

FRANKLIN ACADEMY KINDERGARTEN WORKSHOP

**MAY 30TH, 2017
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FRANKLIN ACADEMY
COOPER CITY CAMPUS**

PURPOSE

- To provide parents with skills to work on in preparation for kindergarten.
- To provide parents with information about what they can expect of our kindergarten program at FACC.
- To provide a timeline for starting school and other important events, such as meeting your child's teacher.

WELCOME CLASS OF 2030!

We are preparing this class to:

- Take responsibility for their own learning.
- Use problem solving skills on their own.
- Utilize the foundation set in kindergarten to succeed throughout their educational careers.

THE LEARNING GAP

According to *The Learning Gap: Why Our Schools Are Failing and What We Can Learn from Japanese and Chinese Education*:

- Effort needs to be emphasized in education: Asian countries focus on effort; America focuses on ability (high vs. low, can vs. can't) – We need to teach students how to maximize ability through hard work.

THE LEARNING GAP

How does this apply to kindergarten?

- We need to begin teaching children how to maximize their abilities through hard work by providing them with challenging, but not frustrating tasks.
- We need to challenge our expectations of what kindergarten students are capable of and not limit them to an idea of what a five year old should be doing (old developmentally appropriate model).

BEST PRACTICES IN KINDERGARTEN

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- Assessment Drives Instruction

We use standards based assessment to determine where children are in their learning, and decide next steps for each child.

- High Expectations

- Teach Forward

Teach every child at a higher level than what they are presently capable of.

FOCUS ON EMERGENT AND EARLY LITERACY

Why should students begin learning to read in kindergarten?

According to *Starting Out Right*,

- “Enriched preschool environments and excellent primary grade instruction can be a deciding factor between success or failure that will follow them all their lives . . . No time is as important, or as fleeting, as a child’s early years of life and schooling.”

FOCUS ON EMERGENT AND EARLY LITERACY

According to *Starting Out Right*,

- “Research consistently demonstrates that children need to enter first grade with good attitudes and knowledge about literacy. Otherwise, they will probably find first grade instruction inaccessible.”

FOCUS ON EMERGENT AND EARLY LITERACY

According to *Building Blocks*,

“Children need extensive exposure to rich language in a multitude of forms to become strong, swift readers who glide across a page like a graceful swimmer cutting through water.”

FOCUS ON EMERGENT AND EARLY LITERACY

- The probability of remaining a poor reader at the end of fourth grade given a child was a poor reader at the end of first grade was 88%
- 74% of children who are poor readers in third grade remain poor readers in ninth grade
- It takes four times as long to remediate a student with poor reading skills in fourth grade as in late kindergarten or early first grade

THE CHANGING PARADIGM OF KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten of the Past

Hands-on
Manipulatives in Math and Science
Mostly whole group instruction done in a circle
Teacher mostly responsible for learning
“Five year olds can’t do that!”

Kindergarten of the Present and Future

Hands-on and Minds-On
Manipulatives in All Areas
Mix of Whole Group, Small Group, and Individualized Instruction
Student has a major role in learning
Technology is present in the classroom
“Five year olds can do that!”

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Social Readiness

- play cooperatively
- follow the rules of a game
- respect the property of other children
- Share without argument
- communicate feelings and ideas to a friend and adult
- wait for a turn patiently
- ask for help when needed
- show independence from parents

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Intellectual Readiness

- identify common shapes
- recognize and name colors
- recite and identify the alphabet
- print first and last name
- recognize rhyming patterns
- know month and day of birth
- recognize numbers to 10
- count to 20
- draw a person with several recognizable features
- understand positional vocabulary

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Emotional Readiness

- readily says goodbye to a parent
- forms friendships with peers
- be flexible when confronted with new situations
- take pride in accomplishments

The foundation of emotional readiness is **self-esteem** that the child constructs through successful experiences.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Physical Readiness

- Coordinate large muscles as in balancing, running, jumping, hopping, and skipping
- Coordinate small muscles as in writing, painting, coloring and cutting
- Take care of bodily needs such as dressing, eating, and toileting
 - Button skirts and pants on their own
 - Use the bathroom without adult help
 - Wash hands with soap on their own after using the bathroom
- Speak clearly enough to be understood by others

KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

MATH

Florida Standards

GoMath

Students study position and sorting, graphing and patterns, numbers through 100, measurement, geometry, addition and subtraction

LANGUAGE ARTS & WRITING

Florida Standards

Journeys

Word Families and Sight Words

Students will practice reading by focusing on phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension

Students will study concepts about print, decoding, word recognition, listening and speaking, genres, and literary elements and devices

Students will study the writing process, parts of speech, capitalization, punctuation, and spacing, along with other writing goals.

KINDER SCREENINGS & IMPORTANT DATES

Kinder Screening Dates

June 12th

June 26th

Meet & Greet

Stay tuned for date

Kindergarten Kickstart

August 17th & 18th

Official First Day of School

August 21st

NEXT STEPS

Your child will benefit from your consistent efforts to build a foundation to transition to and be successful in kindergarten. This presentation along with given resources will benefit your child immensely.

Over the Summer:

- Practice our sight word list.
- Continue to practice writing letters.
- Practice using a pencil and scissors.
- Read to your child every day and ask questions about the story.
- Ensure your child is able to meet the personal care expectations for entering students.

A NEW BEGINNING

Kindergarten represents a fantastic journey and a new beginning that establishes an important foundation for future success in school and in life.