

# The Top Things You Really Need to Know About Kindergarten

Ms. Cones' Class

Davis Drive Elementary

2014-2015

## What Does My Kindergartner Do All Day?

Our daily schedule is always subject to change in order to meet the needs of the children. It can change to accommodate pull out classes such as ESL, Speech, and CCR. However, there are certain activities your child will do every day. These activities include the following:

- Whole group shared reading experiences in which students read texts with the teacher
- Whole group read aloud in which students listen to the teacher read
- Differentiated literacy stations and small group reading instruction
- Writing mini-lessons followed by independent writing time and student-teacher conferencing
- Whole group math focus lessons followed by differentiated math stations and small group math instruction
- Whole group science or social studies lessons followed by individual or small group learning experience
- Developmental stations such as blocks, home center, computer, and art

## Will My Kindergartner Learn How to Read and Write?

YES! You may download the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts at [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

We use to phonics-based program Letterland to teach Kindergartners to read and write! We also use Hand Writing Without Tears to teach letter formation.

## Will My Kindergartner Be Taught Science?

YES! Kindergartners begin their science studies using their five senses to observe animals, weather, and other objects. Here's a brief outline of our units of study planned for the year.

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter: Properties of Materials  
3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter: Weather  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter: Animals



## Will My Kindergartner Be Taught Socials Studies?

YES! Kindergartners begin an integrative approach of Social Studies by exploring aspects of self, others, families, and communities across the world. Our studies will focus on students understanding change over time; using geographic representations and terms to describe surroundings; understanding the interactions between humans and the environment; understanding basic economic concepts; understanding the roles of a citizen; and understanding how individuals are similar and different.

# What Will My Kindergartner Learn in Math?

In Kindergarten, the big picture is NUMBER SENSE – using numbers, including written numerals, to represent quantities and to solve quantitative problems, such as counting objects in a set, counting out a given number of objects, comparing sets of numerals, and modeling simple joining (addition) and separating (subtraction) situations with sets of objects. Students will also describe their physical world using geometric ideas (shape, orientation, spatial relations) and vocabulary.

## How Will I Know My Kindergartener Learned It?

Work Samples (sent home in Friday Folders)  
Parent-Teacher Conferences  
Interims & Report Cards

## When Are Conferences Held?

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Conferences: October - November  
3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Conferences: March - April

We will schedule conferences online through  
[signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com)

## When Will Report Cards Go Home?

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter: November 5<sup>th</sup>  
2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter: January 27<sup>th</sup>  
3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter: April 10<sup>th</sup>  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter: June 8<sup>th</sup>

## What is Standards Based Grading?

Level 4	Student consistently demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the standards, concepts, and skills. "I can show you how I apply it."
Level 3	Student consistently demonstrates an understanding of the standards, concepts and skills. "I understand and can explain it."
Level 2	Student is approaching an understanding of the standards, concepts, and skills. "I almost understand but I still need help."
Level 1	Student does not yet demonstrate an understanding of standards, concepts, and skills taught during this reporting period. "I do not understand it yet."

## How Can I Help My Kindergartner At Home?

### Read Nightly

Read to your child every day for at least 20 minutes. Make it a special part of the day!

### Concepts about Print

Enclosed you will find a copy of the concepts about print your child should know by the end of Kindergarten.

### Sight Words

Enclosed you will find a copy of the high-frequency words your child should know how to read and write by the end of Kindergarten.

### Comprehension

Enclosed you will find a copy of comprehension questions to ask your child about fiction and nonfiction texts.

## What Did You Do Today?

When children come home at the end of the day,  
The question they're asked as they scurry to play  
is, "Tell me what you did today?"

And the answer they give makes you sigh with  
dismay.

"Nothing, I did nothing today!"

Perhaps nothing means that I played with blocks,  
Or counted to ten, or sorted some rocks.  
Maybe I painted a picture of red and blue  
Or heard a story of a mouse that flew.

Maybe today was the very first time  
That my scissors followed a very straight line  
Maybe I lead a song from beginning to end,  
Or played with a special brand new friend.

When you're in school and your heart has wings,  
"Nothing" can mean so many things!

