

Transition to Kindergarten

Basic Readiness....

- **Development – chronological (by age) vs. developmental (by skill)
- **Low key, positive attitude by parents/family while working on skills
- **Individual—assess children individually on their readiness for school

Tips for This Year....

- **Positive attitude—we are going to work together to make this year the best it can be
- **Share age appropriate information—answer questions to the best of your ability
- **Focus on whole child—look at all areas of development: physical, social, emotional, etc. not just academic
- **Realistic expectations—for both the child and the child in a virtual learning environment
- **Special rituals—how can we create ways to commemorate the beginning of the school year?

Areas of Readiness...

- **Social skills
- **Emotional maturity
- **Physical adeptness
- **Academic readiness

Social Skills...

- **Cooperative play—playing with others
- **Follow rules—can follow rules set by teacher/other school staff
- **Pay attention—can pay attention for a period of time to people who are not family
- **Schedule—can delay gratification (can't just play/eat/go outside when you want to) and can follow a basic schedule
- **Share/wait turn—can play nicely with others
- **Respect other's property—understands that not everything is theirs and works to keep other people's things safe

Emotional Maturity...

- **Separate from parents/family—can do activities supervised by people other than family
- **Friends—can make and keep friends
- **Pride in accomplishments—enjoys showing work/skill to others
- **Flexible—can understand when schedule/activities/etc. need to change
- **Show emotions appropriately—can talk about feelings and get feelings out in a positive way

Physical Adeptness...

- **Gross motor skills (large muscles)—can use their body to walk, run, jump, skip, gallop etc. Can safely play on playgroup equipment.
- **Fine motor skills (small muscles)—can use their hands to cut, color,
- **Understand and be understood—can speak clearly and understand what others are saying
- **Self-help skills

Academic Readiness...

- **Shapes—recognizes as many as possible
- **Alphabet—recognizes lower- and upper-case letters (as many as possible)
- **Rhyming words—recognizes that certain words sound the same
- **Draw a person—fully formed, with head and body
- **Contrasts—differences: above/below; in front of/behind; larger/smaller etc.
- **Numbers—recognizes as many as possible
- **Colors—recognizes as many as possible
- **Birthday
- **Address
- **Body Parts—recognizes basic body parts, as well as jaw, wrist, waist, heel

Some Final Thoughts....

**Work together—work with school and community staff to develop skills

**If there are questions, get answers—utilize community resources for assessment/assistance if necessary

**When in doubt, wait—some children may benefit from another year of preschool rather than going on to Kindergarten

**No "shame" or "guilt"—we can not force development. If a child is not ready for school, they need to have time to develop and mature.

CHILDREN LEARN THROUGH PLAY