

Welcome to Kindergarten

FALL EDITION

Fall River, Somerset & Westport Public Schools

Getting Ready For Kindergarten

Welcome to the first edition of our "Welcome to Kindergarten" newsletter. Our purpose is to reach parents whose children will be 5 years old on or before September 1st, and will be entering Kindergarten this Fall. Our intention is to inform parents of upcoming important dates and provide information to make their child's transition to kindergarten smooth and memorable. This quarterly newsletter will also offer seasonal and skill-building activities for you and your child to enjoy.

Health Requirements As Your Child Starts Kindergarten

In order to be in compliance with requirements for school entry you must prepare to submit the following records at registration or by the first day of school:

- 1 dose of Varicella vaccine
- 4 doses of Polio
- 5 doses of DtaPIDTP
- 2 doses of MMR
- 3 doses of hepatitis B
- Recent physical examination (within 6 months prior to entrance)
- Lead screening results
- T.B. Health Assessment
- Original Birth certificate

You must make arrangements to have these immunizations and exams done prior to the start of school. Failure to comply with this will necessitate exclusion from school until the requirements are met.

State law mandates we receive copies of the above immunizations from your health care provider.

Fall River School Department

Choosing Schools

It is important to choose which elementary school you would like your child to attend and register early. You may want to begin selecting schools now, keeping in mind the needs and interests of your child and your family.

Registering for kindergarten during the month of March will increase your chances of getting your first choice school. However, children who have older siblings in schools, or live within the school zone, get first priority for open seats. To identify your school zone, call the Parent Information Center or Early Childhood Programs at 508-675-8367.

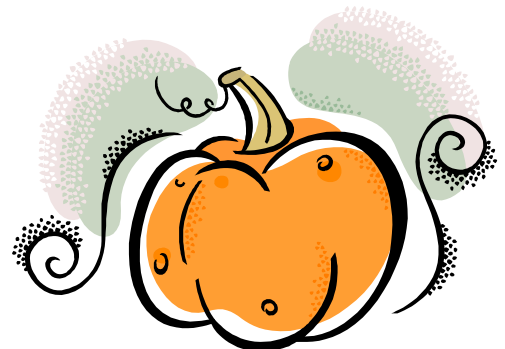
Registration begins on March 1st at the Parent Information Center - Suite 100
360 Elsbree Street, Fall River, MA 02720
508-675-8367 • Call for more information.

Somerset School Department

Parents will receive a letter in the spring with all the necessary information as to which school your child will be attending and explaining the registration process.

Westport School Department

Parents will be notified by mail explaining the registration process. Registration begins in February. Call Macomber School at 508-678-8671 for more information.



Your home is a learning environment, and you are your child's first teacher.

Every day, and every room in your home, provides opportunities for your child to learn. Through play activities, daily routines, and being read a bedtime story, children learn skills in math, reading, and language.

Activities that Target Language Skills

- Discuss ingredients being used during cooking
- Try different foods and describe how they taste
- Name articles of clothing
- Talk about daytime clothes & nighttime clothes
- Talk about clothes for hot and cold weather
- Talk about loud and soft sounds (radio & T.V.)
- Name common objects and their use
- Name the color, size and shape of objects

When children are engaged in activities with adults, their language and listening skills are strengthened and their vocabulary increases.

Ties to the Curriculum

Participates actively in discussions, listens to ideas of others, and asks and answers relevant questions (e.g. discusses foods and changes in foods as they are cooked)

Engage in play experiences that involve naming and sorting common words into various classifications using general and specific language (select objects around the house, identify them and use specific words to describe them - color, shape, size, use).

Activities that Target Math Skills

- Count ingredients or snacks
- Count using dry beans, snack foods, or macaroni
- Compare quantity of snacks
- Count toys and objects around the room
- Match shoes and socks
- Identify numbers on the remote control or computer
- Count the different shapes and sizes of pictures

Ask questions and listen to your children. Listening is the best way to learn what they know and don't know. It also shows children that their feelings and ideas are valuable.

