

**St. John's Lutheran School
Kindergarten Handbook**

**Mrs. Betty Schmitz
Teacher**



CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

If a child lives with criticism,
He learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility,
He learns to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule,
He learns to be shy,

If a child lives with shame,
He learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with tolerance,
He learns to be patient.

If a child lives with encouragement,
He learns confidence.

If a child lives with praise,
He learns to appreciate.

If a child lives with fairness,
He learns justice.

If a child lives with security,
He learns to have faith.

If a child lives with approval,
He learns to like himself.

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,
He learns to find love in the world.

-Dorothy Law Nolte



Love. Grow. Serve.

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN

I am looking forward to the entrance of your child into kindergarten. I feel very excited about the upcoming school year and hope you and your child share that excitement.

Kindergarten is a very important time for you and your child. I strongly believe that a positive kindergarten experience filled with learning and enjoyment creates good feelings about school and provides a solid foundation on which their educational career may be built. Very soon the school will be entering into a partnership with you, the parents, to help provide additional experiences and aid growth and development. Close communication and cooperation between parents and teachers is vital!

The program in which your child will be involved revolves around the curricular areas of phonics, reading, math, science, social studies, art, music, and physical education. Daily activities and discussions will help your child see him/herself as a part of God's creation, as a child of God. Each day opportunities will be provided for the child to learn while part of a large group, and teacher-directed. However, ample time will also be permitted for the child to engage in small group or individual child-directed activities. These opportunities will help to meet each child's individual needs and help them become more independent. It is known that a child learns best through "hands-on" exploration and discovery. This is the type which I will be providing for your child.

Overall, the kindergarten program is designed with your child in mind. It focuses to meet each of their needs according to their developmental stage and past experience. I want your child to view kindergarten as a place where he/she can feel secure, make new friends, enjoy learning, understand the need to cooperate and have fun!

This booklet is for you, the parent. Its purpose is to acquaint you with our kindergarten program. It explains in detail what your child will be doing in school, and offers ways that you might contribute to their learning process. Please read carefully, and as always let me know if you have any questions.

Mrs. Betty Schmitz

282-6836



GOALS FOR OUR PROGRAM

- a. To help each child understand that he/she is a child of God and loved unconditionally.
- b. To facilitate a smooth adjustment from the home to school environment.
- c. To provide an effective system of communication between school, staff, and parents.
- d. To provide a variety of experiences that will stimulate and meet the physical, social, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual needs of each individual child.
- e. To develop in every child an understanding and appreciation of appropriate behavior and self-discipline.
- f. To motivate children in development of critical and creative thinking skills.
- g. To develop in each child the ability to function responsibly and independently.
- h. To help every child develop a positive self-concept.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

When children enter kindergarten, their unique differences are very obvious. These differences are noticed in each realm of development-physical, social, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual. To help us as parents and teachers to better understand our children's growth patterns, the St. Louis Association for the Education of Young Children has compiled a list of the characteristics to be aware of in kindergarten children.

Physically, the kindergarten child:

- Is growing more slowly than in earlier years,
- Has a tremendous drive for physical activity- running, jumping, tumbling, pulling,
- Is able to be quiet for short periods of time,
- Enjoys games with plenty of movement,
- Is more skillful at gross motor activities than fine motor activities,
- Usually has developed a hand preference by the end of kindergarten,
- Is susceptible to communicable diseases the common cold, but is beginning to build immunity.

Intellectually, the kindergarten child:

- Is active, eager, interested and curious,
- Learns by experiencing, observing, questioning, imitating, examining, exploring, and investigating,
- Derives more satisfaction from the process than the product,
- Has a growing attention span,
- Is interested in stories and books: has difficulty distinguishing between fantasy and reality,
- Clarifies understanding of relationships through dramatic play, art, movement, and construction,
- Can tell relatively long stories in sequence,
- Advances from the scribble stage to realistic figures in drawing,
- Is growing in ability to think, conceptualize,
- Solves own problems: sometimes needs adult guidance,
- Likes to finish what is started, shows sense of order in working and putting away toys and materials,
- Can continue play from one day to another.

Emotionally and socially, the kindergarten child:

- Needs to experience own success daily,

- Enjoys recognition of accomplishments,
- Gauges success or failure in terms of what the adult seems to expect,
- Needs a sense of belonging,
- Responds to praise and consistent direction,
- Thrives on trust, fairness, and achievable standards,
- Finds security in definite routine; needs to live in a reasonable predictable world,
- Is growing in emotional security,
- May begin to show rivalry,
- Has a strong emotional link with the home,
- May show fear of the new and unusual,
- Is not always able to distinguish right from wrong by adult standards,
- May cry or sulk if opposed,
- Can understand rules and accepts the consequence of breaking them,
- Has a constantly growing sense of humor; laughs at childlike jokes, silly words, unusual or unexpected sounds.
- Is serious and businesslike in play activities,
- Seeks companionship of other children; plays best in groups of two to seven,
- Is protective toward playmates and siblings,
- Chooses and changes friends frequently but as the year progresses likes to play with a constant friend.
- Needs adult help in learning to share materials, take turns, and plan activities,
- Has few adult prejudices,
- Is willing and eager to assume responsibility within own maturity level,
- Is self-centered but growing in unselfishness.

