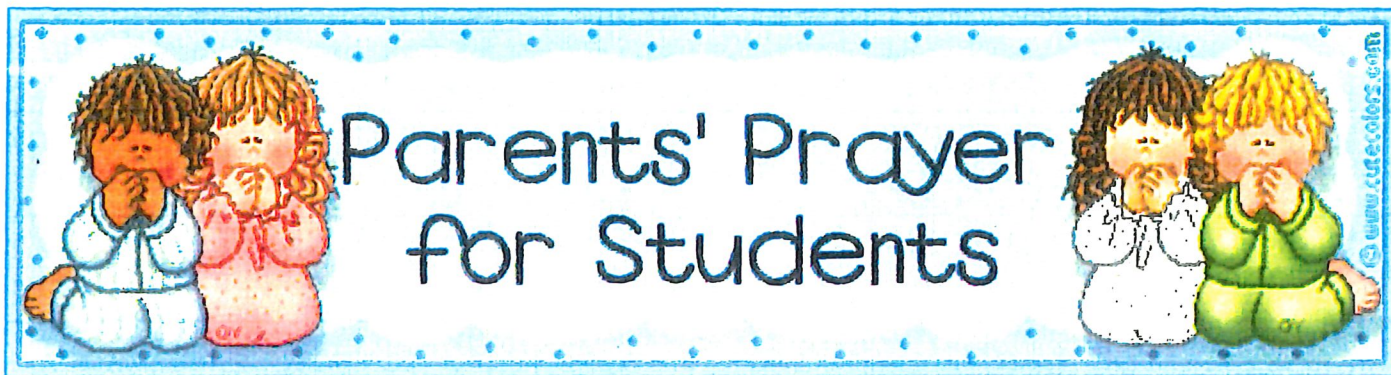
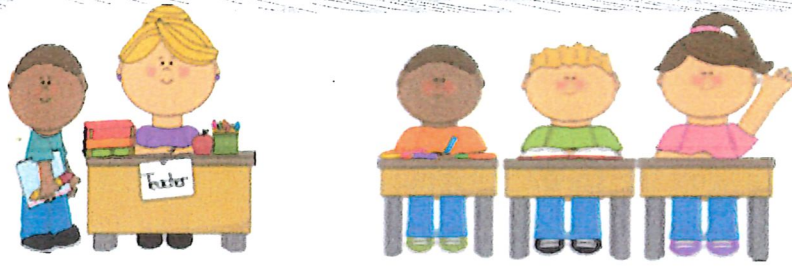




Dear Lord,
As my children leave for school,
I pray that You will keep them in Your care.
Send Your Spirit to open their minds
to all that is true and beautiful and good.
Help them to see the gifts and talents
You have given them and to use them well.
Help them to grow in knowledge and wisdom.
Help them to be kind to others
and lead others to be kind to them.
Give their teachers patience and understanding
and help them teach what is just and true.
Send Your angels to guide and guard my children
and to keep them from all harm.
Open their young hearts to Your presence
and enfold them in Your peace and protection.
Hold them in the palm of Your hand
and bring them home safely at day's end. Amen.



Welcome to La Salle Academy



Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Kindergarten at La Salle Academy! I am so happy to have your child in my class!!!!

This packet will hopefully answer some of the many questions you may have. First, let me say that we are committed to ensure the safety of our students while in our care. As parents, our first instinct is to protect our children and as teachers that instinct remains the same....we think of your children as our children.

I am a teacher who believes in creating life-long learners. It is extremely important to me that my students look forward to coming to school each day. I want children to leave our classroom every day excited and wondering what they will be doing tomorrow. Above all, I want each student to feel that they can, and will, be successful in Kindergarten.

Our classroom is a special place. It is a place where children should feel valued and free to take risks. We are on this Kindergarten journey together and it is important that we are all kind, encouraging and supportive of one another. Each one of us has different strengths, needs, opinions and ideas. If we work together there is nothing we cannot accomplish.

It is also true that we all learn best in different ways and at our own pace. That is why we will not always be working on the same things. Sometimes we will be working in small groups or with a partner. Sometimes we will be working by ourselves or with the teacher. We need to respect each other's individuality and unique learning styles. We need to remember that we are not in a race, but on a journey.

In addition, we need the support of our parents. Please know that parents and teachers are partners in a child's education. I hope that parents will always come to me with questions or concerns. It is important that we communicate openly and honestly with one another. Talk to your child about their day and make sure that they are feeling supported, confident and happy. It is the key to a successful year for your child.

Lastly, let's be sure to have fun! We will all be learning, making discoveries, and experiencing new things together. No two days will ever be the same. We need to get messy, laugh a lot, be good friends, explore together and stop to smell the roses!

Thank you for sharing your child with me this year. I look forward to providing a safe, supportive, Christ-centered learning environment for your child.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Martines and Mrs. Caljean



Parents,

In order for our dismissal to run more smoothly,
Please indicate what mode of transportation your
child will be using most often for this school year.

Name: _____

_____ School Bus

*please circle the days that apply: (M T W TH F)