Ties to the Curriculum

Count by ones to at least 20

Match quantities up to at least 10 with numerals and words

Identify the attributes of objects (e.g. describe the size, shape, color, of everyday materials, such as, food, shoes, socks, toys, books, etc.).

Seasonal Activities

- Go on a color hunt outdoors and only collect red leaves, change the color you collect on different days.
- Place the leaves on the table and help your child count them.
- Collect different color leaves and sort them by color.
- Create a pattern with the leaves you collected with your child.
- Have your child place a green leaf under a piece of paper and rub the paper with a crayon. The leaf shape will appear.
- Have your child glue a leaf on a piece of paper and draw legs, arms, and a head to create a Leaf Person .

Contact Information

For more information on the Welcome to Kindergarten project please contact
Barbara Allard, Fall River Public Schools
Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Program
508-675-8376 or 508-235-2619



Welcome to Kindergarten

WINTER EDITION

Fall River, Somerset & Westport Public Schools

Getting Ready For Kindergarten

Welcome to the second edition of the "Welcome to Kindergarten" newsletter. Our purpose is to reach parents whose children will be 5 years old on or before September 1st, and will be entering Kindergarten this Fall. If you did not receive our previous newsletters, they can be accessed on the Fall River Public School website at the following link www.fallriverpublicschools.org. Click on the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Program link. We hope you have found our newsletters informative as well as fun!

Get in shape for School!

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."
- Sir Richard Steele

Reading to children sharpens their listening skills, increases their vocabulary, strengthens their language and instills in them a love of books and reading.

Setting limits in a positive way will help your child adjust to school.

Direct your child's activities, but don't make unnecessary restrictions. Show your child love and respect when you are angry. Criticize your child's behavior, not your child. For example, "I love you, but it's not okay for you to do that." Help your child make good choices and work out problems. Be positive and encouraging and praise your child for a job well done.



Fall River School Department

Packets for Kindergarten registration can be picked up at the

Parent Information Center

360 Elsbree Street,

Fall River, MA 02720 or downloaded from our

website at www.fallriverschools.org and click

on Parent Info beginning February 1st.

Call the Parent Information Center at 508-675-8367 to obtain information about the different schools. Registering on the first day of the kindergarten registration period will increase your chances of getting your first choice school. However, children who have older siblings in the school, or live within the school zone, get first priority for open seats.

Registration Begins March 1st

Somerset School Department

Parents will receive a letter in the spring with all the necessary information as to which school your child will be attending and explaining the registration process.

Westport School Department

Parents will be notified by mail explaining the registration process. Registration begins February 1st for a 2 week period. Parents need to go to the Macomber School, 154 Gifford Road, 508-678-8671, to fill out the registration packet.

Kindergarten Entrance Health Requirements

Reminder - Please make arrangements for your child to have the immunizations listed in the Fall newsletter prior to the start of school. Failure to comply with this will delay your child's entrance into Kindergarten until these requirements are met.

Your home is a learning environment, and you are your child's first teacher.

Every day, and every room in your home, provides opportunities for your child to learn. Through play activities, daily routines, and being read a bedtime story, children learn skills in math, reading, and language.

Activities that Target Language Skills

- Visit your local library often and apply for a Library card for both you and your child
- Have a variety of books available for reading at home
- Ask questions about the characters within the stories and listen to your child respond
- Listen to stories on tape in the car
- Listen to children's music in the car
- Read the signs in your community (McDonald's, Stop & Shop, etc.)
- Chant nursery rhymes (Mary Had A Little Lamb etc.)

Ties to the Curriculum Frameworks

Listen to, recite, sing and dramatize a variety of age-appropriate literature. Recite, sing or retell fairy tales, Mother Goose rhymes.