CHURCH/SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Regular church and Sunday School attendance is an essential part of your child's development as a child of God. It is also part of the commitment you made when enrolling your child at St. John's Lutheran School. Children learn by the example you set for them. If attendance is important to you, it will be important to them. If you are not a member of St. John's, attend the church of your choice- you are always welcome here. Church and Sunday School attendance slips will be attached to the Kinder news, our weekly newsletter that is sent home on Fridays. Please fill the slip out and return it on Monday.

LIBRARY

We have a very well-stocked library in our classroom. Your child will be able to check out one book at a time. The book will come home in a special "Library Bag". Read and reread the book with your child. Books will be checked out for one week or less. Return the book in the "Library Bag" as soon as you are done with it. I require that a book should be returned before a new one may be checked out. Record books that you read on the reading sheet. When the sheet is full, send it to school so that your child may choose a treasure from the Treasure Box.

DRESS CODE

Our School Handbook addresses our school dress code. The following are areas of special concern for Kindergarteners: Students may not wear flip-flops or sandals to school. I recommend that your child wear sneakers or tennis shoes to school. They will also need a pair of tennis shoes that will be left at school to wear in the gym for recess or P.E. Clothing should be clean and without holes. No spaghetti straps or tank tops may be worn unless they are covered by a shirt. I also recommend that girls wear shorts under dresses or skirts. No body art (tattoos) may be worn to school.

HEALTH

SICKNESS AND ILLNESS:

-Please do not send your child to school if they are showing any one of these signs of illness:

Fever – Your child must be fever FREE for 24 hours before returning to school.

Earache

Swollen glands

Vomiting

Diarrhea

Sore throat

Or other communicable disease

-Absence or illness of your children must be reported to the school office. St. John's Lutheran School 282-3873.

-If your child is not to participate in physical activities or outdoor play, please send a note from home stating that fact.

HEALTH HABITS TO ESTABLISH:

-See that your child gets plenty of rest – set a bed time.

-Give them a good breakfast.

-Teach them to brush their teeth.

-Teach them to wash their hands before eating.

-Teach them to cover their mouths when coughing or sneezing.

-Teach them to keep fingers and objects out of their mouths.

-Dress your child for the weather.

-Teach them to use a drinking fountain and restroom facilities correctly.

The following pages are an overview of the areas of learning that we will be covering this year:

GOD'S WORD

Your child will...

Worship each day through song and prayer

Learn about Jesus through Bible stories

Make simple arts/crafts projects to remind them of Jesus' love

Experience provided at school...

Daily worship time

Jesus time stories

School chapel once a week

Puppets

Leading chapel as a class during the year

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP...

Share with your child how God's love lives in your life.

Attend church regularly.

Attend Sunday School/Bible class regularly.

Have a daily family devotion and prayer time.



LANGUAGE ARTS – READING – WRITING – PHONICS

Your child will...

Listen to stories

Tell stories about pictures

Learn to understand and follow directions

Learn to rhyme

See likeness and differences in pictures and words

Learn letter names and sounds

Listen for sounds at beginning and ending of words

Learn to blend sounds

Establish left to right sequences

Learn sight words and read simple sentences

Display a good growing vocabulary

Experiences provided at school...

Saxon Phonics

A Reason for Handwriting

Library Center

Daily story time

Child-made books

Dramatic Play area

Library Visits (weekly)

Sharing time (to tell about personal experiences)

Student journals

Writing Center

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP...

Read to your children on a daily basis.

Look at picture books with them.

Let them tell the story and their ideas about the pictures.

Give directions only once! Try not to repeat.

Encourage them to express themselves orally, but discourage baby talk.

Set a good example by showing how much you enjoy and profit from reading.

Praise them when they share by reading or showing their books or project to someone else.

Take time to review daily work coming home, and give extra practice when needed.

MATH READINESS

Your child will...

Count by 1s, 5s, 10s

Read and write numbers to 30

Compare and order numbers to 20

Identify most, fewest, more, less

Recording daily calendar changes

Act out story problems

Use concrete and pictorial models for addition, subtraction

Read and present time to the hour

Measure using non-standard units

Identify and count pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters

Show an amount of money using coins

Write money amounts using a ¢ sign

Identify shapes and patterns

Compare and order objects by length

Identify days of the week and months of the year

Experiences provided at school...

Calendar Time at SMART Board

Go Math!

Learn to write an addition sentence

Learn to write a subtraction sentence

Informal daily counting

Counting chart

Games

Shape, Color and Number bingo

Graphs and Charts

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP...

Use number situation at home (setting the table, counting objects, identifying house numbers, etc.)

Observe shapes and patterns in the everyday world.

Mark important dates on the calendar with your child.

