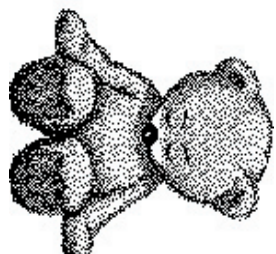
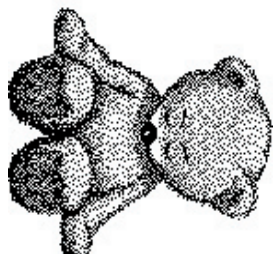
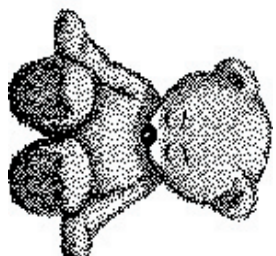
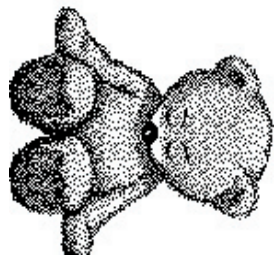


Striding Into Kindergarten A Guide For Parents

This booklet was written to help you understand your very special partnership with Wenatchee School District. It contains tips and insights to help ensure that you and your kindergartner's experiences are successful and rewarding, launching a pathway to lifelong learning.



235 Sunset Avenue
Wenatchee, WA 98801
509/663-8161





How to have a happy student...

Even with previous day care or nursery school experience, coming to Kindergarten can be a little scary. It's a new place with new people. You can help pave the way with some advanced preparation.

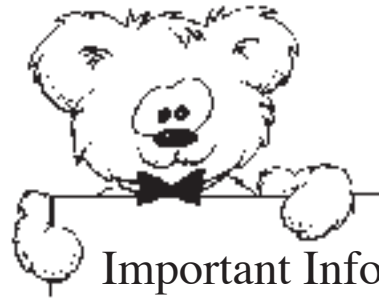
Talk about the wonderful things your child will learn in school, the fun activities ahead and new friends. Spend a summer day on the playground; have a picnic on the school lawn. Play games about being in school. Read stories together about school and school children. Draw pictures about school.

Walk the route to school. Point out the landmarks on the way. Plan, if possible, to walk your child to and from school for the first week or so.

Talk openly about fears and anxieties your child may have. Respond to questions calmly, with understanding and honest answers.

Talk about using the bathroom properly and politely. Discuss keeping track of personal property, being able to put on and take off coats and boots, about tying knots and eating with a fork and spoon.

Label all clothing that will be taken off at school.



Important Information and Phone Numbers [fill out the blanks in the form below and keep it as easy reference during the year].

School Name _____

Principal _____

Nurse _____

Telephone _____

Classroom Number _____

Teacher's Name _____

Schedule: Hours: _____

Date school begins: _____ Ends: _____

School Bus Number _____

Driver _____

School District Phone Number **663-8161** _____



Earlier is not always better...

We could give your children workbooks. We could make them memorize the alphabet. We could drill them and test them. But we know that if we do, your children are going to lose something very important.

Children who can read in preschool may be able to sound out and recognize words, but without understanding of meaning. If they haven't been given time to play, they won't understand concepts like "hard, harder, hardest." They need to string beads, button, dress up, cut, paste, and draw so that they develop the small muscle skills they will use later to write.

To truly understand the concepts behind adding and subtracting, children need to count blocks, stack them up, pile them into different jumbles, and string them out in lines. Without concrete experiences, they may be able to recite math facts without understanding.

Through hands on play, children learn to ask their own questions and to figure out the answers. If they are always told what to learn and are given the answers, they may become passive and dependent learners who have lost the excitement and challenge of discovery.



Wenatchee School District Early Childhood Education Philosophy

Early Childhood Education should be a rewarding and successful experience.

Developing positive self-esteem and appropriate social behaviors are essential because they are the basis for lifelong learning.

Children best learn social skills and academic skills through interactive play and exploration. Activities that center on a child's interests expand that child's world and make him curious to know more.

All children are unique and have great value. Mixing children with varied abilities, backgrounds and developmental stages helps them to learn from each other and to appreciate differences.

Children blossom with adult recognition and positive support. Schools with low child/teacher ratios are best able to give students individual attention and to meet individual needs.



Health is important for young minds...

Children learn more easily when they feel tip top, when they are in school regularly and when they have balanced meals and enough sleep.

Three balanced meals a day should include a hearty breakfast. Learning is hard work, and learners need fuel to burn. Your principal can help you with free and reduced fee lunches and breakfast for your children.

Insist that your child get at least 8-10 hours of sleep on school nights. Good sleep and rest are important to good learning. Establish a bedtime routine that becomes an easy and healthy habit.

Encourage daily exercise. It helps maintain health and physical and mental growth. It's something you can do as a family.

Let us know when your child will miss school because of illness. Regular attendance is vital to learning, but sometimes recovery is quickest with bed rest at home.

Immunizations are required by the state and ensure the health of all students. For the sake of your child's future, follow up on recommendations for hearing or vision tests.



Partners in lifelong learning...

We hope you will be an active participant in your Kindergartner's education. Here are some of the things you can do.

Get to know us. Meet your teacher; volunteer in the classroom. Enjoy our open house sessions, and take advantage of parent-teacher conference opportunities. You know your child better than anyone, and your insights are important.

Show by action and words that you value education. Read to your child each day and be seen reading and writing. Talk about stories you read together. Read favorite stories over and over. Turn family outings into learning activities.

Ask specific questions about what happened at school. "What story did you hear? Who did you play with? What activity did you do?" Stage a home version of school Show and Tell.

Continue your positive influence by encouraging even the smallest effort with help and support.

Be aware of your child's stress level. Motivate to learn rather than pressure to succeed. Tell us if there is a change in your family that might impact school behavior.