



# PREPARING FOR KINDERGARTEN

## PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN

The teachers and staff of Pickens County Schools anxiously await the arrival of our 2016-2017 kindergarten class. Your child will soar to new heights as the world of learning is offered.

Along with this wonderful occasion your child will explore, experience, and experiment with Reading, Math, Language/Writing, Science, Social Studies, and Health. In addition to these opportunities for learning your child will participate in computer, art, music, and physical education classes. We are excited to help your child make the most of this flight to wisdom.

Kindergarten will be an exciting and challenging experience for your child. In order to make the most of this experience, **your child should be able to do:**



- ✓ Share ideas and feelings with adults and other children
- ✓ Work, share, and play in a cooperative manner
- ✓ Wait his/her turn to speak
- ✓ Be able to sit down and listen for a period of time
- ✓ Obey basic group rules
- ✓ Follow simple directions
- ✓ Finish tasks
- ✓ Handle books properly
- ✓ Make smooth transitions from one activity to another
- ✓ Appropriately use materials such as: glue, pencils, scissors, and crayons
- ✓ Know & write first name (preferably starting with a capital letter followed by lower case letters)
- ✓ Know colors and basic shapes (circle, square, rectangle, triangle)
- ✓ Count and recognize numbers to 10
- ✓ Identify letters of the alphabet
- ✓ Put on and take off coat, boots, hat, mittens, etc.
- ✓ Cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing; use tissue appropriately
- ✓ Have independent bathroom skills and appropriate table manners
- ✓ Use zippers, buttons, and is learning to tie shoes

## A CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

This checklist, although not exhaustive, can help to guide you in preparing your child for school. It's best to look at the items included as goals toward which to aim. The items should be done, as much as possible, through everyday life or by fun activities you've planned with your child. If your child lags behind in some areas, don't worry. Remember, all children are unique. They grow and develop at different rates – and no one thing guarantees that a child is ready for school.

### Good Health and Well Being

My child:

- ✓ Eats a balanced diet
- ✓ Receives regular medical and dental care and has had all necessary immunizations
- ✓ Gets plenty of rest
- ✓ Runs, jumps, plays outdoors, and participates in activities that develop large muscles and provide exercise
- ✓ Works puzzles, scribbles, colors, paints, and participates in activities that develop small muscles

**Social and Emotional Preparation**

My child:

- ✓ Is learning to be confident enough to explore and try new things
- ✓ Is learning to work well alone and to do many tasks for himself/herself
- ✓ Has many opportunities to be with other children and is learning to cooperate
- ✓ Is curious and motivated to learn
- ✓ Is learning to independently finish tasks (example: picks up own toys)
- ✓ Is learning to use self-control
- ✓ Can follow simple instructions
- ✓ Helps with family chores

**Language and General Knowledge**

My child:

- ✓ Has many opportunities to play
- ✓ Is read to every day
- ✓ Has access to books and other reading materials
- ✓ Has his television viewing monitored by an adult
- ✓ Is encouraged to ask questions
- ✓ Is encouraged to solve problems
- ✓ Has opportunities to notice similarities and differences
- ✓ Is encouraged to sort and classify things (example: looking for red cars on the highway)
- ✓ Is learning to write his name and know his address and phone number
- ✓ Is learning to count and plays counting games
- ✓ Is learning to identify shapes and colors
- ✓ Has opportunities to draw, dance, listen to, and make music
- ✓ Has opportunities to get firsthand experiences to do things in the world – to see and touch objects, hear new sounds, smell and taste foods, and watch things move