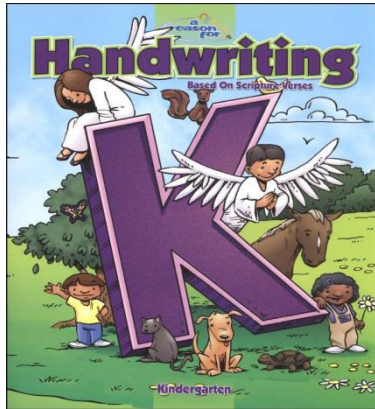
Count with your child.

Measure how tall your child is as well as other things around them.

Review money and time concepts when possible.

HANDWRITING

At school your child will be learning to use the style of the letters shown below. You can help them with this task by letting them practice at home.



SCIENCE

Your children will...

Develop an interest in discovering

Learn to make predictions
Learn to make comparisons

Learn to appreciate nature

Learn to distinguish between living
and non- living things

Come to understand weather and
seasons and how they affect our
living habits

Become aware of earth's neighbors,
(Sun, moon, sky, space)

Identify basic parts of the human body

Experience provided at school...

Recording activities in a log book

Plants

Experiments

Pictures and discussions

Group project for school Science
Fair

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP...

Take walks with your children

Encourage them to experiment with new “safe objects and substances”

Answer curious questions

Allow them to assist you in baking or cooking



SOCIAL STUDIES

Your child will...

- Develop a positive self concept
- Identify family members and their roles
- Observe classroom rules
- Respond appropriately to fire, tornado & lock down evacuation drills.
- Discover and discuss our many emotions
- Identify community workers and their roles
- Explain how people are alike and different
- Understand the reasons for various holidays
- Be introduced to a globe and what it represents

Experiences provided at school...

- Holiday observance
- Daily recitation of the pledge
- Field trips
- A warm and secure environment
- Globes and maps
- Fire and tornado safety discussions and drills
- A warm and secure environment

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP...

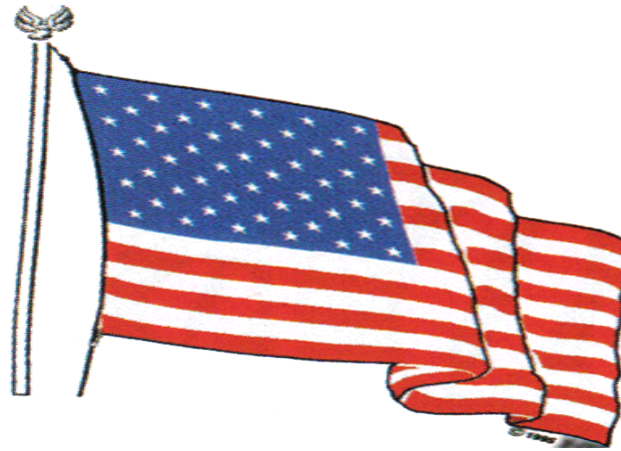
Be good role models.

Explore the community with your children.

Help children to become aware of the two basic emotional needs, love and security.

Give them opportunities to follow directions independently.

Help children to find acceptable ways to release emotions.



MUSIC

Your child will...

- Learn to sing with a pleasing tone (inside voices)
- Sing simple songs/rhymes by rote
- Participate in musical games
- Perform bodily movements in time with various tempos
- Learn to enjoy musical activities
- Listen to different types of music
- Learn to identify several rhythm instruments
- Sing increasingly louder or softer as the music dictates

Experiences provided at school...

- Actions songs/dances
- Jesus time songs
- Bells
- School Choir (K-2)
- School Christmas Service and Spring Musical
- School Choir (K-2)

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP...

Provide musical experiences for your children at home through children's CDs.

Take time to listen to your children when they want to share a new song or dance with you.

Be good models by showing your own appreciation and enjoyment through music.



ART

Your child will...

- Identify the eleven basic colors
- Identify the basic geometric shapes
- Work independently on art projects
- Express themselves with various media (paint, paper, glue, etc.)
- Be able to use a scissors with a reasonable amount of accuracy
- Show satisfactory eye-hand co-ordination in the use of media and tools
- Develop skills in working together on group art projects

Experiences provided at school...

- Drawing
- Easel painting
- Playdough
- Paper projects
- Marker projects
- Watercolor paintings

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP...

Encourage your children to draw and color pictures.

Encourage your children to cut and paste.

Provide different medias (paint, markers, Play dough, etc.)

Assist your children in learning how to hold a scissors and cut properly.

Encourage your children to experiment and be creative.

Allow them to trace around objects.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Your child will...

Demonstrate adequate eye-hand and eye-foot coordination

Participate in games for enjoyment

Learn how to run relays

Play simple games in which rules are to be followed and good sportsmanship is demonstrated

Express themselves during creative movement

Maintain balance in various positions or while moving

Experiences provided at school...

Circle games

Ball skills

Locomotor movements
hopping, skipping,
galloping, etc.

Balancing

Jump rope activities

Parachute play

Discriminate between left and right

Relays

Non-locomotor movements

Bending, twisting,
Stretching, etc.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP...

Provide opportunities for your children to play games both indoors and outdoors.

Take time to participate in games with your children.

Play games or provide activities which require the use of their large muscles (ball throwing, jumping, skipping, etc.)

Encourage good sportsmanship.