

# GETTING READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Fall River Elementary \* 1400 Deerwood Drive \* Longmont, CO 80504 \* 720-652-7920

## **Our Kindergarten Program**

The kindergarten program at *Fall River Elementary* is built around the District's curriculum referred to as the *Standards for Academic Excellence*. Children receive instruction in literacy, numeracy, and social skills. They may also participate in other activities such as music, movement, art based activities, and library skills.

We have high expectations for all our students. Our primary goal is for children to have a positive and successful first experience in school, preparing them for the remainder of their learning career.

While the St. Vrain Valley School District Board of Education policy states that students entering kindergarten must turn five years of age by October 1st, please consider the following readiness skills:

## **Academic Readiness**

- Does your child show an interest in numbers?
- Can your child count to 20 and begin to write some numbers?
- Does your child recognize some numbers and letters?
- Does your child know the names of colors and basic shapes?
- Does your child show interest in the letters of the alphabet?
- Does your child look at books with pictures and pretend to read?
- Is your child able to retell a story in the order that things happened?
- Can your child recite the alphabet?
- Does your child know their full name, full names of parents, address and telephone number?
- Does your child recognize his/her name in writing?
  - Does your child write his/her name?
  - Does your child show interest in rhyming?
  - Is your child able to explain things, activities or events with clarity?
  - Does your child make up stories, songs, and/or poems?
- Can your child keep track of school supplies and pick up after him/herself?



## **Social Readiness**

- Has your child had positive experiences being away from their home and parents for short periods of time?
- Does your child accept authority from adults outside their family?
- Has your child experienced satisfying interaction with a group of peers?
- Has your child acquired such social skills as taking turns, making compromises, and putting away toys when asked?
- Is your child able to dress, use the toilet without assistance, and feed themselves using a fork and spoon?
- Can your child take turns talking and/or wait his/her turn when someone else is talking?

## **Things you can do to prepare for kindergarten:**

- Read to your child every day.
- Get involved with play groups or invite friends over to play.
- Help your child practice writing their name (upper and lower case, e.g. Joey).
- Find things around the house to count.
- Strengthen your child's hands and legs by playing with clay, Lego's, small objects, cutting with scissors, hopping on one foot, catching a ball and running/stopping on signal.
- Practice tying shoes, fastening buttons, and zippers.
- Assemble puzzles.
- Talk positively about going to school.
- Be sure he/she knows the route to and from school. Walk or travel the route with him/her several times this summer. Teach him/her to cross streets safely at crosswalks or corners. Explain the importance of going directly to and from school.
- Establish regular bedtime hours. Your child needs twelve hours of sleep (including the weekend).
- Mark boots and coats with your child's name and show them where they are marked.
- Help your child learn to follow a short sequence of simple directions by giving them easy chores around the house.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

***My child is going to turn five near the end of the summer (or right before the cut-off date). Would you recommend sending him/her to kindergarten this year or next?***

This is a very personal decision. If you have looked over the information included in this brochure and answered “yes” to many of the questions asked, your child is most likely ready for kindergarten. However, if you feel your child has a difficult time being away from you, has a hard time sharing, taking turns, listening or solving problems with his/her peers, or has not had much experience in a formal group setting, you might want to consider enrolling him/her the following year.

***My child is already reading. Will he/she be challenged in kindergarten?***

Kindergartners come to us in the fall with a wide range of abilities. We are fully prepared and excited to differentiate our teaching of math, reading, and writing to all ability levels. Our goal is to have each child progress to higher levels of thinking and learning.

***My child writes letters and numbers backwards, is that unusual?***

It is very developmental for children the age of 6 and younger to be reversing some letters when they right and read. We will focus on directionality and handwriting in kindergarten.

