

MNPS Kindergarten Readiness Newsletter

Monthly Newsletter to Help Your Family Prepare for Kindergarten



Dear Pre-K Families,

We hope you and your family had a great Fall Break! This is a great time to take outside walks with your child and discuss the changes in season, such as the how leaves change colors and fall from trees.

If you would like additional resources or activities to support at home learning, please connect with your Pre-K Family Involvement Specialist.

Warm Wishes, MNPS Pre-K Team

Contact Information

Metro Nashville Public Schools

Pre-K Department

(615) 298-6766

MNPS District Important Dates

**November 1st
Parent Conference Day**
Contact your school for information.

Family Activity Corner



Early math matters, and each day our pre-k students are developing their math skills in their classroom. **Ten Little Caterpillars by Bill Martin** is an excellent book to read with your child to support the new math skills your child is learning.

As you read the book together, have your child find and count the caterpillars in the story. After you read, use real world objects (blocks, pencils, cheerios etc.) in amounts up to 5 to practice counting.

Activity Idea: "Caterpillars in a Jar." Place 10 cotton balls into a jar or bowl, and work with your child to count out each cotton ball. Have your child count the cotton balls again as you put them back in the jar. You can also have your child use tongs or tweezers to move the cotton balls, which is a great way to develop their fine motor skills.



Get Ready for Kindergarten Tip

Parent-Teacher conferences are a great opportunity for you to connect with your child's teacher.

To have an effective conference, here are a few conference tips:

- Think of items you want to discuss with your child's teacher prior to your conference.
- Write down questions that you have about your child.
- If you need an interpreter, please let your child's teacher know 8-10 days prior to your conference.



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www.mnps.org/countdowntokindergarten

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More Important Information

Parent Spotlight

Pre-K is a great opportunity to develop healthy attendance habits. Did you know that missing school 2 days a month means a child misses 10% of their school year?

That equals to a significant number of missed learning opportunities for a child.

Some ways to support a healthy attendance habit are:

- Set a regular bedtime & morning routine.
- Layout clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Talk to your child about the importance of attending school, and get them excited about school.
- Schedule medical appointments and extended trips when school is not in session.
- Develop a back-up plan for getting your child to & from school if something comes up.

If you need additional tips or information, connect with your child's teacher or school.



Pre-K Family Support Corner

Pre-K students are often excited to begin learning early math skills. It's easy to practice math skills at home through every day activities and games.

Here are a few tips to support your child's learning:

- Count food items together at snack time
- When you're cooking dinner, let your child help you measure ingredients for a recipe.
- Check in with your child's teacher about math activities to bring classroom learning into the home.
- Your feelings about math can influence your child's thoughts about math. Help your child enjoy math by talking about it in a positive manner.

Effective Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are almost here! For many parents, this conference provides your first opportunity to sit down one-on-one with your child's teacher to talk about your child's learning experience in the classroom.

While teachers will have information to share, it is also important for parents to share information about their child's school experience and to tell the teacher about family events that could impact your child, like an upcoming move or a new baby.

Helpful questions to ask the teacher during your conference are:

- What activities/centers does my child like best?
- What can we do at home to keep our child excited about learning?
- What goals do you have for my child this year?

If you still have unanswered questions after the conference, please follow up with a written note or schedule a second face-to-face meeting. Developing a solid relationship with your child's teacher can support your child's learning success.