

Most Often Asked Kindergarten Questions...

Dear Parents:

Kindergarten is an exciting place to be. In the course of the school day, we may do 15 or more activities. To help you to better understand our days, we decided to address some of the most often asked questions.

What are Centers?

Applied learning is the best way to describe centers. We have spent many years creating hands-on developmentally appropriate centers to help children develop strong foundations for learning. They are fun, meaningful, and play-based. We spiral the skills throughout our themes so that we revisit core concepts often. Everything that we teach is reinforced in these centers daily.

Many of the centers utilize real objects that we call manipulatives. We use every resource in our classrooms to teach the Ohio Kindergarten Standards. Many centers will not have a paper because the answers are write-on, wipe-off or self-checking. However, some centers require the children to record their discoveries on what we call a generic box paper. These papers may not always be graded, but your child should be able to explain what he or she did at that center.

Children will have centers daily and therefore, your child will be actively engaged in his or her own learning. We observe amazing things during our learning centers everyday. It's like witnessing miniature miracles when children think that they are playing as they are developing core concepts. The development of strong foundation skills will follow your child throughout life.

What is Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Time?

Heggerty is a research-based hands-on program where children use whole-brain learning to master phonemic awareness. Each day we will introduce phonemic and rhyming skills as the children respond verbally and with hand motions to reinforce them. It is fun and engaging and it sets the foundation for decoding and spelling words. It takes about five minutes per day.

What is Spot Time?

We have spot time each day as well. We have accumulated an incredible collection of play-based learning toys. We have carefully selected them to cover our standards. We have ordered these developmentally appropriate toys for many years in lieu of textbooks and workbooks. The South Range Foundation Grant and our amazing PTO has also helped our collection of learning materials to grow. Each day the children will do two spots. Examples of spots may include: Art Spot, ABC Spot, Science Spot, Social Studies Spot, Construction Spot, Fast Words Spot, Math Spot, Listening Spot, Phonics Spot, etc. The spots change with our themes as well. After a five-day cycle, all of the spots change to completely new materials. The children are playing with engaging learning toys during spot time. The idea is that they are having so much fun playing that they do not even realize that they are learning!

What is Guided Reading?

This is a special time set aside for small group instruction. It is similar to reading groups when you were in school. We have many leveled books that we use to teach beginning reading strategies. Levels A and B are interesting, simple, and repetitious. They emphasize sight word knowledge, picture clues, and using simple phonics skills. Levels C and D books are a little more challenging. Each book has specific skills and strategies to cover. At the end of the year, your child will be an early emergent reader, an emergent reader, or a fluent reader.

What is Shared Reading?

After Christmas, the children will be well on their way to becoming readers. We will send leveled books home each day to reinforce what we're doing in class. This gives your child the opportunity to read one-on-one with an adult each day. Just like the best baseball players had lots of practice, the best readers benefit from it as well!

We thought that these explanations might better help you to understand our days! If you have any questions, please let us know. Thanks for all of your support.

Educationally yours,

Mrs. Kim Massucci and Mrs. Jodi Puhl