Name of School District: _____

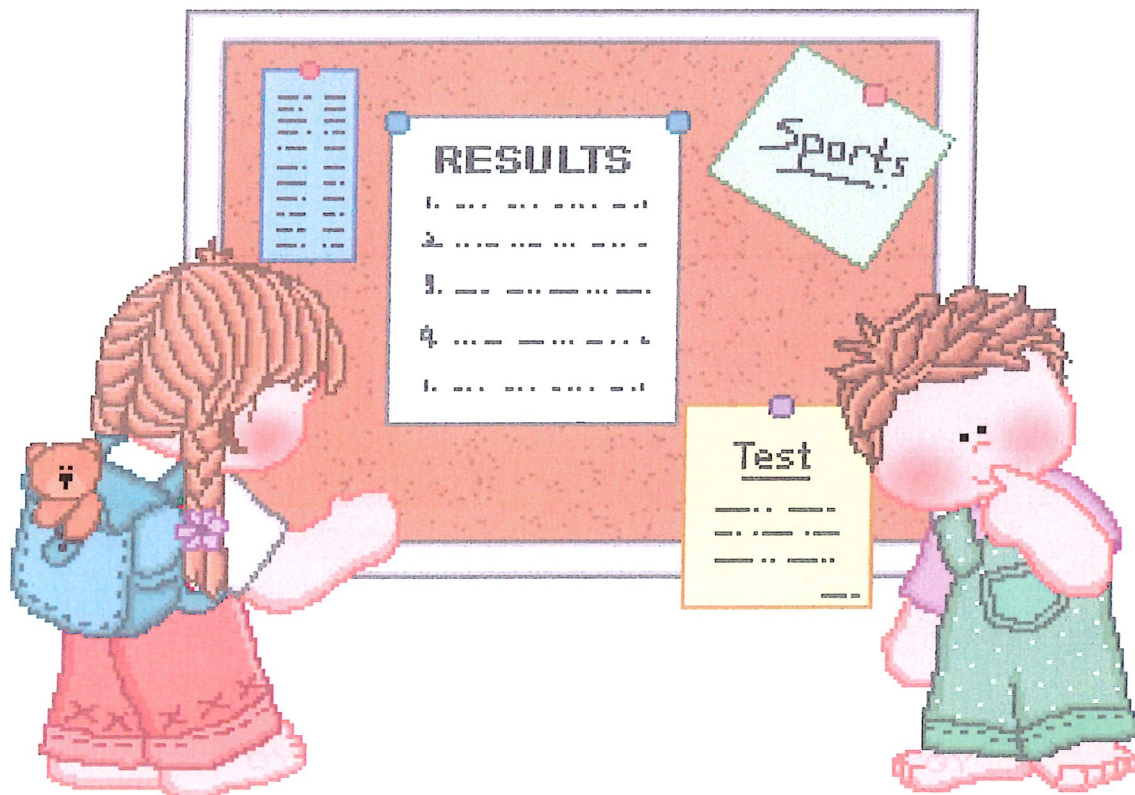
_____ Car rider

*please circle the days that apply: (M T W TH F)

_____ Aftercare

*please circle the days that apply: (M T W TH F)

La Salle Academy Kindergarten Curriculum



Teacher: Mrs. Martines
Teacher's Assistant: Mrs. Caljean



RELIGION



The foundation of all we do at LaSalle Academy centers on our Catholic beliefs and values. Our kindergarten religion is faith-focused and filled with language and listening skills, scripture-based and theme-related stories, as well as songs and poems. Our daily prayers and prayer service foster and nurture a strong sense of believing and knowing that we can talk to God anytime and anywhere. The kindergarten religion program is composed of selected stories from the Old and New Testament. The Old Testament is taught from August through November. The New Testament is introduced with the beginning of advent and taught the remainder of the year. Bible stories are a favorite with kindergarten children. The kindergarten children can begin to understand the meaning of Jesus' teachings through studying these stories. They learn that all life is precious and should be treated with respect. Each lesson is taught through oral reading and storytelling along with numerous art activities. Role playing and re-enacting parts of the stories are also used. Following Jesus' example of giving, Kindergarten students also participate in classroom and school service projects throughout the year.

Our Kindergarten religion series is called "Stories of God's Love." This new and exciting Kindergarten program offers a leaflet style format that proclaims Bible stories as well as contemporary stories which relate to the life of a Kindergarten child. Seasonal lessons deepen the child's understanding of holy days, holidays and liturgical seasons. God's love for us as learned from an age-appropriate Scripture story from the Old or New Testament is introduced one week and then the following week, a corresponding real-life story explores how we can learn about and live out God's love every day.





Wonders is designed to foster a love of reading in all children. Through exploration of texts and daily development of skills as readers, writers, speakers, and active listeners, students experience the power of literacy.

Wonders helps strengthen skills, bolster learning, and encourage independence, enhancing the important and inspiring work that takes place in classroom every day.

We view literacy as the key to accessing all learning. McGraw-Hill Wonders Reading Program is used as the core program of instruction and addresses the 5 components of literacy: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension and vocabulary. Students in kindergarten learn the phonemic awareness of individual letters. During this process, they learn the sounds, recognize and learn to write the letters, and begin blending words phonemically. As students learn more letters, they learn more words and put them into sentences. They practice these sentences by reading and writing them. Throughout this learning students have multiple opportunities to read decodable texts that are aligned with the sounds taught in explicit instruction.

Wilson Foundations and Heggerty Phonemic Awareness programs are integrated are integrated into the core program as well.

Students Learn Foundational Skills and Begin to Understand the Relationship Between Written and Spoken Language

In this Common Core reading program, children learn the 26 letters of the alphabet and one sound for each letter, then apply their new skills to blend sounds to read words and sentences. They practice all of the reading and language arts skills in a carefully integrated, multimodal approach using decodable text. By the end of the year, students can read, write, and spell hundreds of short-vowel words.

Word Work

The kindergarten program begins teaching children the foundational skills they need to become successful readers and writers.

Through explicit and systematic phonics instruction, children learn the letters of the alphabet, one sound for each letter, and how to blend the letter-sounds to decode words. They are also taught how to write the uppercase and lowercase forms of each letter and to encode (spell) words with the letters and sounds they've been taught.

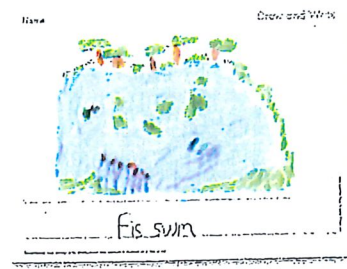


Reading

Fiction and informational texts are provided for teacher read-alouds. As soon as children learn enough letter-sounds, they begin reading short decodable stories themselves. Lessons for each text build background and vocabulary before reading and help guide children's comprehension during reading.



Writing



Children are taught to communicate their ideas through drawing and by writing letters, words, and eventually sentences. They learn basic mechanics and how to write narratives, opinions, informative/explanatory texts, and more.

What Students Learn in Kindergarten

- All 26 letters of the alphabet and one sound for each
- Writing all uppercase and lowercase letters
- Blending letter-sounds to decode (read) words
- Segmenting letter-sound to encode (spell) words
- Reading high-frequency words
- Parts of speech, synonyms, antonyms, categorizing words
- Comprehension and fluency skills for literary and informational texts
- Writing mechanics, writing process, and types of writing (narrative, opinion, informative/explanatory)





Foundations® is a multisensory and systematic phonics, spelling, and handwriting program that benefits all K-3 students. Some key features include:

Thoroughly teaches the foundational skills, and significantly supports the reading, writing, and language standards, found in states' rigorous college- and career-ready standards and the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

Presents the following concepts and skills in a cumulative manner from Unit to Unit and year to year:

Letter formation

Phonological and phonemic awareness

Sound mastery

Phonics, word study, and advanced word study

Irregular (trick) word instruction

Vocabulary

Fluency

Comprehension strategies

Written composition (spelling and handwriting)

Integrates skill instruction so that a daily lesson teaches and then reinforces corresponding skills.

Scaffolds learning while teaching all skills explicitly, sequentially, and systematically.

Actively engages students in learning through the use of multisensory techniques, such as when teaching students sounds, their representative letters, and words with spelling options.

Provides multiple opportunities for skills practice and application to build mastery.

Monitors student learning through formative assessment tools built into the program.

Encourages parental involvement through the use of the Foundations Home Support Packet.





Heggerty

PHONEMIC AWARENESS CURRICULUM

by Literacy Resources, Inc.

This program provides daily opportunities to develop phonological and phonemic awareness by progressing to the phoneme level through language play activities. It covers all consonants, short vowels, digraphs, blends, and rhyme patterns. Each lesson typically lasts 10-15 minutes. It is fast-paced and includes embedded instructional support & modeling, differentiated instruction, an alphabet knowledge activity, and opportunities to make phoneme-grapheme connections, matching the sounds we hear to letters in print.

