

Kindergarten Preparedness

Introduction

1. Developmental Age- age at which the child is functioning as a total human being, "The Whole Child"
 - * may not correspond with calendar age
 - a) children reach developmental goals at different ages, e.g.-crawl, walk, talk etc.
2. All children go through predictable stages, but the timing is not predictable.
 - a) Some children learn to read at an early age, others read later. It all evens out by fifth grade.
 - b) Gift of time is key
3. Misconception- Introducing academics at an early age leads to better success.
 - a) Forgetting the whole child
 - b) not all children will learn- leads to frustration

Social-Emotional Growth

1. Respectfulness towards others
 - a) recognizes authority
 - b) appropriate language
 - c) expresses self verbally
2. Ability to pay attention during listening times
 - a) large groups
 - b) one on one
 - c) storytimes
3. Plays cooperatively
4. Separates easily from parents
5. Self-help skills
 - a) toileting/dressing
 - b) cleans up after themselves
 - 1) toys
 - 2) meals
 - c) cares for own belongings

Readiness (Academic)

1. Exposure to books
 - a) reads everyday
 - b) discusses stories
2. Experience with writing utensils and scissors
3. Familiarization with letters and numbers
 - a) print all around us--USE IT!
4. Recognizes shapes and colors

Expectations

1. Remember the "Whole Child"
2. Accept your child's developmental level
 - a) leads to greatest success
 - b) cannot make an immature child more mature
3. Be an advocate for your child
 - a) make sure your child's teacher is meeting his/her individual needs
 - 1) both cognitive and emotional needs
4. Ways to help your child grow
 - a) read daily
 - b) simple daily chores, e.g.- empty trash, clean room, folding laundry, helping with meals
 - 1) builds responsibility and independence
 - 2) provides interaction with other family members
 - c) expect proper table manners at home and in public
 - 1) "please pass" and "may I be excused"
 - 2) appropriate utensils
 - 3) join in family conversation
 - d) give simple directions
 - 1) begin with one step directions, then move onto two and three step directions
 - e) give them the right words and expect them in return