

## Kindergarten Summer Work

**Dear Parents,**

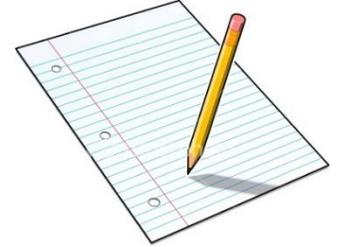
**The upcoming school year will be filled with excitement, play, learning, exploring, creating and much, much more. There are many ways you can help your child to prepare for Kindergarten. I have attached some suggestions to How to Build a Better Reader and Writer at Home. Please make sure that your child is able to perform the following skills before the beginning of the school year. These are important life lessons and will make our day run a lot smoother.**

- 1. Tie their shoes-** this is not as hard as you think. Just let your child practice it in steps. For a few days, have them work on the X and go through the loop (the easy part). Do this over and over. Let them tie everything. Next, move on to the rest. THEY WILL GET FRUSTRATED. Keep encouraging them and it should only take a couple of weeks. I know it is sometimes easier for you just to tie their shoes for them but this is an important life lesson.
- 2. Open a juice box/pouch and open a bottle of water-** You might think this is strange but when multiple students need help opening snack it takes away from the limited time that they have to actually enjoy their snack.
- 3. Use the bathroom-** By now most of the students have this down pat. We typically spend the first month showing them how to wash their hands properly. It should take them about 20 seconds of scrubbing soap in their hands before they rinse it off.
- 4. How to handle getting what they want-** For example; if they break a pencil, many students will sit there and not ask for help. We need to teach children to use their words and ask for help if they need something. Teach them to **take action**. If they need a spoon, napkin or straw at lunch some will sit there and do nothing instead of taking care of themselves. Please help me teach your child to take the steps towards being independent by helping themselves. Our goal is to raise our children to become a responsible adult.
- 5. Know the basics-** Does your child know their name, phone number and address? These are important. This means last name also.
- 6. Get a library card-** We will be visiting the library on Friday afternoon with our buddies from Third Grade.
- 7. Please read to your child often.** Children who are continuously read to, develop a love of reading and become better readers. This is an easy way to give your child a head start in their education.
- 8. Please encourage your child to practice writing their names.** This is another easy way to give your child a head start. Remember, the only letter in their name that is capitalized is the first letter. It takes a lot longer to teach them the correct way to write their names if they have already learned to write it using all capital letters.

# Required Summer work

Each Kindergarten student is expected to read 3 picture books with a parent or guardian. After they read the book, please have them draw a picture of what happens in the book on a blank piece of paper. They should also write their name and the name of the book. These will be collected the first week of school.

# Building a reader and writer at home!



- Write from left to right with letters touching writing lines.
- Place spaces between words- Use a finger, popsicle stick, etc.
- Use uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Use a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence.
- Use punctuation at the end of the sentence.
- Use drawing, guided writing and dictating to write.
- Use letter/sound knowledge, sight words and word wall words to write simple words.
- Understand there are different types of writing (lists, letters, etc.)

## Explore Books

- Give your child the opportunity to explore books. Visiting the library or book store gives them the chance to find topics and books that interest them.

## Read, Read, Read

- Make sure to read for at least 30 mins a day. Children can read independently, aloud to an adult or back and forth with a partner.

## Ask questions

- Make predictions, ask about the characters, main idea, problem, solution and setting of the story. Have them retell it in their own words.

## Make it fun

- Reading shouldn't be a chore.

## Be an example

- Children learn by example, so let your child see you read whether it be a book, newspaper, cookbook, etc.



## For beginner readers

- Point out and read words in a natural setting- stores, streets, etc.
- Memorize sight words.
- Have them visualize the story in their head.
- Ask questions before, during and after the story.
- Don't immediately tell an unknown word to your child. Instead ask them to
  - Sound out the word
  - Break in into parts
  - Try different vowel sounds
  - Use illustration for clues
  - Skip the word, reread sentence, and go back- what word would make sense?



# Kindergarten Book Report

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Book Name \_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture of the story.