Phonemic Awareness is the understanding that the spoken words are made up of individual sounds, called phonemes. A child who is phonemically aware is able to isolate sounds, blend and segment sounds, and manipulate sounds in spoken words. The daily activities in the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness curriculum provide students with oral and auditory to develop these essential reading skills.



EnVisionMATH helps students develop conceptual understanding of important math concepts. Every lesson includes a problem-based interactive learning activity that builds concrete understanding of math concepts. Then, step-by-step visual instruction using the Visual Learning Bridge or the Visual Learning Animation deepens students' understanding of the concept.

EnVisionMATH also provides ongoing assessment, diagnosis, and intervention. Formative assessments are interwoven throughout the program at the lesson and topic level. EnVisionMATH includes daily data-driven differentiated instruction to ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Our curriculum is broken into topics, which include:

Topic 1: Numbers 0 to 5

Topic 2: Comparing and Ordering 0 to 5

Topic 3: Numbers 6 to 10

Topic 4: Comparing and Ordering Numbers 0 to 10

Topic 5: Classify and Count Data

Topic 6: Understand Addition

Topic 7: Understand Subtraction

Topic 8: More Addition and Subtraction

Topic 9: Count Numbers to 20

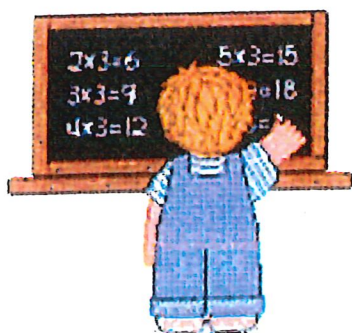
Topic 10: Compose and Decompose Numbers 11 to 19

Topic 11: Count Numbers to 100

Topic 12: Identify and Describe Shapes

Topic 13: Analyze, Compare and Create Shapes

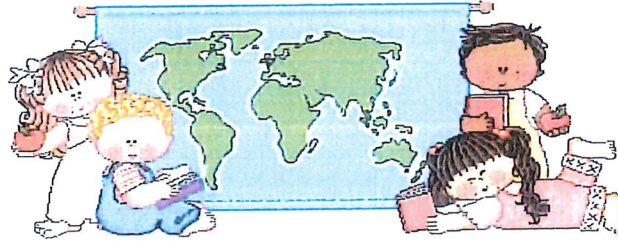
Topic 14: Describe and Compare Measurable Attributes





SCIENCE

The focus of the Kindergarten science curriculum is on developing an awareness of the world in which we live. Through scientific inquiry, concepts will be presented in the life and earth sciences, including the study of animals and plants, the five senses, general health, and the four seasons. These areas will be explored utilizing a literacy based, hands-on approach.



SOCIAL STUDIES

The Kindergarten social studies curriculum focuses on the students and how they relate to others in their families, classroom, school, and community. Activities will help the children focus their natural curiosity for the world around them. Social Studies lessons are also theme and seasonally related.

*Scholastic News (Let's Find Out) will be incorporated into our weekly curriculum to enhance our studies in both Science and Social Studies.

Religion + **STEAM** = STREAM
 Science • Technology • Engineering • Art • Math

Throughout our school year, we will be participating in STREAM activities which incorporate **SCIENCE**, **TECHNOLOGY**, **RELIGION**, **ENGINEERING**, **ART**, **MATH**.



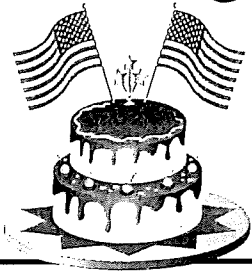
What is STREAM?

- The interdisciplinary and applied approach to learning Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Math

STREAM



Our Topics for 2025-2026



Let's Find Out
My Weekly Reader

Science Spin

If you choose to add to your subscription, you will get these additional topics:*

September	• Welcome to School ★ Class Community	• Making Friends • Apple Science	• What Scientists Do
October	• Pumpkins • Nocturnal Animals	• Fire Safety • Night Sky	• Spiders
November	★ Veterans Day ★ Native American Heritage Month	★ Thanksgiving • Autumn Changes	• Cranberries
Dec./Jan.	• Gingerbread • Penguins	• Winter Olympics ★ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.	• Ice Castles
February	• Groundhog Day ★ Black History Month	★ Presidents' Day • Dental Health	• Engineering
March	• Spring Weather • Read Across America Day	★ Betsy Ross: Our Flag • Signs of Spring	• St. Patrick's Day Science
April	• Chickens • Seeds and Plants	• Earth Day • Insects	• Meet a Scientist
May/June	• Under the Sea • Get Moving This Summer	• Summer Safety ★ Happy Birthday, America!	• Whales

**Let's Find Out is
also available in SPANISH!**

Celebrate America's 250th Birthday!
Look for the ★ for related topics.

* Topics may change at editor's discretion.



Color Us Happy!



Dear Families,

To keep our class happy and safe, we need to follow our school rules. We need to be good listeners, keep our hands to ourselves, raise our hands to speak and be good friends to all. To help us learn to remember the rules, we will begin to use a behavior management system called "Turn A Card."

We have a pocket chart displayed in our room and each child has a "packet" of colored cards. Each day, the **GREEN** card will be on top, signaling appropriate behavior and a fresh start. When a rule is broken, a child will be asked to "turn a card." The next card in the stack is the **YELLOW** card, which means the child will be given a verbal warning. If a second rule is broken, the child turns to the third card in his/her stack. The **ORANGE** card means a child will be given a five-minute time out, during which he/she should reflect on the behavior and find ways to change it. If a child's behavior is inappropriate a third time during the day, the last card that is turned is the **RED** card. A RED card means a ten minute time out is given, and that child's parents will be notified either by note or telephone call.

Each day, the cards are returned to their original order, with the GREEN card on the top, so that each day can be a fresh start, and another chance at displaying appropriate behavior. By having the child physically turning his/her own card, I am asking that child to acknowledge inappropriate behavior and to take responsibility for it. If a child consistently gets a RED card, I may ask the principal to become involved in the discipline process.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Mrs. Martines and Mrs. Caljean





Throughout our year in Kindergarten, we use assessments as tools to guide us in identifying strengths/weaknesses that your child may be experiencing. These tests may be a weekly progress monitoring test, end of the unit test or the NWEA (MAP GROWTH) and ACADIENCE Tests.

