

***YOUR CHILD ENTERS  
KINDERGARTEN***



***THE NUTLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS***

## **NUTLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Dear Parents:

Kindergarten is a magical time for a child. With the right environment, a healthy partnership between family and the school, and an understanding of the ways in which young children learn, kindergarten can be the first step in encouraging a child to become a life long learner.

In Nutley we believe an early interest in academics, specifically reading and math, results in greater achievement in later school years. It is possible for all learners to achieve mastery of specified kindergarten skills. Our kindergarten program is academically sophisticated and child centered.

Our goal in Nutley is to help your child achieve the greatest degree of success in life that he or she is capable of realizing. Our best wishes for an enjoyable and rewarding relationship throughout your years of contact with the Nutley Public Schools.

We look forward to working with you and your child.

Sincerely,

The Nutley Public Schools

## **IMMUNIZATION**

Physician's documentation of proper immunization is required for kindergarten admission.

*The following must be completed:*

### **IMMUNIZATION**

<b>DPT</b>	<b>4 doses with one dose given on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday or any 5 doses</b>
<b>POLIO</b>	<b>3 doses with one dose given on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday or any 4 doses</b>
<b>MEASLES</b>	<b>2 doses after the 1<sup>st</sup> birthday not less than one month apart</b>
<b>RUBELLA</b>	<b>1 dose after the 1<sup>st</sup> birthday</b>
<b>MUMPS</b>	<b>1 dose after the 1<sup>st</sup> birthday</b>
<b>HEPATITIS B</b>	<b>3 doses completed</b>
<b>VARIVAX</b>	<b>1 dose</b>

A Mantoux Test is suggested but not required. Other immunizations may be suggested by the New Jersey State Department of Health but are not required for school attendance.



### **CHEERFUL, HAPPY EXPERIENCE:**

Help your child look forward to school. Talk about it in a friendly way so your child will think of it as a happy place. Discuss school activities, school friends, new experiences, and new things to learn.

If your child expresses doubts or fears, try to answer all the questions in a positive, reassuring way. Let your child know that there will be friendly people to help on those first uncertain days.

### **REMEMBER**

Your own reactions and attitudes will go a long way in determining how your child feels about school.

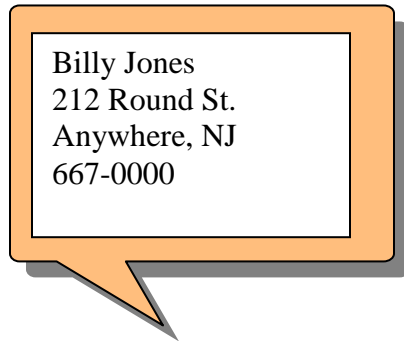
Your child will feel more comfortable in school if he/she can take care of basic personal needs.

For example:

Tying shoes, putting on and taking off outer clothes with help.



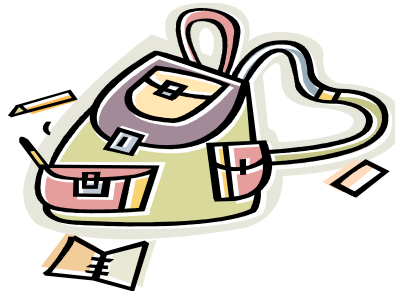
Knowing first and last name, parents' names, address, telephone number, (home/cell) birthday



Using the bathroom properly, washing hands.



Keeping track of personal property. (Please put name on your child's belongings.)



Remember, if your child can master these before starting school, we can all concentrate more fully on the most important thing we do—seeing that your child gets the best possible education.

## HELP YOUR CHILD GET OFF TO A GOOD START



Your child should-

- Get plenty of sleep. Ten to twelve hours is recommended for children this age.
- Have a good, healthy diet, including a good breakfast.
- Get up in plenty of time for school, so he/she does not have to hurry and is wide awake when school starts.
- Get to school at the proper time-not too early (before there is adequate supervision), not too late.

### **Arrival Time**

8:30 for AM session

12:30 for PM session

### **Dismissal Time**

11:30 AM

3:15 AM

- Know arrangements for before and/or after school care. Be sure the school knows about these arrangements.



### **IF YOUR CHILD IS ILL.....**

...keep the child home from school. **Parents should call school when a student is absent.** All parents who have not called the school by 9:00 am, will receive a call from the school either at home, or at work. To eliminate calls from the school office, please call the office between 8:00 and 8:45 am.

