

# Program Information

Any child who turns five-years-old on or before September 1, 2021\*, is eligible for enrollment in either our Kindergarten or Begindergarten programs. Students will participate in art, music, technology, and physical education in both programs. Parents have the choice to send their child to either program. The Kindergarten Readiness indicators and program descriptions may help you determine which option is best for your child.

## Kindergarten Readiness

Parents often ask for help in determining Kindergarten readiness. Some indicators of Kindergarten readiness are:

- Use words to ask and answer questions
- Listen to and follow two or three step directions
- Express emotions with words
- Can describe what is happening in pictures
- Recognize and write their name
- Count 10 objects
- Listen attentively to a story for five minutes or more
- Work and play with peers
- Recognize rhyming words
- Can speak in simple sentences
- Control impulses and self regulate
- Express curiosity and excitement for learning
- Initiate conversations
- Show muscle coordination
- Cut with scissors
- Properly hold and use a pencil, crayon, marker
- Attempts to put on their coat, shoes, hats, etc.

While these are some Kindergarten readiness indicators, please know that our highly qualified teachers are skilled in meeting the needs of all eligible Kindergarten and Begindergarten students.

## Begindergarten

- Begindergarten is a developmental kindergarten program that serves as a bridge between 4-year-old preschool and kindergarten. It is designed for students who are young fives (August - December 1, birthdays) and those who would benefit from time to grow academically, emotionally, and socially before starting kindergarten
- Begindergarten addresses academics in addition to language development, fine motor skills, and most importantly, social and emotional growth
- The Begindergarten curriculum is based on Kindergarten standards, modified to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of younger students
- Provides children with the opportunity to learn new skills and explore new ideas, as they are ready
- Children will move from Begindergarten to traditional Kindergarten
- Meets five days a week and operates on the district-wide school calendar; the same as other elementary classes
- Taught by a qualified Howell Public Schools certified teacher
- Class size limited to 23 students

## Kindergarten

- Is the traditional next step from the informal learning at home/ preschool experiences to formal entry into the K-12 education system
- Designed for students who have turned five-years-old by September 1\* and who are able to stay focused and pay attention during activities, follow directions, control impulses and self-regulate, and complete basic tasks such as those listed in the next column
- Daily lessons in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies based on the needs of the student; students also receive art, music, physical education, and technology
- Instruction utilizes hands-on experiences, the use of manipulatives, movement, and differentiation based on student needs
- Allows students to develop a healthy concept of self, physical skills and coordination, language skills and vocabulary, and the skills and knowledge needed to move to first grade

\*According to Michigan Law, if a student will not be five-years-old by September 1, 2021, but will be five-years-old by December 1, 2021, they may be enrolled in Kindergarten or Begindergarten if their parent or legal guardian notifies the school district in writing that he or she intends to enroll their child in Kindergarten or Begindergarten. A waiver form is included in the registration packet.

# KINDERGARTEN

## READINESS



### Using my words

- ★ Use words to ask and answer questions
- ★ Sing songs and practice rhyming
- ★ Listen to and follow 2 or 3 step directions
- ★ Express my emotions with words
- ★ Carry on a short conversation



### How I learn

- ★ Solve problems on my own
- ★ Try even when I'm discouraged
- ★ Explain what I'm doing
- ★ Experiment with different things
- ★ Use my senses



### Managing emotions and relationships

- ★ Manage my emotions with help
- ★ Follow a predictable routine
- ★ Approach a group of children
- ★ Respect and care for others:
  - ☆ Recognize others' feelings
  - ☆ Respect others' space
  - ☆ Accept the diversity of others



### Using my brain

- ★ Touch and count objects to 10
- ★ Recognize and write some letters and numbers
- ★ Recognize my name in print
- ★ Sort items by shape, size and color



### Using my muscles

- ★ Cut with scissors
- ★ Properly hold and use a pencil, crayon, marker
- ★ Dress myself: buttons, zippers, snaps, shoes, gloves
- ★ Take care of my body: wash my hands, use a tissue
- ★ Be active: jump, run, climb, hop, throw, kick, catch, balance on one foot

★ Turn over to find tips on how to develop these skills. →



## Using my words (Language development)

### My parents/caregivers help by...

- Asking me who, what, when, where and why questions
  - Having a conversation with me and explaining things to me
  - Listening to my stories and reading to me
  - Talking with me about my feelings
- 

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## How I learn (Approaches to learning)

### My parents/caregivers help by...

- Encouraging my curiosity, initiative and ability to expand my learning
  - Giving me opportunities to use my senses, including getting messy
  - Giving me extra time to solve problems on my own
  - Limiting my screen time so I have more hands-on opportunities to learn
  - Reading to me
- 



## Using my brain (Cognitive development)

### My parents/caregivers help by...

- Helping me practice writing and saying my first and last name
  - Challenging me to count items out loud and by touch
  - Encouraging me to sort items by size, shape and color
  - Playing games which allow me to find different letters and numbers
  - Allowing me to help with tasks and chores such as cooking, cleaning and gardening
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## Managing my emotions (Social & emotional development)

### My parents/caregivers help by...

- Modeling the skills I need to manage my emotions such as taking deep breaths, having time alone and staying calm
  - Teaching me the names of my feelings
  - Giving me a consistent routine
  - Reading books about feelings to me
- 



## Using my muscles (Physical development)

### My parents/caregivers help by...

- Supervising and showing me how to use scissors
- Allowing enough time for me to dress myself
- Being active with me outside
- Establishing a healthy lifestyle by providing adequate sleep, healthy foods and limited screen time