Activities that Target Math Skills

- Measure water or snow in a tub or sink
- Look for shapes around the house
- Compare sizes of containers (soda bottle, soda can, glasses, etc)
- Count silverware as they help set the table
- Create patterns by lacing colored cereal onto licorice
- Practice dialing the numbers when calling family members
- Count and sort colored cereal or candy, have your child match the number to the amount of object

Activity Related Books

I Knew Two Who Said Moo, by Judy Barrett

Sheep on a Ship, by Nancy Shaw

The Very Hungry Caterpillar, by Eric Carle

The Secret Birthday Message, by Eric Carle

Look! I Can Read!, by Susan Hood

No More Water in the Tub, by Tedd Arnold

Just me in the Tub, by Mercer Mayer

Sea of Riddles, by Susan Hill and Marcus Pfister

Seasonal Activities

- Bring snow inside to measure and form into shapes. After the snow has melted and your child watches it turn into water, put it in the freezer and watch it turn into ice! Discuss "hot vs. cold" and "liquid vs. solid."
- Make sugar cookies, gingerbread people cookies or Valentine cookies in various shapes and sizes. Have your child sort them by shape and size.
- Shaving cream art is fun in the Winter! Give your child a squirt on the kitchen table and talk about making "little" snowflakes vs. a "big" blizzard .
- Use white play dough to make snow people using different shapes like balls and squares. Use other color play dough for hats, hair, eyes, etc.
- Create popcorn snow scenes with leftover popcorn. Glue popcorn to a blue piece of construction paper and draw your pictures with chalk!
- Write out your child's name in large letters on a piece of paper and have them glue cotton balls or popcorn on the lines. Talk about the names and sounds of the letters in their name.
- Create a "White" collage on a large piece of paper by gluing things around the house that are white. (buttons, cotton, tissues, styrofoam, etc.)

Contact Information

For more information on the Welcome to Kindergarten project please contact
Barbara Allard, Fall River Public Schools
Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Program
508-675-8376 or 508-235-2619



Welcome to Kindergarten

SPRING EDITION

Fall River, Somerset & Westport Public Schools

Getting Ready For Kindergarten

Welcome to the third edition of our "Welcome to Kindergarten" newsletter. Our purpose is to reach parents whose children will be 5 years old on or before September 1st, and will be entering Kindergarten this Fall. If you did not receive our previous newsletters, they can be accessed on the Fall River Public School website at the following link www.fallriverpublicschools.org. Click on the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Program link. We hope you have found our newsletters informative as well as fun!

Get in Shape for School!

With the onset of Spring, the mild weather provides us with many opportunities to interact with our community. You and your child can go for walks to the grocery store or bakery, visit your neighborhood park and library, take a trip to the Buttonwood Park Zoo, or take a tour of the Battleship Massachusetts and complete your day with a ride on the Carousel! While on these adventures, let your child participate in activities that help develop their imagination. Have them express their ideas and feelings by drawing pictures of places you have visited. The following activities will strengthen language and math skills:

- Identify objects in department stores and discuss how they are used
- Identify and discuss areas of the grocery store (produce, deli, dairy, etc.)
- Look through the grocery flyer and make a list (or cut out pictures) of the sale items. Make a game of finding these items.
- Play "I Spy the Numbers_" (1, 2, 3)
- Sort grocery items at home as you put them away (fruits, boxes, jars, etc.)
- While walking or driving, count the number of cars you see (red, blue, etc.)

Fall River School Department

Choosing Schools Reminder: Registration for children entering Kindergarten who will be 5 years old on or before September 1st, began on March 1st at the:

Parent Information Center
360 Elsbree Street - Suite 100
Fall River, MA 02721 508-675-8367
as well as the satellite centers located the:

Aldrich Head Start
295 Harrison Street
Fall River, MA
(508-324-7509)

Child Development Center
450 Locust Street
Fall River, MA
(508-679-8531)

Please call the above satellite centers for registration hours.

Somerset School Department

Registration packets will be mailed along with the name of the elementary school your child will be attending after April 15th. There will also be a notice in the newspaper. Return the completed packet in May and receive a date for screening. All screenings are in May.

