

THE KINDERGARTEN HANDBOOK

A Handbook of Information
for Parents and Children

by the

Williamsport Area School District



www.wasd.org

Preface

The kindergarten program in the Williamsport Area School District is designed to provide opportunities for your child to learn to cooperate with other children and adults; to learn fundamental strategies which are preliminary in learning to read, write, and do number work; and to assist your child in an effort to make a happy adjustment from home to a school situation, which is most often new and strange.

This booklet has been planned to provide up-to-date information that will aid the parent or guardian in understanding the kindergarten program of the Williamsport Area School District. It will also help in making your child's experience more meaningful and satisfying.

If you have any questions about your child's learning needs as the kindergarten year progresses, we encourage you to contact your child's school.



Kindergarten

Your child will have many new experiences and learn new skills.

For example, he or she will learn to:

- get along with others, to be cheerful, polite, fair and well-mannered.
- explore new concepts and ideas.
- plan ahead, ask questions and anticipate future events.
- use and write new words learned from people, experiences, books and pictures.
- be safe by taking part in safety lessons, fire drills and supervised play activities.
- share things like toys, games and experiences with others.
- develop trust in the world outside of home.

What the Parent Should Know

The kindergarten program in the Williamsport Area School District involves four schools – Cochran, Hepburn-Lycoming, Jackson, and Stevens Primary Schools.

- Kindergarten classes in the Williamsport Area School District are full-day sessions that have a broad range of reading, writing, mathematics, and other early childhood experiences.
- A birth certificate indicating five years of age on or before September 1 is required at the time of registration. An immunization record will be required at registration. The required immunizations include diphtheria, Tetanus, whooping cough, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, and chicken pox (vaccine or proof of disease).
- It is important to be prompt upon arrival and dismissal. You will be notified of times at enrollment.
- Notify the teacher and office immediately of change of address and telephone number.
- In case of withdrawal, notify the teacher promptly; collect all belongings.

- Regular attendance is very important to develop a secure feeling as well as achievement in the academic subjects.
- If your child is enrolled in kindergarten, he/she must attend unless ill.
- If your child is absent, an excuse is required.
- Please read all notices sent home to you. If a reply is requested, answer promptly.
- The Williamsport Area School District does have report cards for kindergarten children issued four times a year. Parents are encouraged to consult the teacher about the child's progress or problems.
- Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled twice a year during the first and third nine-week terms. Your child's progress will be discussed at that time.
- If you wish to send a treat for your child's birthday, contact the teacher for suggestions and to confirm the date.
- Label all outer wear, books, gloves, hats, book bags, and removable clothing with the child's name.
- Your child's school has an active PTA, PTO or school association. Plan to join and participate in its activities.
- A Breakfast Program is available to all students.
- Free and Reduced Lunches are available based on income eligibility.
- Latchkey programs are available.

Things to do Before School Starts

Show your child that learning is fun by sharing activities such as:

- reading books and magazines together.
- playing games with words, numbers, and colors at home and in the car to build basic language and number skills.
- arranging household items into categories to build organizational skills.
- cooking snacks and meals to introduce concepts such as measuring, temperature and time.
- growing plants and gardening to stimulate curiosity and sense of wonder.

Encourage your child to develop habits that will help at school such as:

- putting things away when finished playing with them.
- learning to listen; following directions is a necessity at school.
- doing simple chores at home to help teach responsibility and reliability.
- getting along, and being able to work with others.
- sticking to a schedule by going to bed early enough to get a good night's sleep.
- dressing self, being able to tie shoelaces, fasten buckles, and button or zip clothes without help.

How to Prepare Your Child for Kindergarten

These are some suggestions that will assist you in preparing your child for kindergarten:

- Read to your child every day.
- Teach your child his/her address and phone number.
- Help your child to be aware of the colors.
- Teach your child to be an “independent dresser” (tie, button, zip).
- Make your child aware of the numerals 0 to 20.
- Make your child aware of the letters of the alphabet. (Capital and lowercase)
- Make your child aware of the shapes.
- Have your child practice counting to 30.
- Have your child practice writing his/her name using capital/lower case letters.(Example: John)
- Speak positively about coming to school.

What We Do

LEARN THAT SCHOOL IS FUN AND EXCITING!

We learn . . .

- to write our own names and other words using capital and lower case letters.
- to recognize the letters of the alphabet.
- the sounds of the letters.
- to count and work with numbers.
- strategies for reading.
- to share.
- to be good citizens.
- to talk quietly.
- to take turns.
- colors and shapes.
- to work and play independently.
- to follow directions and listen carefully.
- to cut, paste and be creative by using many materials.
- through science to think, observe and ask questions.



Each School practices:
School-Wide Positive Behavior

The 4 B's

Be Present
Be Respectful
Be Responsible
Be Safe

Also we

- keep our room neat, clean and put our work materials away.
- sing and learn new songs, listen to music and do what the music tells us to do.
- march, skip, hop, and gallop to music.
- listen to books and stories.
- make up our own stories.
- take turns telling our stories to the class.
- write our own stories.
- build with blocks.
- exercise and participate in physical education.
- put puzzles together.
- play games as a group.
- put on our own coats when it is time to go home.
- learn poems, rhymes, and finger plays.
- celebrate our birthdays and some holidays.
- work on class projects together.