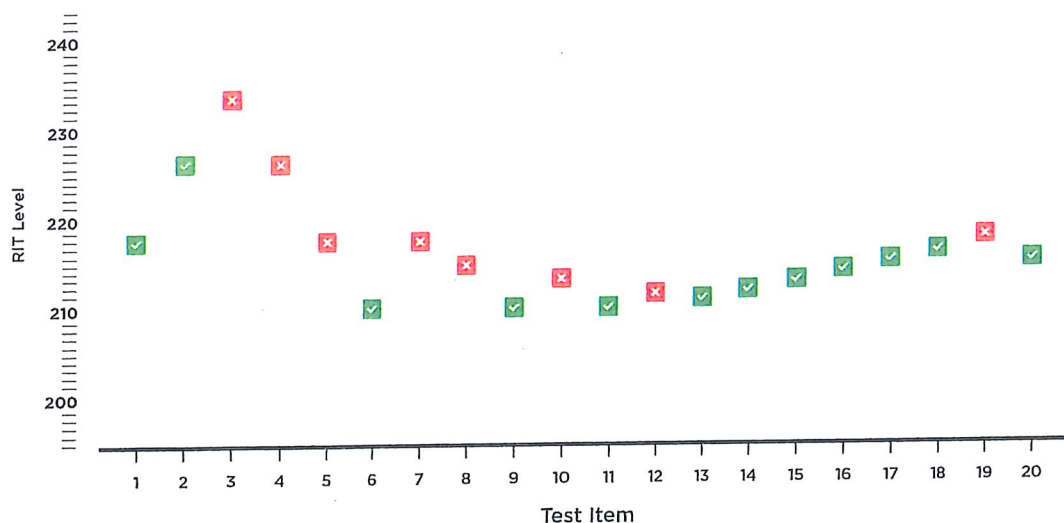
The NWEA (MAP GROWTH) and ACADIENCE tests are typically administered in the fall, winter and spring. Information about these tests is attached.

A family guide to MAP Growth

Children learn better—and faster—when teachers have a clear picture of what students know and how they are growing academically. That's why a group of educators and researchers founded NWEA®, a not-for-profit organization that has created some of the most trusted and reliable assessment solutions available. More than 13 million students in the US and in 140 countries worldwide use MAP® Growth™.

How it works

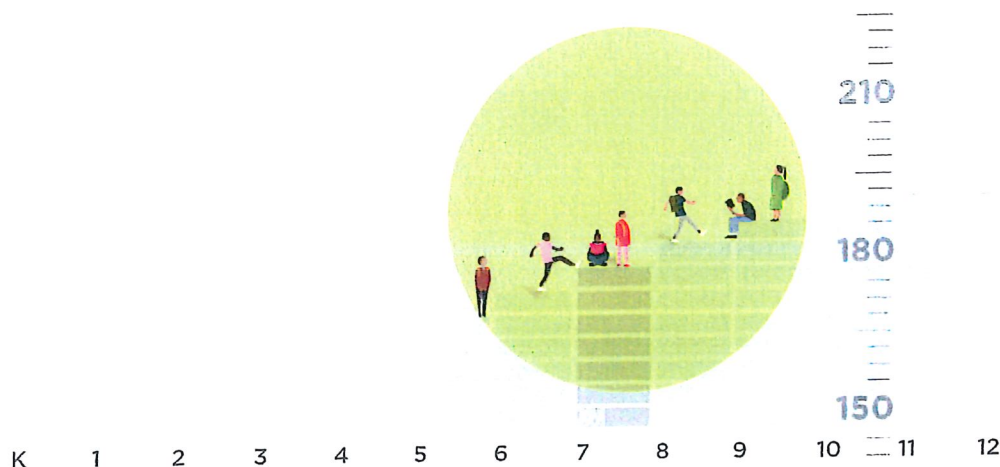
MAP Growth is a computer-adaptive test. If your child answers a question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If they answer incorrectly, the next one is easier. This type of assessment challenges top performers without overwhelming students whose skills are below grade level.



MAP Growth begins with a question at each student's grade level and adjusts the level of difficulty based on individual performance.

What it measures

MAP Growth uses a RIT scale to accurately measure what students know, regardless of their grade level. It also measures growth over time, allowing you to track your child's progress throughout the school year and across multiple years. Once your child completes a MAP Growth test, they receive a RIT score.



The RIT scale precisely measures student performance, regardless of whether they're performing on, above, or below grade level.

Your child's RIT score

RIT scores have the same meaning across grade levels. If a fourth-grade student and an eighth-grade student have the same RIT score in reading, then they are testing at the same level in that subject. This stable scale allows teachers to accurately measure each student's academic growth throughout the school year and over time.

You can use your child's RIT score to help them meet their goals. For example, students can enter their RIT scores into our college explorer tool to see which colleges and universities they're on track to enter. You can also ask your child's school about educational resources that use MAP Growth RIT scores to provide personalized learning resources.

"MAP Growth is important because it allows my teacher and me to see how much I know and my percentile growth. In math, my score used to be 227 (70th percentile), but it is now 240 (87th percentile). I didn't know I was capable of so much growth, but in the end I was."

Kayla, 6th grade
Santa Ana, CA

COMMON QUESTIONS

How do schools and teachers use MAP Growth scores?	Teachers can use the scores to identify learning areas that their class should focus on, as well as monitor the growth of individual students. Principals and administrators can use the scores to see the performance and progress of a grade level, school, or the entire district.
Can MAP Growth tell me if my child is working at grade level?	Yes, but please note that MAP Growth scores are just one data point that teachers use to determine how a student is performing. Please discuss any questions that you have about your child's performance with their teacher.
How often will my child take MAP Growth tests?	Most schools give MAP Growth tests to students at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year (in the fall, winter, and spring). Some schools choose to administer tests only twice a year.
What are norms?	NWEA provides schools with norms by utilizing anonymous data from more than 10 million students around the US. Knowing the top, middle, and bottom scores of all these students combined allows teachers to compare where your child is to other students and help them grow. In addition, NWEA provides comparison data for private, accredited, English-based, international schools using MAP Growth outside the US.
Is MAP Growth a standardized test?	MAP Growth is administered periodically during the school year. Instead of asking all students the same questions, it adjusts to each child's performance—giving a more accurate measure of what they know. Teachers also receive results right away, which enables them to react more quickly.
What types of questions are on MAP Growth tests?	The MAP Growth tests include multiple choice, drag-and-drop, and other types of questions. For sample tests, visit Warmup.NWEA.org .

For tips on getting ready for MAP Growth testing, check out our blog:

nwea.org/blog/category/supporting-families

Find more family resources at nwea.org/familytoolkit



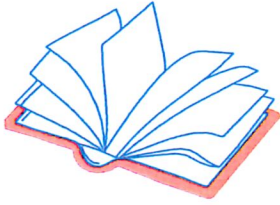
NWEA is a not-for-profit organization that supports students and educators worldwide by providing assessment solutions, insightful reports, professional learning offerings, and research services. Visit [NWEA.org](https://www.nwea.org) to find out how NWEA can partner with you to help all kids learn.

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A PARENTS GUIDE TO ACADIENCE



What is Acadience?



Acadience is a Universal Screener that consists of several short tests given to children in order to screen and monitor their progress in learning necessary skills required to become successful readers.



What is a Universal Screener?

A universal screener is an assessment that helps teachers identify students who are at risk for not meeting grade-level learning goals. Universal Screeners are given at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year.



Timed Format

All Acadience measures are timed, with most taking only one minute. The reason for the timing is to find out if a child is able to answer the questions or read the words correctly. Having these basic reading skills at the automatic level allows children to focus on understanding the meaning of what they are reading.