Westport School Department

Registration packets are obtained at the Macomber School 154 Gifford Road 508-678-8671. Parents will receive an appointment date for kindergarten screening at the time of registration. Screenings and kindergarten orientation will take place at the end of May.



Your home is a learning environment, and you are your child's first teacher.

Making the learning of letters meaningful will motivate your child to learn more about them. Children encounter letters all day long and parents can help them learn to recognize letters by pointing out letters they encounter with their child throughout daily activities.

Activities that Target Language Skills

- Introduce your child to the letters of his/her name
- Name a letter and have your child search through printed materials in your home to find that letter (start with the letters in their name)
- Identify and match familiar letters with signs found in the community ("M" for Mary & McDonalds)
- Write your child's name on an index card and display it at your home where your child will see his/her name in print often
- Focus on teaching your child to write his/her name using an upper case letter first followed by lower case letters ("Donald", "Barbara", etc.)

Ties to the Curriculum Frameworks

Develop familiarity with the forms of alphabet letters, awareness of print, and letter forms. Create letters with materials such as string, yarn, or play dough.

Activities that Target Math Skills

- Sort and match letters and numbers
- Count the letters in his/her name
- Compare the number of letters in his/her name with the names of other family members
- Look for a certain letter and count how many of that letter he/she can find in a newspaper, magazine or book
- While reading to your child, count the number of illustrations on a page

Related Books

ABC I Like Me! - by Nancy Carlson

Dr. Seuss's ABC - by Dr. Seuss

Eating the Alphabet - by Lois Ehlert

Alphabet Adventure - by Audrey Wood

I.Q. Goes to the Library - by Mary Ann Fraser

Signs at the Store - by Mary Hill

Seasonal Activities

- "Wing It" - Make a butterfly using construction-paper scraps and a Ziploc bag. Tear paper scraps and put them in bag. Seal the bag. Tie it in the middle with a pipe cleaner and shape into antennae. Hang the butterfly, or embellish your refrigerator with a reminder of Spring.
- Colorful Caterpillars - Cut paper towel or bathroom tissue cardboard tubes into 3" sections. Dip each section into a different color paint and have children create unusual caterpillars by stamping circles onto a piece of art paper. When dry, have your child finish his/her picture with crayons or markers. Read "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle.
- Paper Sculpture - This activity is great for strengthening your child's fine motor skills. Have your child rip pieces of colored paper in different shapes. Give him/her a large piece of art paper to create a picture using the small ripped pieces of colored paper and some glue. Ask him/her to create a picture that represents the season of Spring. (sun, bird, buds on trees, flowers, etc)
- Nature Walk - Take your child on a walk through the neighborhood looking for signs of Spring. (bird's nest, flowers, caterpillars, robins, etc.)



Contact Information

For more information on the Welcome to Kindergarten project please contact
Barbara Allard, Fall River Public Schools
Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Program
508-675-8376 or 508-235-2619

Welcome to Kindergarten

SUMMER EDITION

Fall River, Somerset & Westport Public Schools

Getting Ready For Kindergarten

Welcome to the fourth edition of the "Welcome to Kindergarten" newsletter. Our purpose is to reach parents whose children will be 5 years old on or before September 1st, and will be entering Kindergarten this Fall. If you did not receive our previous newsletters they can be accessed on the Fall River Public School website at the following link www.fallriverpublicschools.org. Click on the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Program link. We hope you have found our newsletters informative as well as fun!

Get in Shape for School!

