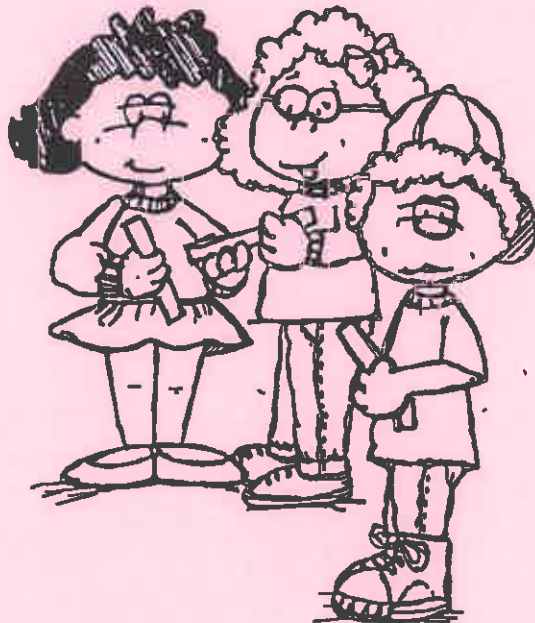


Getting Ready
for
Kindergarten



EARLY
CHILDHOOD
CENTER
HARRISONVILLE, MO



**WELCOME TO
KINDERGARTEN**

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

School Address: Harrisonville Early Childhood Center

500 Polar Lane

Harrisonville, MO 64701

School Phone: 816/380-4421

School Hours: 8:50 a.m. – 3:50 p.m.

Dear Parents:

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

This booklet has been prepared to assist you in helping your child make the happiest and best possible adjustment to kindergarten and the many new experiences of school. We feel that the information presented in this booklet can help the home and school become joint partners in better helping your child reach his/her potential.

Sincerely,

Becky Campbell
Principal



Why Kindergarten?

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

The 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. The program will provide opportunities for social and emotional development, inspire language development, and expand physical and mental growth.

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD PREPARE FOR KINDERGARTEN

1. Talk about school with your child. Discuss happy experiences that are waiting for him/her. If your child is fearful about school, play a "pretend" game with him/her to bring some familiarity to a new situation.
2. Listen to your child. Discuss concerns that he/she expresses. Encourage your child and be reassuring.
3. Establish good routines for eating and sleeping and doing school work. Agree upon a school bedtime.
4. Provide a work and study area for your child. This area should be a private place away from distractions and siblings.
5. Read to your child. Have some quiet time with your child for reading, discussing, etc., so your child is used to quiet times before school begins.



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WHAT YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW

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Independence and self-reliance are important qualities for school-aged children. Your child should be able to:

1. State his/her name, address and phone number.
2. Write his/her name with a capitalized first letter and all the other letters in lowercase.
3. Recognize some letters of the alphabet.
4. Count numbers orally.
5. Recognize some of the colors and shapes.
6. Fasten and unfasten his/her own clothing. Boots should be large enough to slip on and off easily. Shoelaces should be securely tied. Buttons and zippers should be easy to use. Clothing should be comfortable and appropriate for school and the weather.
7. Recognize his/her own clothing. It is helpful if everything that will be removed (hats, gloves, coats, etc.) is labeled with the child's name.
8. Go to the restroom without help.
9. Handle objects and return them properly.
10. Follow instructions given by an adult.
11. Stay with a group of children without Mommy or Daddy.



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HINTS FOR KINDERGARTEN PARENTS

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1. We will notify you about your child's room placement in August.
2. It is helpful for your child to have his/her school supplies the first day of school.
(A list is available.)
3. We encourage you to become familiar with the entrances and exits that will be used by your child for arrival and departure.
4. Please be on time for the beginning of the school session. This will assist your child in having a successful kindergarten experience.
5. If you pick up your child, please be on time. Your child may become anxious and concerned when he/she is picked up late.
6. Please contact the school office, 380-4421, when your child is absent.
7. If your child is absent from school for an extended period of time, contact the school office to make the necessary arrangements for make up work.
8. It is important to discuss with your child the procedures to follow in case school is dismissed early due to weather. Notify the office of any changes in routine.
9. Read all the notices, bulletins and newsletters sent home by the school office and teacher. Return the ones that require a signature as soon as possible.
10. Take the time to listen to what your child has to say about school. Asking specific questions can prompt your child to share his/her school experiences.
11. Praise the work your child brings home.
12. Reports of your child's progress are made throughout the year. The progress report cards are sent home at the end of each quarter except the first quarter when the report card will be distributed at a parent-teacher conference.
13. The kindergarten teacher will schedule parent-teacher conferences at the end of 1st quarter for each child. The kindergarten teacher welcomes parent communication at other times if you wish to discuss your child's progress.



STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Bus transportation will be provided students to and from school for those students who qualify. All unresolved transportation disputes between district patrons and the bus company shall be resolved by the Director of Transportation.

Eligibility

All students living one mile or more from their designated school or in an area considered hazardous for walking are eligible for bus transportation. The superintendent, transportation supervisor, and state transportation officials are responsible for recommending hazardous walking areas. Students are to ride the buses assigned to them; however, students may request a special bus pass to ride another bus for which approval is given by the director of transportation or building principal.