Progress Monitoring



Students progress is measured through Acadience. Progress monitoring is completed roughly every two weeks. The one minute progress monitoring assessment allows your child's teacher to see if your child is positively responding to the interventions they are receiving.



Attendance is very important! If your child misses school, please remember to call the office (489-2010) **and** write a note telling why your child was absent. Please let us know if your child has any **A**llergies (Food or otherwise).

Please check your child's **B**ackpack every day! Every child's **B**irthday is important. Please contact me if you'd like to send in a special snack. We will recognize summer birthdays at the end of the school year. Kindergarten has a **B**uddy Class with our 7th Grade. Throughout the year, we will do special projects/STREAM activities with them!

You will receive a school **C**alendar every month to let you know what's happening. Please post it somewhere for easy reference. **C**ommunication is so important. Feel free to contact me whenever you have a question or concern.

Our system for **D**iscipline is simple. We work hard to make the classroom a positive and safe place for all. Rules are discussed and agreed upon during the first week of school. Problems are looked upon as just that ----problems to be solved. Please review the "Turn a Card" discipline method that we will be using this year.

Please help your child to **E**nter the building safely. There will be a teacher on morning duty daily. Dismissal time for Kindergarten is 1:50. On half-days of school, **E**arly dismissal time for Kindergarten is 10:50.

Folders will be sent home everyday. Please look through them as they may contain your child's work (which they are so proud of) and any correspondence from the office. It is so important to check and return your child's folder daily, as this is a vital means of communication between the parent and teacher.

We thank **G**od for LaSalle Academy and for all the **G**ood times we will have learning this year!

Students will have **H**omework almost every week. The **H**omework assignments will vary and will be sent home in your child's folder. This is just to reinforce concepts and skills that we are working on in school.

It is **I**mportant to keep all records current. If you move, get a new phone number, or change the way your child is to be dismissed from school, please be sure to inform the school in writing **I**mmmediately.

Following the example/teachings of Jesus is the foundation of our educational process.

The Keys to a successful school year include good communication between home and school, a positive attitude, and teamwork.

Our Lunch period is from 11:10-11:50. Students may purchase lunch or milk or a cold lunch may be sent in. Please Label everything (sweaters, jackets, lunchboxes, backpacks, envelopes, etc.) to help ensure nothing is Lost.

We will attend Monthly Masses at Queen of Angels Parish.

Our school Nurse keeps all the students' health records up-to-date. Please inform the office of any health/medical concerns or medications your child is taking.

Always sign your child in and out of the Office when picking him/her up early.

Please make sure that we have your current Phone number at home and at work. We also need a number of a trusted friend or family member to call if we cannot reach you. It's important that we be able to reach you in case of an emergency. We participate in Prayer Service every morning. Kindergarten also has a Prayer Wall for special intentions. We encourage our families to send in a picture of a loved one/or intention of someone for us to include.

Always let me know if you have any Questions or concerns. I'll gladly address them!

Reading with your child is very important. Please make the time to read as often as possible. This builds strong skills that will last a lifetime. Religion: Learning about God, His love, and the Catholic faith are at the foundation of all we do at La Salle Academy. We pray and receive religious instruction daily. Report Cards will be distributed twice a year, in the second and fourth quarters (February and May). Kindergarten will have Recess every day. Please dress your child for the weather. If possible, please send in an activity/coloring book for your child in the event of "inside recess." I encourage you to download the REMIND app on your phone. It's a great way to exchange information in our class. Directions for REMIND are included in this packet.

Our Kindergarten Class will be receiving Scholastic News this year. This will incorporate science, social studies and current events along with language arts and math into our curriculum in a fun and interesting way. We have Snack every morning. Please send in a SMALL, healthy snack in a separate bag (so as not to be confused

For cold lunch). On half days, we will also have a morning **s**nack. The students really look forward to this!

Transportation- If there are *any* changes, please send in a written note or email me or message me on the REMIND app Please do not rely on your child to relay this information as it sometimes is miscommunicated.

Your child is important to us! We will always treat your child with lots of love, respect, and **U**nderstanding.

We are **V**ery happy that your child is in our Kindergarten Class at La Salle Academy.

I will be sending home a **W**eekly newsletter to keep you informed of the skills we are working on, and any other important information. I usually send them home on Mondays, so please look for them in your child's folder. Please send in a spill proof **W**ater bottle for your child to drink from throughout the day.

X is for all the e**X**citing things we will be learning and doing this year!

Please remember that **Y****O**U are your child's first and most important teacher. No one can influence your child's life in the way that you can!

Z is for **Z**oom! Sit back and watch your child's skills take off! You will be amazed and surprised at the changes this year will bring!

We are looking forward to a great year!!!!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Martines and Mrs. Caljean

Dear Family,

Your child is being instructed in manuscript handwriting using the newest Zaner-Bloser Handwriting series. Zaner-Bloser is the most widely used handwriting method.

