



Welcome
to
Wasatch
Kindergarten!

Family Guide 2023-24

Hours

Half Day

Monday - Thursday
AM 8:40am-11:45am

Every Friday
AM 8:40am-10:45am

*Please arrive at school by 8:30am.

Full Day

Monday - Thursday
8:40am-3:20pm

Every Friday
8:40am-1:30pm

*Please arrive at school by 8:30am.

The first day of Kindergarten is Wednesday, August 23rd.

Communication

We welcome communication, and feel that it's an important component of your student's success.

- Email is an effective way to communicate, and we commit to checking email at the end of each school day.
If you'd like to talk in person, we'd be happy to arrange a time.
A note pinned to your child's shirt also works!
- Once a month, you'll receive the Kindergarten Korner newsletter. It will come home in your student's backpack on red paper.
Please especially note the important dates!
Important parent information always comes home on red paper.
- SEP's (a.k.a. Parent/Teacher Conferences) are held twice a year.
Please bring your student when you come!
- SignUpGenius is used for classroom volunteers, party volunteers, testing appointments, SEP's, etc.
- If you need to change your student's pickup location (front of the school or back of the school), please notify your student's teacher via email **the night before**. Please do not communicate this through the kindergarten aides or through your children. A student saying he/she is "going home with a friend" has proven to be unreliable and is a safety issue. :)

Miss Ariel George Classroom: 2
Email: arielg@provo.edu

Mrs. Kristin Nuttall Classroom: 5
Email: kristinn@provo.edu

Mrs. Shari Payne Classroom: 1
Email: sharip@provo.edu

School phone number: (801) 374-4910

Making school a successful experience



Your child's social and emotional well being is very important!

As kindergarteners, we will be learning about differences among individuals, and how to work independently. We'll also learn to "Develop skills to interact cooperatively with others." (Kindergarten Social Studies Standards)

Items to leave at home

"Personal" school supplies

Toys

Watches or other jewelry that are toys (these are easily lost)

Birthday party invitations (Unless they are for the entire class)

Hand Sanitizer

Water bottles

Welcomed items

School supplies from the Kindergarten list to be used as a class community

A full sized backpack every day - for ease of transporting materials back & forth

Wasatch donation of \$25 for field trips

Attendance

If you know about an absence in advance, please let your teacher know.

Please also contact your teacher if your child has an extended absence.

If your student is gone for two or more days of school in a row, your teacher will contact you about work to do at home.

Birthdays

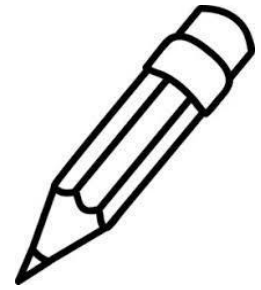
We look forward to focusing on your child's unique qualities and talents on that special day!

If it's important to you to send something on your child's birthday, **please contact your teacher a few days beforehand to make arrangements.** This is absolutely not a requirement.

Snacks

Please ensure your child has a healthy meal before school begins. There will not be a designated snack time. If your student is FULL DAY, and you would like to send a snack with your student, students will be able to eat it during afternoon recess. Please do not send drinks. Water will be available.

Homework



Repetition is important in retaining knowledge and reaching mastery.

Kindergarten "Homework" - 4 days per week

FULL DAY Kindergarten (10 min)

- **READING TIME** - 4 days a week
You read **TO** them, or you read **WITH** them, or they read to **YOU**
Does not have to be Baggie Books!

HALF DAY Kindergarten (30 min TOTAL)

- **READING TIME** - 4 days a week (10 min)
You read **TO** them, or you read **WITH** them, or they read to **YOU**
Does not have to be Baggie Books!

In addition...

- **DAILY PRACTICE BINDER** - 4 days a week (3-5 min)
- **WRITE 2 sentences.** (10-15 min)
You will receive a homework writing page each Monday.
Please return your writing homework every Friday.
If it's forgotten or there's an absence, simply return it when you get back.

At first, it may just be copying a simple sentence.
Then students will be independently completing the end of a given sentence. *Ex. I like to...(use sound spelling)*
Finally, students will be generating their own sentences.



Baggie Books

The "Baggie Books" are not assigned books by your teacher. They are simply books your student can use for their reading homework, if desired.

This is an **OPTIONAL** service. You chose whether or not to participate on the google form you completed. Let your teacher know if you change your mind.

PROCEDURES

Three books will come home.

Students return Baggie Books to the school after you have initialed next to each book they've read.

Many parents find it helpful to put the Baggie Books *back in the student's backpack each day* after reading them. (It prevents the need to remember to put them in their backpacks.)

After your student has read the book, please *initial the bookmark*—next to the book that has been read. Return the bookmark to the bag.

If Baggie Books are lost or damaged (it happens!), please pay \$5 per book to the front office.

LEVELING

The "leveling" of the books is not a perfect science! We appreciate your patience.

Students should be able to read 90% of the book without help.

