

Expectations for the Kindergarten year

Young children learn through play. In the home environment, take time to play with your child and to involve other family members in play.

Play-based learning is essential in the early years for developing a child's sense of inquiry... wanting to find out about the world around them. This develops the essential motivation for learning, necessary for success in ongoing education.

Play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination, physical strength, and physical, intellectual, and emotional strength. Play is important to healthy brain development.

Play-based learning ideas:

- Collage / box construction
- Painting (painting tools, type of paper, colours of paint can be changed)
- Playdough (can be varied by adding different tools such as forks, rolling pins etc.)
- Home activities (can be varied by adding different kinds of pretend food; kitchen utensils, dolls and dolls clothes)
- Blocks or other hard construction materials such as plastic bricks
- Story books
- Puzzles
- Dramatic play (dress ups), puppets
- Shop (Collect empty food packets and use bottle tops for money)
- Manipulative activities such as threading, picking up small objects with tweezers / tongs
- Shape and colour activities

Expectation of skills to be mastered in the kindergarten year (4 years old)

- Cutting and pasting
- Perseverance (*Ask children to try hard to do something that they find difficult*)
- Drawing a recognizable human figure
- Forming a circle in a group. (Teacher gives instructions to stand up and hold hands.)
- Counting to 10 (or 20) and number recognition to 10 (or 20)
- Colour recognition
- Shape recognition (circle, square etc.)
- Recognizing their name written on a card, and later, write their name.
- Learning the initial sounds of the alphabet. Use pictures or objects, *e.g. show three pictures or objects: an apple, an orange and a banana. Ask, "Which one starts with the 'a' sound." At this stage don't use letter name yet.*

Expectations for 5-year-old children

- All expectations for 4-year-old kindergarten should be continued PLUS:
- Recognition of letters of the alphabet using sound names; matching letters to pictures of objects
- Writing letters of the alphabet
- Making up a 'sentence' about a picture they have drawn, (but not writing the sentence.)