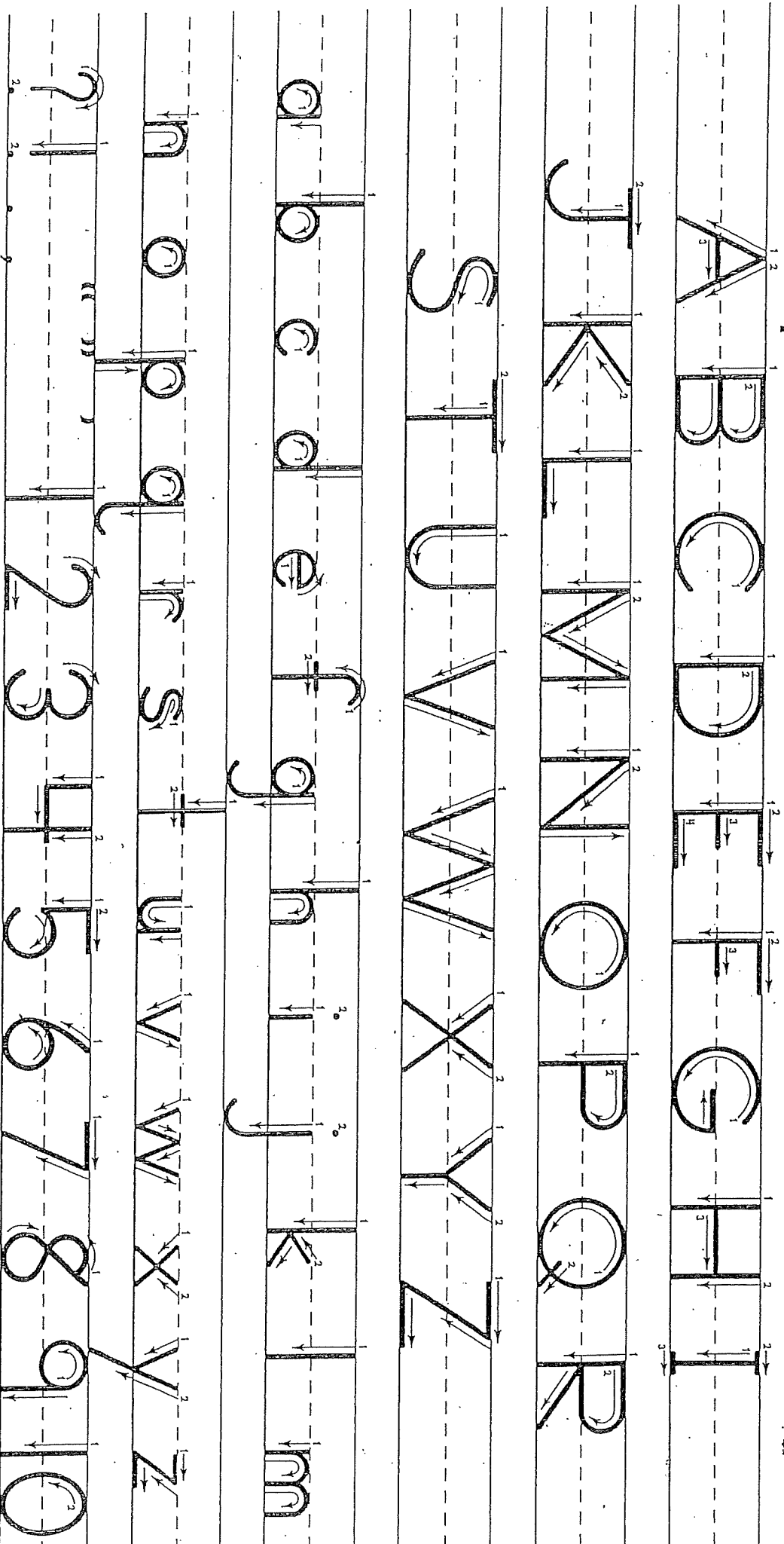
Most children come to school with an alphabet all their own, and it is important for their self-concept that we do not make them feel as if their handwriting is wrong. I will model the correct letterforms and encourage the children to gradually modify their letters, but they will not be pressured to do so.

I am providing you with a copy of the manuscript alphabet, both uppercase and lowercase. You will want to keep it for reference.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns you may have about your child's handwriting.

Keep this at home!

Zaner-Bloser Alphabet



Note to Parents:

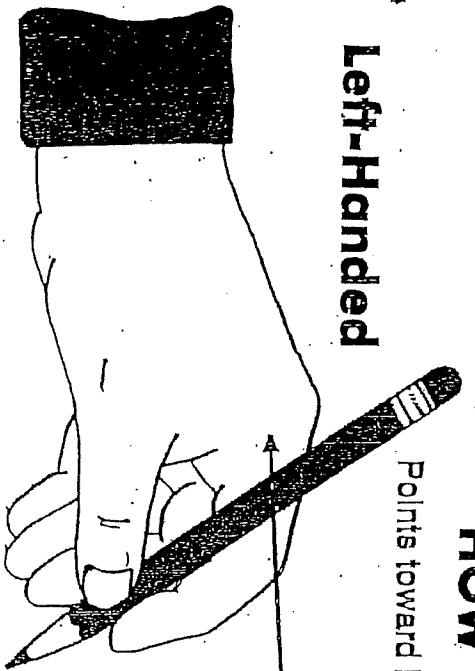
This alphabet will show you the correct formation of the letters your child is learning to write in the school handwriting program. The arrows and numerals indicate the direction and sequence of the strokes that form the letters.

In the event you wish to purchase paper for your child to practice the letter formations at home, please be sure the paper has the correct size ruled lines. The appropriate size for Grade 1 is 5/8 inch.

HOW TO HOLD A PENCIL/CRAYON

Left-Handed

Points toward left elbow

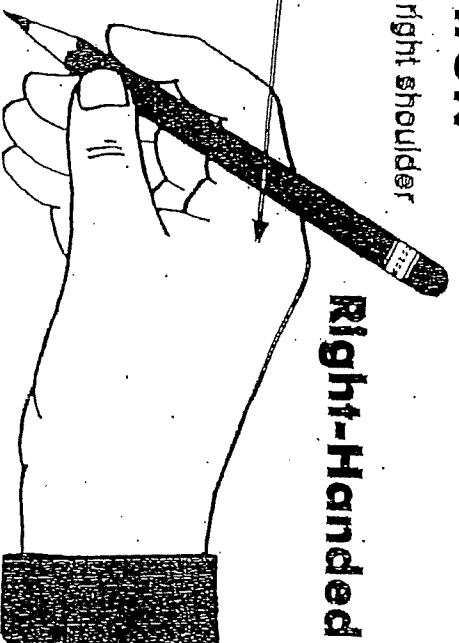


Pencil near big knuckle

Bend thumb

Points toward right shoulder

Right-Handed





"Our Promise To You"

We promise you every day your child will
learn something.

Some days they will bring it home in their
hands.

Some days they will bring it home in their
heads,

and some days they will bring it home in
their hearts.

Thank you for sharing your children with us!!!

Mrs. Martines and Mrs. Caljean

La Salle Academy Kindergarten 2025-2026

Specials Schedule



Monday: GYM (with Mrs. Lamparter)

Tuesday: STREAM (with Miss Kitchenman)

Wednesday: MUSIC (with Mrs. Malos)

Thursday: STORYTIME and TECHNOLOGY

(with Mrs. Lamparter)

Friday: ART (with Mrs. Malos)

Goals to Reach By June

Language Arts

- Following directions
- Writing full name with the first letters capitalized and the rest lower case
- Producing rhyming words
- Giving a word that starts with the same sound as a given word (*dog starts the same as dad*)
- Phonemic awareness concepts, such as blending sounds into words (/c/ + /a/ + /t/ = "cat")
and taking the sounds we hear in words apart (the sounds in "mat" are /m/ + /a/ + /t/)
- Understanding concepts of print (*knowing the difference between a letter, a word, a sentence, etc.*)
- Identifying upper case and lower case letters out of order (*there is also a one minute timed test on letter recognition, so identifying the letters quickly and automatically is important.*)
- Identifying the sounds of each letter
- Reading 50 selected sight words, including the color words
- Decoding (sounding out) three letter words, such as "pig," "dot," or "sad."
- Writing one or two sentences using phonics as a spelling tool
- Answering questions about a story
- Writing the alphabet correctly from memory with few or no reversals
- Writing a simple dictated sentence without help with proper punctuation and spelling
- Reading selected sentences with no picture cues

Math

- Identifying shapes
- Understanding the concepts of more, less, and equal
- Counting objects to 30
- Identifying numbers 0-30 out of order
- Counting to 100 from memory
- Making patterns four different ways
- Matching numerals to sets 0-30
- Placing numerals in order 0-30
- Writing the numerals 0-30 from memory
- Understanding addition and subtraction
- Interpreting a graph
- Problem solving and writing equations
Ex: There were four ducks, and one flew away. How many ducks were left?
(*Children must write the equation $4 - 1 = 3$ and draw a numerically correct picture to illustrate it.*)

