PREPARING FOR KINDERGARTEN

Helping your soon-to-be kindergartner be successful in school.
According to Minnesota statute, kindergartners must:

- Be at least 5 years of age by Sept. 1 of the child’s start of kindergarten
- Have received early childhood screening
- Have received medically acceptable immunizations

Examples of knowledge and skills listed in the standards are below. This list is only to show examples of children’s development and is not intended to be a checklist of skills.

**Language & Literacy Skills**

- Likes books and being read to
- Knows that letters have sounds
- Sings and knows rhymes
- Shows interest in sounds and words
- Holds a book and turns pages
- Knows upper and lower case letters
- Knows words that rhyme and joins rhyming games
- Talks to kids and adults in full sentences

**Small & Large Motor Skills**

- Holds scissors correctly
- Cuts straight and curved lines with some skill
- Holds pencil, crayon and marker in the right way
- Writes name with only the first letter capital
- Catches and throws a ball
- Hops on one foot and gallops

**Math Skills**

- Knows numbers 0-10 in any order
- Counts to 20 or higher
- Knows basic shapes (circle, square, triangle, etc.)
- Names 10 colors
- Counts a group of 10 objects
- Sees and completes simple patterns (red, blue, red, blue)

**Student Self-Help Skills**

- Eats a mix of healthy foods
- Sleeps 10-11 hours per night
- Says full name
- Uses toilet without help
- Washes and dries own hands
- Blows nose, and covers sneezes and coughs
- Tells others what they need
- Puts on own shoes and coat

**Social & Emotional Skills**

- Listens to adults and follows rules
- Keeps hands and feet to self
- Gets along with other children
- Plays with other children and solves problems with kindness
- Sits and listens for a short time
- Names feelings and controls actions
- Listens to a story without interrupting
- Stays with task even when difficult
- Tries new things