If your student needs to be provided with a different book level, please write a note and put it inside the book bag.

MAKING THE MOST OF READING TIME

Most important ~

It may be hard not to constantly correct errors when a student is learning. Make sure that you positively praise something that your student is doing correctly at least three times during each reading session.

Plan to reread the books several times during the week. This builds fluency!

Please encourage your child to put his/her finger under each word while reading. This is called "tracking."

If a student comes to a word they could not sound out, encourage them to "Use your power!"

Ask your student questions about the book, even if it is a very simple book.

Academics

It's a real treat to meet one-on-one with your student at the beginning of the year, and again at the end of the year.

Please note that **May 6-10 there will be no kindergarten for an entire week** while we hold individual appointments for the statewide Kindergarten assessment. We cherish this individual time with your child to proudly show what they've learned!

Essential skills ~

By the end of the school year, students will be reading sentences that include both sight words and 3-4 letter words.

To get there, students will be able to identify all letter names and sounds by the time we return from Christmas Break.

By the end of the school year, students will be able to correctly show addition and subtraction story problems using pictures and objects.

To get there, students will be able to count to 100 and identify numbers up to 20 by Valentine's Day.

By the end of the year, students will be independently writing at least 3 detailed sentences on a single topic, naming the topic, and using correct spacing & capitalization.

Fluency goals~

Timed practices are important because reading at the right speed helps us comprehend what we are reading!

By December 31, students should be able to do the following in one minute:

Say the first sound of 30+ pictures correctly.

Read 55+ correct letter names.

Read 6 word chunks correctly.

By the end of the year, students should be able to do the following in one minute:

Read 55+ correct letter names.

Read 10 word chunks correctly.

Goals & Incentives

The last week of each month, we have individual "check-ins" to formally monitor how each student is doing with some of their goals.

The ABC Club is an incentive for students to fluently name all letter names and sounds (fluency is within 3 seconds per letter).

Students will earn a special book when the goal is met!

The 100 Club is an incentive for students to count to 100.

Students will earn a 100 Grand bar and a certificate.

The Cookie Club is an incentive for students to keep up with monthly high frequency word goals. Each month the student increases the number of high-frequency words they can read, they earn a cookie for their jar.

The monthly Kindergarten Korner newsletter will publish the high frequency words we will be working on for that month, including bonus words.

1. The week of the check-ins, we will meet with each student to assess the high frequency words they can read to mastery (within 3 seconds per word). If there are missed words, a note will be sent asking for practice at home.
2. Students begin with their own cookie jar to keep at school all year. Each month as it's earned, a seasonal felt cookie is added to the jar. At the end of their kindergarten year, they will take home their full cookie jar as a memory of what they've worked hard to achieve.

Need for intervention~

Early intervention is key! We're so fortunate to have research based programs to get a child caught up and reading at grade level.

If there's a need, your student will attend a 30 minute reading intervention class during the school day.

Parents will be notified if a student is receiving reading intervention.

Teachers will review data on a monthly basis to evaluate needs.

Students who still need reading intervention will continue to receive it.

Those who are meeting their goals will be exited from the reading intervention class.

Parents will be notified when a student is ready to exit the reading intervention class.

Safety

Drop off~

Please do not walk your student to the classroom at the beginning of their school day. This can cause very difficult separations. Coming in with your classmates builds self-esteem, confidence, and adds to a feeling of class teamwork! If your student is struggling to come into the school, contact your teacher asap!

A Kindergarten "Drop off" car lane has been established at the front entrance. When kindergarteners enter, there is a special spot for them to gather. As the hall splits, it's on the right hand side and is marked for each class. Our kindergarten aides will be there to greet students beginning 10 minutes before the bell rings. Five minutes before the bell rings, the aides will then walk the class together to their kindergarten rooms.

Students walking to school from the back will also wait with their class by their entrance spot outside the Wasatch Too doors on the red paw prints! Again, an aide will be there to greet students 10 minutes before, and will walk the class together to the rooms three minutes before school begins.

For the first week, teachers will also be there to greet students each day.

Late entry~

If a student arrives after the bell, the student will check in at the office and find their way to the classroom independently (as in the past.)

Pick up ~

When school is dismissed, the kindergarten aides will walk students to the front entrance or the walking entrance outside Wasatch Too. Bus students will go to the bus with a sibling or family friend. With an aide, the classes will wait together.

When the child sees their "safe person," the aide will then give the student permission to go. Their "safe person" could be a sibling, neighbor, parent, or grandparent.

Ten minutes after school is dismissed, any student who has not been picked up will be taken to the office to safely wait there, including students at the walking exit outside Wasatch Too.

Going home with friends / Carpool lines ~

"Play dates" are an important part of growing up, and very encouraged! If your child is going home with someone else, please send a quick note pinned to their shirt or email your teacher **the night before**.

A student saying he/she is "going home with a friend" has proven to be unreliable and is a safety issue. :)

A parent note or email helps us to get the child to the right place for pick up—either at the front of the school or at the back!