Motor Development

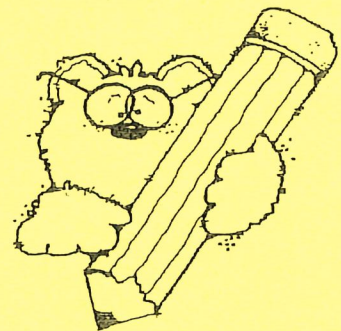
- Running, hopping, skipping, galloping, jumping rope
- Walking the balance beam
- Ball skills: bouncing, throwing, and catching
- Holding and using a pencil or crayon correctly
- Tracing or outlining patterns
- Coloring within a given area
- Holding and using scissors correctly, and cutting on a line

Social Science, Science, Music, Art

- Participating cooperatively in class activities

Social and Personal Development

- Following rules, listening attentively, accepting responsibility, working cooperatively, completing homework, respecting others



What Can Parents Do?

Many things that you can do at home on a daily basis will help your child the most. The activities described below can benefit both younger and older children.

- *Talk with your children about school and everyday events.
- *Read with your children. Encourage them to read for fun and discuss what they have read.
- *Monitor your child's television viewing and talk with them about the programs they watch.
- *Be affectionate with your children, and express interest in their school progress and development as individuals.
- *Supervise homework.
- *Let your children help in the kitchen. Many concepts can be learned while involved in cooking projects.
- *Encourage exercise and good nutrition.
- *Encourage your children to color and draw. Provide paper, crayons, markers, scissors, glue, and coloring books.
- *Provide learning experiences outside of school: museums, libraries, zoos, historical sights, National Parks and Monuments, etc.
- *Play games that involve math, reading, or vocabulary skills: Hi Ho Cheerio, Candy Land, Yahtzee, Junior Pictionary, Memory, Lotto Games, card games, etc.
- *Promote good discipline. Children don't know intuitively how to behave; parents must teach them.
- *Communicate that education is important, and encourage your children to do well in school. Reinforce school rules at home and discuss the importance of cooperation.
- *Play outside together- ball, jump rope, running, or climbing.
- *Help your child name things and actions and ask for their beginning sounds.
- *Count objects together.
- *Find alphabet letters on signs, magazines, license plates, TV, etc.
- *Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast.
- *Help your child accept responsibility for his or her things and jobs to be done.
- *Have him be responsible for cleaning out his backpack daily and showing you his work.
- *Ask your child about his or her school day and praise him for a job well done.
- *Show an interest in what your child has learned.



The Best iPad Apps for your **KINDERGARTEN STUDENT**

Dear Parents,

Listed below are some of the best iPad apps to help your little learner grow academically. These suggestions are listed by academic area. If you find your child struggling in one of these areas, or if you just want to give them some extra practice, check out some of these great learning apps!

Beginning Reading Skills

- Reading Raven 1 & 2
- Howie Word Monster
- Starfall
- BOB books
- ABC Mouse
- Teach Your Monster to Read
- Epic
- Lexia
- Raz Kids
- Smarty Ants
- Duolingo ABC

Letter Sounds

- Rocket speller
- Gappy Learns Reading
- Montessori Crosswords

High Frequency Words

- Eggy 250 HD
- Eggy phonics 1, 2, & 3

Letter Recognition

- Little Finder ABC
- Eggy Alphabet
- Little Matchups
- Letter Writer Tracing
- Letter School

Math Skills

- Eggy Add to 20
- Bugs and Buttons 1 & 2
- Bugs and Bubbles
- Monkey Math School Sunshine
- Bugs and Numbers
- Counting Caterpillar
- Gazzili Shapes
- Gazzili Math
- Eggy Numbers 1-10
- Eggy Numbers to 100
- Moose Math
- Splash Math
- Rocket Math
- Boddle

Science

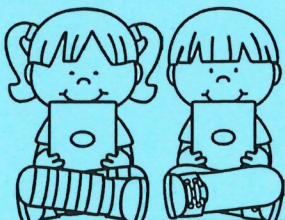
- codeSpark Academy
- Play and Learn Science

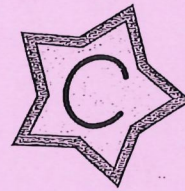
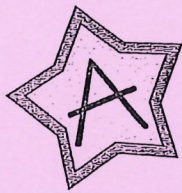
Overall Skills

- Teach me Kindergarten
- ABCYa
- Seesaw
- Khan Academy

Thank you for your dedication to your child's education, and your hard work with them at home!

Sincerely,





Kindergarten Reading Readiness

Alphabet Recognition

What is Alphabet Recognition?

One of the most vital skills needed for Kindergarten students is alphabet recognition. This means that students are able to recognize letters by sight. Children who can recognize letters quickly have an easier time learning about the sounds associated with letters. Working on letter names and letter sounds prior to entering Kindergarten will allow for your child to have a "jump-start" in their education.

How can I help develop alphabet recognition at home?

There are many different ways to help your child learn the letter names and sounds at home. A few ideas are provided for your convenience.

- Make an Alphabet Caterpillar-write each letter of the alphabet on a paper circle (small paper plates work great). Mix the circles up and have your child put the letters in order on the floor to create a caterpillar. Add pipe cleaner antennae and legs for fun.
- Alphabet Concentration-write all the letters of the alphabet on index cards (upper and lower-case). Flip them over on the table and have your child look for matches.
- Hide-and-Seek-Hide letters throughout your house and have your child find them and read them.
- Squirt and Spell-Squirt shaving cream onto a cookie sheet and have your child write letters in the shaving cream.
- Letter Hop-With chalk, draw lilypads on the ground. Write letters in the middle of the lilypads. While you say a letter, have your child jump to the lilypad with the letter in it. Continue the game until your child has jumped on all the letters.
- Letter Races-Write letters on index cards and place them upside down in a stack. Have your child go through and read all the letters quickly while you time them. Keep track of the times and challenge your child to beat their previous time.
- BINGO-Make a 4x4 grid and put a different letter in each box. Call out letter names while your child tries to get 4 letters in a row.

Phonemic Awareness

What is phonemic awareness?

Phonemic awareness is the ability to manipulate spoken sounds in words. Phonemic awareness includes: rhyming, blending, substituting sounds, segmenting sounds, identifying beginning, middle, and ending sounds, adding sounds, and deleting sounds. Phonemic awareness is the most powerful predictor of success in learning to read and spell. The development of phonemic awareness pre-

pares children for the next phase of beginning reading.

How can I help develop phonemic awareness at home?

Rhyming:

- Read nursery rhymes to your child and talk about the rhyming words.
- Ask your child to find objects that rhyme with a word you say.
- Rhyme words with your child's name.

Blending:

- Play a listening game with your child. You can tell your child that you are going to say a word broken into parts and

that you would like him/her to put the sounds together to make the word.

