

# Harlem Grown

Welcome to Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School. I am Ms. Duke. I am your little gem's kindergarten teacher this year. Your child's class would be called Harlem Grown. Am very excited and can't wait to start a year of learning, exploring and having fun together.

Kindergarten is an exciting time of exploration for your child. As his/her motor coordination increases, so too will a sense of independence, self-reliance, and self-confidence. As the year progresses, he/she'll be expected to complete assignments with less outside help, accept more responsibilities, and follow rules more closely.

## **Skills Required at the Beginning of Kindergarten**

You may want to review this list and see if there is anything else you would like to teach your child before those first days of school. Keep in mind that this is just a guideline; the exact expectations may vary from program to program.

- Identify some letters of the alphabet
- Grip a pencil, crayon, or marker correctly (with the thumb and forefinger supporting the tip)
- Use scissors, glue, paint, and other art materials with relative ease
- Write his first name using upper- and lowercase letters, if possible
- Count at least to 10
- Bounce a ball
- Classify objects according to their size, shape, and quantity
- Speak using complete sentences
- Recognize some common sight words, like "go, me, stop"
- Identify rhyming words

- Repeat his full name, address, phone number, and birthday
- Play independently or focus on one activity with a friend for up to ten minutes
- Manage bathroom needs
- Dress himself
- Follow directions
- Clean up after himself
- Listen to a story without interrupting
- Separate from parents easily

Don't panic if your child hasn't nailed everything on the list — a lot will be learned in kindergarten. What's more important is to begin to wean him/her from relying on you to do things he/she could do his/herself, such as zipping a jacket or tying the shoes. Give your child the chance to show you what he/she can do — you might be in for a few surprises!

### **Skills Acquired During Kindergarten**

Although the curriculum may vary from school to school, general goal is focused on building strong pre-reading skills, mastering letter formation, enhancing listening and communication skills, getting an introduction to basic math concepts, and acquiring an active interest in the world. Generally speaking, your child will be expected to:

#### **Language Arts**

- Recognize and write all of the letters of the alphabet in upper- and lowercase forms
- Write his first and last name
- Learn sounds corresponding to vowels and consonants
- Use initial consonant sounds and sound patterns to read words (for example, f + an = fan; r + an = ran)

- Identify several sight words, including names of colors
- Recognize and use rhyming words
- Retell a story including details
- Put events of a story in order
- Write simple sentences using sight words and phonics skills

### **Listening and Communication**

- Listen attentively
- Raise hands or wait to speak
- Act on instruction and repeat spoken directions
- Engage in question-and-answer dialogue with classmates and teachers
- Work as a team on projects or problem-solving

### **Math**

- Sort and classify objects using one or more attributes
- Recognize and write numbers to 50
- Count orally by ones, five, and tens
- Name ordinal numbers first through tenth
- Add and subtract using manipulatives (Cheerios, candy, etc.)
- Understand spatial relationships (top/bottom, near/far, ahead/behind)
- Compare quantities by estimating, weighing, and measuring
- Use graphs to gather information
- Recognize patterns and shapes
- Tell time to the nearest hour
- Count coins
- Recite the days of the week and months of the year

This of course is a general gist of what's expected and not a limit by any means. It is a great time to start reading to and with your precious gem each day while increasing the time by 5 minutes each week. For example, week 1 read each night for 5 minutes. Week 2 ,10 minutes each. Until you and child are reading for 30 mins every day. This will build stamina and increase comprehension.

Please note the enclosed supply list

# recommended summer workbook

**Complete Kindergarten by Thinking Kids. Available at  
Staples \$12.99**

## *Supply list for Harlem Grown*

- 1 pair Frisker Scissors
- 1 primary story composition notebook#
- 3 primary composition notebooks#
- 1 12 pack yellow #2 pencils
- 1 box of gallon size Ziploc
- 1 box Crayola 24 count crayons
- 4 pocket folders
- 2 Pink erasers
- 4 Elmer's Glue sticks
- 2 bottle liquid hand soap
- 2 bottle hand sanitizers
- 1 pack of baby wipes
- 2 boxes facial tissue
- 1 roll of paper towel
- 1 pack of Clorox wipes
- A complete change of clothes including socks and underwear (all items should label)
- Backpack (no rollers)
- 1 old adult size T-shirt for art and experiments

# These are not the regularly ruled books, but specially ruled books to aid in writing. It looks like this.

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