### **IF YOUR CHILD BECOMES ILL AT SCHOOL...**

...your child should tell the teacher, who may send the child to the school nurse. You will be notified if there is an illness or injury that requires treatment or if we feel your child should go home.

## **GETTING STARTED**

The kindergarten curriculum should provide for all areas of a child's development (physical, social, linguistic, aesthetic, and cognitive) and should be incorporated across all subject areas. Subjects should be woven into learning experiences and projects throughout the day. This allows children to make meaningful connections and real-life application, which promotes understanding and a strong desire to learn. Goals for children must be realistic and reachable. An integrated curriculum not only builds on what children know and are able to do, but also introduces new concepts and skills in a developmentally appropriate and meaningful way.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS**

The language literacy series at the Kindergarten Level introduces the child to:

- Identification of high frequency words
- Decoding of words
- Responding to text after listening and reading
- Recalling story sequence
- Copying letters and words

## **MATHEMATICS**

A clear understanding of numbers and their use is the basis for all mathematics. Our kindergarten text includes basic mathematics, vocabulary, counting and writing numbers, shapes and patterns, fractions, measurement, money, time, and an introduction to the operations of addition and subtraction.

## ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

Read to him/her regularly, visit the library and encourage his/her interest books.

Listen to your child and encourage him or her to ask questions, discuss ideas, and tell stories.

Set a good example. If you are interested in learning, your child will be, too. Express interest in the work he brings home. For instance, set a family reading time or some other organized learning activity and share experiences.

Learning is a skill, and like other skills, it improves with practice. Provide your child with the practice he or she needs to develop learning skills.

Encourage your child to interact with other children. He/she will learn to cooperate and his/her social skills will improve.

Select activities that fit your child's level of development, those that he or she can learn from and enjoy, ie., creative activities that encourages he/she to use their imagination.

Select safe, educational toys such as those that need to be put together.

Play games that have educational value, like number games, guessing games, word games.

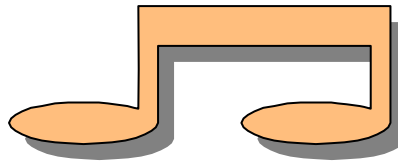
Take him/her frequently on trips and excursions and encourage him/her to talk about them.



## **SPECIAL SUBJECTS**

Your child will encounter other teachers for special subjects that will include art, music, library, and physical education. The kindergarten teacher will notify you of the time and day of these activities.

Your child will need sneakers for gym and a smock for art. Your child's schedule may vary depending on the individual school.



## **HOMEWORK**

It is the policy of the Nutley Board of Education that each child will have appropriate homework assignments. Parents can help with homework by providing the right atmosphere.

- Be aware of your child's television choices and the amount of time spent watching TV and playing video games.
- Provide a good work area, this means good lighting, the right tools and peace and quiet.
- Agree on a regularly scheduled "homework time."

## HOW YOUNG CHILDREN LEARN

Young children learn in the following ways:

- **Talking** with friends, answering thoughtful questions posed by adults, commenting on what they are doing and what they want to do, naming the things that surround them
- **Exploring** their environment and the materials in it by sliding, running jumping or building houses with blocks
- **Practicing** new skills that adults, and sometimes older children, show them
- **Rehearsing** what they see around them by playing house or pretending to go to the doctor, store, or bank
- **Approximating** the standard way of doing things. Children learn to do things one small step at a time
- **Making Meaning** from each experience they have throughout their day

Young children try to make meaning from everything they do. Whether it is trying to make sense from squiggles that turn out to be letters and numbers or telling a story that includes both monsters and fairy princesses, young children try to understand what they see and hear. Adults help when they expand the child's understanding by telling stories, reading books, and explaining what is going on wherever they go.

## TEACHERS AND FAMILIES

Parents and teachers are jointly responsible for ensuring that children are successful in school, thus making communication between the two essential. Schools offer a wide range of ways for families to be involved from parent-teacher conferences to volunteer opportunities. When parents are actively involved in their child's school and classroom, the child learns that he or she is important.



Lincoln School	661-8883
Radcliffe School	661-8820
Spring Garden School	661-8983
Washington School	661-8888
Yantacaw School	661-8892