- Begin with simple one syllable words and gradually increase if your child is ready. Make sure you pause between the sounds.

Example: /c/ /at/

Once your child is comfortable blending 2 sounds, they can break down the word into smaller parts.

Example: /c/ /a/ /t/

Segmenting:

- Play "I SPY" with your child and have him/her find the object that starts or ends with the sound you have chosen.

- Collect familiar objects around your house and place them in a brown paper bag. Next, have your child pull an object out of the bag and have them tell you the first or last sound of the object.

Websites:

- www.getreadytoread.com
- www.starfall.com
- www.scholastic.com/parents/play/
- www.pbskids.org/wordworld



Parent Tips

to Support Kindergarten Math Learning & to Have Fun At Home

Kindergartners may easily compare sets of objects to know which is more, but may have difficulty figuring out how many they actually have. When they count they know *how many*? but may not know that the last number counted means the total quantity. At this age, kids are learning which set is more and may be able to sequence quantities from smallest to largest. But the question *how much more*? can be difficult. Many children are also fascinated with collecting and sorting objects.

give your child plenty of opportunities to count:

- Play number games during everyday activities, such as counting the number of steps, the number of trucks you see while driving, or counting the number of items going in the laundry.
- Read the calendar, and determine the number of days until an upcoming event.
- Young children can count the number of items that you bought at the store. If you buy multiples of 1 item (such as 10 cans of catfood), practice counting by 2's, 3's, or higher numbers
- Have your child count the change needed to pay for an item.
- Watch your child play to understand her mathematical knowledge. When your child counts, does she touch each object once? Is his voice in sync with his tag?
- Have your child distribute cookies or toys to family members, with each person getting an equal number

help your child recognize shapes and size relationships:

- At the grocery store, ask your child to find items that are triangles, circles, rectangles, and other shapes.
- Ask your child to recognize or stack the groceries you bought by container shape or organize by size.
- Organize a scavenger hunt where your child has to find objects of different shapes
- Make snowflakes using symmetry. Fold a square piece of paper in half diagonally to make a triangle, then fold in half 2 more times. Cut out small diamond or circular shapes from the edges, then unfold it. Experiment with different numbers of folds and shapes.

find ways to collect and organize information:

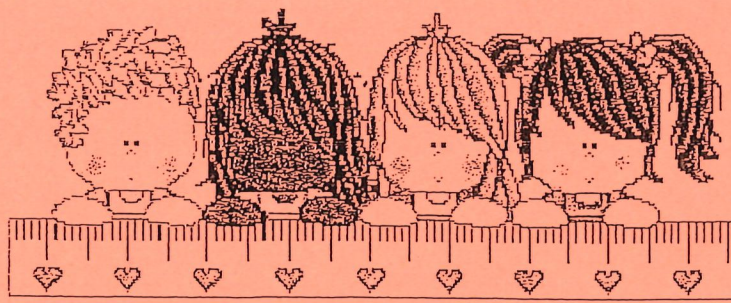
- Look around the house to find groups of 2 objects, like pairs of gloves or socks. Look for groups of 3's, 4's, and on up to 10's.
- Have your child help sort the laundry by various categories — by color, or by who an item belongs to.
- Take measurements for a project around the house.
- Using paper of different colors, make a paper chain with paper strips and tape. Encourage your child to create patterns by repeating colors and numbers of rings in a regular order. This can be done in connection with reading the calendar and counting down days to a special event.
- Collect objects in nature— leaves, rocks, shells and the like. When you get home, sort them by color, size, or type. How many different categories can you find? How many objects are in more than 1 category?

help your child develop reasoning skills:

- Help your child think about the permanence of a set. Put 6 pennies in a row, then change the arrangement. Ask "did the quantity change?"
- Kindergartners love repetition and patterning, which fosters mathematical thinking. Clapping patterns help your child discover sequences and predict what comes next.

some family games that use kindergarten math skills:

- Many card games require counting and score keeping.
- Dice games and dominos help kids learn to quickly recognize groups of dots from 2 to 12.
- Play board games that involve counting squares, such as Chutes and Ladders.
- Tic Tac Toe and Connect Four build recognition of rows of 3 and 4 counters.
- Tangrams, Mancala



What you can do at home to help your child:

- Sing the abc's and make the sounds for each letter
 - Read every night
- Write your name with 1 capital letter and the rest lowercase
 - Count together
 - Practice rhyming words
 - Color pictures
 - Cut out objects
- Trace or outline pictures with crayons
 - Write numbers 0-10
 - Name the colors
 - Say please and thank you
 - Clean up after yourself
 - Learn to tie your shoes
- And...lastly but most importantly.....
 - *Pray with your child***



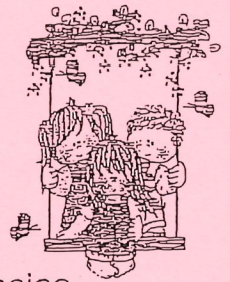
Just Playing

When I'm building in the block room, please don't say I'm "Just Playing".
For you see, I'm learning as I play, about balance and shapes.
Who knows, I may be an architect someday.

When I'm getting all dressed up, setting the table, caring for the babies,
Don't get the idea I'm "Just Playing". For, you see, I'm learning as I play;
I may be a mother or a father someday.

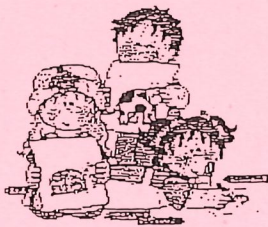
When you see me up to my elbows in paint or standing at an easel, or molding
and shaping clay, Please don't let me hear you say, "He is Just Playing".
For, you see, I'm learning as I play. I'm expressing myself and being creative.
I may be an artist or an inventor someday.

When you see me sitting in a chair "reading" to an imaginary audience,
Please don't laugh and think I'm "Just Playing".
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.
I may be a teacher someday.



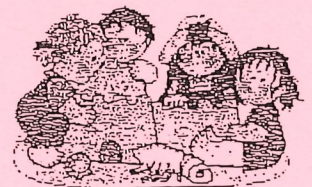
When you see me combing the bushes for bugs, or packing my pockets with choice
things I find, Don't pass it off as "Just Play".
For you see, I'm learning as I play.
I may be a scientist someday.

When you see me engrossed in a puzzle or some "plaything" at my school,
Please don't feel the time is wasted in "Play".
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.
I'm learning to solve problems and concentrate.
I may be in business someday.



When you see me cooking or tasting foods,
Please don't think that because I enjoy it, it is "Just Play".
I'm learning to follow direction and see differences.
I may be a cook someday.

When you see me learning to skip, hop, run and move my body,
please don't say I'm "Just Playing".
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.
I'm learning how my body works.
I may be a doctor, nurse or athlete someday.



When you ask me what I've done at school today, and I say, "I Just Played",
Please don't misunderstand me. For you see, I'm learning as I play.
I'm learning to enjoy and be successful in my work. I'm preparing for tomorrow.
Today, I am a child and my work is play.