, etc.
- ♥ Demonstrates the ability to trace and cut on a line.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- ♥ Becomes familiar with information such as name, address and telephone number.
- ♥ Appreciates the uniqueness of one's own culture, as well as other cultures.
- ♥ Becomes familiar with holiday customs and symbols.
- ♥ Appreciates community helpers and services.
- ♥ Participates in problem solving techniques, such as observing, recording, and generalizing.

SCIENCE

- ♥ Develops an awareness of the role of science.
- ♥ Develops knowledge of the many ways nature changes from month to month and season to season.
- ♥ Experiences the processes of identifying, classifying, labeling, predicting, inferring and applying.
- ♥ Develops an awareness of the information available through the five senses.
- ♥ Develops an awareness of scientific thinking and problem solving.

HEALTH



- ♥ Demonstrates good habits of personal safety.
- ♥ Understands the importance of seeking adult assistance if personal safety is threatened.
- ♥ Develops an awareness of good personal hygiene.
- ♥ Develops an awareness of human growth and development.

MUSIC

- ♥ Develops an appreciation for music.
- ♥ Participates in musical activities.
- ♥ Differentiates between fast and slow, high and low tones, sound and silence, loud and soft.

ART

- ♥ Develops an awareness and appreciation of art.
- ♥ Expresses self by means of a wide range of art media.

EMOTIONAL

- ♥ Adjusts to new situations.
- ♥ Displays self-control.
- ♥ Feels secure in his/her environment.
- ♥ Shows growth in independence.
- ♥ Learns about and discusses feelings of self and others.

SOCIAL/BEHAVIOR

- ♥ Learns to accept responsibility for one's actions as they relate to school, home and community.
- ♥ Progresses in solving group and individual behavior problems.
- ♥ Demonstrates the ability to work and play cooperatively with others.
- ♥ Develops consideration for others and their property, personal space and personal rights.
- ♥ Appreciates that each person is unique, valuable and worthwhile.





SCHOOL HOURS

Building Opens: 8:40 a.m.

School Begins: 8:55 a.m.

School Ends: 3:05 p.m.

Lunch & Recess

11:05 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

Kindergarten P.M. Recess

12:50 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Note Page