As a parent, you can set the tone for an easy transition from summer to the new school year by addressing your child's concerns:

- Talk about what to expect - Now is the time to talk about the classroom routine in as much detail as possible. Give your child an idea of what will be new and what might be familiar from preschool.
- Share - Talk to your child about something special that you remember about school.
- Ease into a school year schedule - Start following school year rules about a week or two before school starts (ie., dinner at 6:00, bath at 7:00, story time and bedtime at 8:00.) Gradually ease into this routine.
- Set your alarm clock - Children who are early to bed, are early to rise. Setting an alarm clock for the correct wake-up time will ease fears of not waking up on time or missing the bus.
- Begin a morning routine - The first day of school will be a lot easier if everyone knows what to do (ie., eat breakfast, brush teeth, get dressed.)
- Buy back-to-school gear - Allow your child to participate in choosing his/her backpack and lunch box. Label all gear with your child's name including their jackets.

Fall River School Department

Registration for children entering Kindergarten who will be 5 years old on or before September 1st, began on March 1st at the:

Parent Information Center
360 Elsbree Street - Suite 100
Fall River, MA 02721
508-675-8367

as well as the satellite centers located the:

Aldrich Head Start
295 Harrison Street
Fall River, MA
508-324-7509

Child Development Center
450 Locust Street
Fall River, MA
508-679-8531

Please call the above satellite centers for registration hours.

Somerset School Department

Registration packets were mailed along with the name of the elementary school that your child will be attending. The completed packets must be returned as soon as possible.

An orientation will take place at your child's school in September.

Westport School Department

Registration packets are completed at the Macomber School
154 Gifford Road, Westport, MA

Kindergarten transition events for July and August

Play dates at the Macomber School playground.

Open house with a family picnic night at the Macomber School. You can visit the school, meet your child's teacher and take a ride on a big yellow bus. Call the Macomber School for more information 508-678-8671



Outside of your home is a learning environment, and you are your child's first teacher.

Children learn best when they are interested and even excited about what they are doing. As a parent, you have the special opportunity to make the most of the moments during the day when your children are curious.

Activities that Target Language Skills

- Let your child use sidewalk chalk, in a safe area, to draw letters or his/her name
- Talk about the textures of stones, leaves, sand, and shells (rough, smooth, bumpy)
- Find and name animals and insects
- Identify the sounds of birds, cars, wind, ocean, leaves, voices, etc.
- Plant seeds in a garden and talk about the changes that take place
- Describe the different sea life found in the ocean
- Describe the different creatures found in local ponds
- Bring alphabet cookie cutters to mold letters of his/her name in the sand at the beach
- Build a sand castle and tell a story about your wonderful creation
- Talk about the colors of the sand, water, sky, sun, clouds, rocks, etc.

Activities that Target Math Skills

- Sort rocks, leaves, or shells by size and color
- Bounce a ball and count ... make a game of it
- Play Hop-Scotch or count how many times you can jump rope
- Count your steps (ie. from the car to the store)
- Bring along various size measuring containers as well as beach pails so that you can compare the amounts of sand each one holds
- Practice drawing numbers in the sand

Related books

Grouchy Lady Bug - by Eric Carle
Splash! - by Ann Jonas
Diary of a Worm - by Doreen Cronin
I Went Walking - by Sue Williams
Small Green Snake - by Lihha Moore Gray
House for Hermit Crab - by Eric Carle
Whales Passing - by Eve Bunting
Sea Shapes - by Suse MacDonald

More Tips for a Smooth Transition

- Practice a firm and fair parenting style. Being able to say no will benefit your child in the long run. Children who come from homes with limits have an easier time adapting to the order of the classroom.
- Help children become aware of their own abilities, to build self-esteem and confidence. When children feel good about themselves, know their strengths, and share their talents they can make friends easily.
- Recognize that teachers and schools want to work in partnership with you to help children succeed in school. Put your best foot forward when it comes to establishing a positive relationship with your child's school. Get in contact by phone, notes, or email.
- Prepare your child's brain for school. Your child needs plenty of rest and a healthy diet in order to fully participate in the school day.

Related Books

- Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come - by Nancy Carlson
- Tiptoe Into Kindergarten - by Jacquelin Rogers
- Welcome to Kindergarten - by Anne R. Rockwell
- The Night Before Kindergarten - by Natasha Wing



Contact Information

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