Baby-sitter Regulations

Students who are eligible for school bus transportation from their home address and wish to board the bus from the residence of a baby-sitter, must meet one of the following criteria: baby-sitter residence is on an established school bus route or the address is established prior to the beginning of school and a bus route can be established without causing undue financial hardship to the district. Pickup at baby-sitter's residence on an established school bus route shall be arranged with the Transportation Department. Changes in pickup point due to baby-sitter change(s) will be considered. Changed pickup points resulting in a bus route change of more than one per year may not be accommodated. Parents are to make a written request for a change in pickup point at least two weeks prior to the date of a requested change.

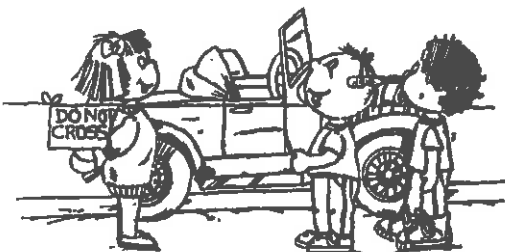
Students ineligible for school bus transportation based on their home address remain ineligible regardless of address of baby-sitter. If one wishes to be a paid rider, refer to section above entitled Fees and Requirements for Transportation Service.

Designated student boarding points must remain consistent in order that orderly route schedules can be maintained.

Discipline and Behavior

Just as disciplinary procedures are employed in the school, such procedures are necessary in regard to student transportation. Rules and regulations have been adopted by the Board of Education and are to be followed in administering discipline on their buses.

All students making an activity trip will return by the same means of transportation except where parent/guardian makes a written request, in person, or sends a note as well as calling the faculty sponsor releasing the student from the jurisdiction of the sponsor. A log of the time, date and the person making the call shall be made by the sponsor.



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GENERAL INFORMATION

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ATTENDANCE

Kindergarten classes are in session from 8:50 a.m. to 3:50 p.m. Do not bring your child to school before 8:30 AM.

As a parent, you will want to see that your child is in school every day unless illness prevents attendance. It is to your child's advantage to have regular attendance as reading and math skills are presented daily. Irregular attendance will cause gaps to occur in learning. When it is necessary for your child to arrive late or leave early, please notify the office in advance. Late arrivals and early checkouts must go through the school office and are counted against perfect attendance.

BREAKFAST and LUNCH

School breakfast is served at 8:30 a.m. each day. Your child may bring money each day or may use his/her meal ticket.

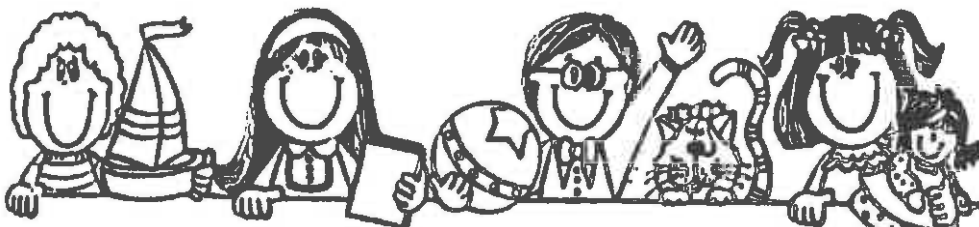
Your child may purchase a school lunch or bring a sack lunch. Your child will need to purchase a meal ticket for school lunches. Extra milk can be purchased any day. If your child brings a sack lunch, he/she can purchase milk or bring a drink.

EMERGENCIES

In case of an accident or illness at school, parents will be contacted. For this reason, current phone numbers at home and place of employment for both parents are very important. Along with these numbers, you will need to provide the school with the phone number of relatives, friends or baby-sitter so the school can contact them should we be unable to reach you. These numbers should also be kept up to date.

A child who is ill (especially those who have a fever, severe cold, vomiting or diarrhea) should be kept at home. Your child should not return to school until he/she has been free from fever, vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours. Please call the school office when your child will be absent.

Parents will be notified to pick up their child from school in the event of illness or injury. You will be notified to pick up your child when they have a significant temperature, vomiting, diarrhea, severe coughing or suspicion of communicable disease.



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WHAT THE PARENT SHOULD KNOW

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1. You will be notified about your child's room placement in August after proof of residency has been shown and all immunizations are up to date.
2. Know the entrance and exits used by the children.
3. Please be on time for the beginning of the school session. This will help to develop the importance of school and your child's habit of punctuality.
4. If you pick up your child, please be on time. Children who are forced to wait become anxious and unhappy.
5. Read all the notices, bulletins and newsletters that are sent home by the school. Promptly return the ones that require a signature.
6. If your child is fearful about school, play a "pretend" game with him/her to bring some familiarity to a new situation.
7. Listen to what your child has to say about school. Do not force the conversation, but be attentive when your child is ready to share the experience.
8. Praise the work your child brings home.
9. If your child is absent from school, please contact the school office at 380-4421.
10. If your child is absent from school for an extended period of time, contact the school office to make the necessary arrangements for make up work.
11. Discuss with your child the procedures to follow in case school is dismissed early because of weather.
12. We discourage teaching your child to write his/her name using all capital letters. (Use a capital for the first letter, then lower case letters for the rest.)
13. Students should have their school supplies the first day of school. A list is available.
14. Reports of each child's progress are made during the year. These are planned to show your child's individual growth. The progress report cards are sent home at the end of each quarter except the first quarter when the report card will be distributed at a parent-teacher conference.

Parent-teacher conferences will be scheduled by the kindergarten teacher for the parents of each child. The kindergarten teacher will welcome a conference at the request of parents who desire to discuss their child's progress.