What to do in Case of Illness

It is important to establish a habit of regular attendance. It is necessary that your child attends kindergarten when well. A written excuse must be sent with your child when returning to school after an illness.

Special ailments or allergies should be mentioned to the teacher and school nurse. Lactose intolerant students must be diagnosed by a physician. Physician notes must be given to the cafeteria.

An Emergency Treatment Data Card is kept on file in the school office for each child. The names, addresses and phone numbers of close neighbors or relatives are requested. If this information changes, please contact the school.

Please keep your child at home if he/she has a cold, watery eyes, nausea, diarrhea, swollen glands, vomiting, skin rashes or spots, earache, headache, fever or pain. Many of these symptoms are the forerunner of different diseases and with proper care at the onset of any of these symptoms, your child may avoid a serious illness.

The following are conditions that are highly contagious. A doctor must certify that your child is free from infection upon return to school.

- **Pin worms**
- **Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)**
- **Impetigo**
- **Scabies**
- **Ringworm**
- **Strep Throat**

You can keep your child well by having him/her....

- come to school neat and clean.
- establish regular and adequate toilet habits.
- be up in time to eat a nutritious breakfast and start school happy and unhurried.
- get outdoor exercise daily.
- get adequate night time rest – 10-12 hours.

Your child is required to have a medical and dental examination for kindergarten.

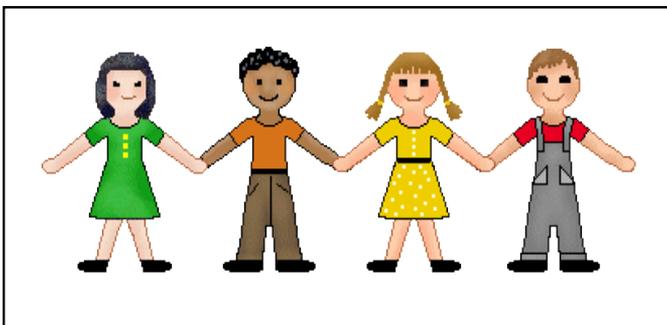


What the Parent Can Do at Home

These are some suggestions for parents/ guardians to enhance your child's education after he/she comes to school.

- Limit the amount of time your child watches television and uses computer and video games.
- Read to your child daily – books, poems, songs, and even comics in the newspaper. He/She will learn to listen with interest. Reading to your child on a daily basis encourages language development, lengthens attention span, and fosters an interest in knowledge.
- Listen to your child and be interested in what he/she has to say about school, about friends, about life.
- Choose clothing that is comfortable, washable, and appropriate.
- Do not permit your child to take gum, candy, toy guns, toys, or valuable items to school.
- Be prompt upon arrival and dismissal.

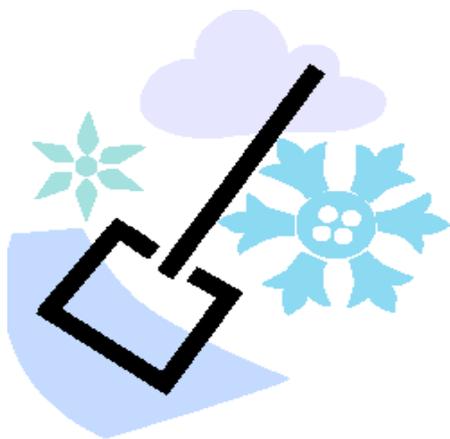
- Provide simple chores at home (Ex: feed the dog, take out the trash, pick-up toys ...) This will develop responsibility, reliability, and the ability to organize.
- Allow the child to dress him/herself. This provides a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction – even if plaids and stripes look awful!
- Stick to a schedule especially at bedtime. This will promote good mental and physical health.
- Provide a balanced diet with wholesome nutritious food. Avoid junk food.
- Provide routine play with other five year olds. This will promote caring, sharing and respect for others.
- Practice zippering, buttoning, snapping as well as tying shoes.



Weather Related School Delays and Early Dismissals

Whenever weather or some other emergency necessitates a delayed school opening, please listen to the radio or local television stations or go to our website (www.wasd.org) for details.

In the event of a two-hour delay, classes will begin two hours later than the regular starting time. Classes will end at their usual time. In the event of an early dismissal, please listen to the radio or television or go to our website (www.wasd.org) for details.



Non-Discrimination Policy

Williamsport Area School District

It is the policy of the Williamsport Area School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its educational-vocational programs or employment as required by Title IX, Section 504 and Title VI. For information regarding civil rights and grievance procedures contact:

Director of Human Resources
Williamsport Area School District
2780 West Fourth Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
(570) 327-5500



WAHS Student Work by: Rebekah Deal

Williamsport Primary Schools

Cochran Primary (K-3)

1500 Cherry St.
(570) 322-9731

Hepburn-Lycoming Primary (K-3)

355 Rte. 973 East, Cogan Station
(570) 494-1112

Jackson Primary (K-3)

2500 Newberry St.
(570) 323-1992

Stevens Primary (K-3)

1150 Louisa St.
(570) 322-7853

Registration Information

District Service Center
2780 West Fourth Street
(570) 327-5500 ext. 33473



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