

*“Each child is unique and develops at their own pace, but there are predictable patterns in child and adolescent development. This guide is intended to help you identify and understand these patterns so that you can better support your child’s learning at home and in school.” (Yardsticks/Responsive Classroom, Chip Wood)*

*Kindergarten (age range is 4 - 6 years old)*

**Physical Development:**

- Needs lots of physical activity
- Is learning how to be a student and what that means (sitting, listening, transitioning)
- Fine motor skills are developing, tasks like writing are still awkward
- Is gaining better control of large motor skills but are still clumsy and need to slow down

**Social-Emotional/Academic Development:**

- Follow rules and are anxious to do well
- Have vivid imaginations
- Need consistent routines, rules, and discipline as they are not yet ready for abstract concepts
- May fear making mistakes when trying something new
- May have limited skills in expressive language (talking)
- Can sit and work at quiet activities for 15-20 minutes at a time
- Enjoy working and playing in groups and care about their friends, but can also be bossy
- Like doing things for themselves and are ready for more individual responsibility
- Enjoys reading aloud, alone or with a partner, and having books read to them
- Loves to color, draw, and paint and may choose these techniques to express their thoughts

**Throughout the year your kindergarten student will experience...**

**Physical Education**

- Movement concepts with emphasis on self and spacial awareness
- Underhand and overhand throwing
- Playing cooperative games
- Dancing, both choreographed and improvised

**Health**

- Developing self-help skills and personal hygiene skills
- Developing the knowledge and skills necessary to make nutritious food choices
- Develop an awareness of potential hazards in the environment and how they impact personal health and safety

**Music**

- Explore developmentally appropriate vocal production and sing a variety of songs
- Perform on classroom instruments
- Perform dance choreography and create improvised movements
- Explore beginning principals of rhythm, melody, dynamics, tempo, timbre, and form
- Respond and connect to music from various historical periods and cultures

**Technology**

- Digital Navigation
- Accessing school devices

**Social Emotional Learning**

- Participate in character education lessons.
- Participate in mindful meditation practices.
- Develop the skills needed to self regulate emotions

**Library**

- Function independently in the library
- Be able to select a book of their choice to take home
- Learn about book care and how to be responsible for books they check out of the library
- Learn about who makes a book

**World Language**

- Basic vocabulary
- Greetings
- Internalize some language through routines and repetition

**Art**

- Learn about the elements and principles of art
- Create art projects in various media
- Create 2D and 3D shapes
- Symmetry versus asymmetry
- Apply aesthetic knowledge in the creation of and in response to visual arts
- Utilize those skills, media, methods, and technologies appropriate to the creation

- Internet safety
- Mousing and keyboarding skills

- and presentation of visual art
- Develop knowledge of the process of critique and apply that knowledge in reflection upon and judging works of art.

## **By the end of Kindergarten, your child will know how to...**

### **Reading**

- See, experience, and understand how books are filled with information and stories they can read and share with others.
- Use words and pictures in a book to understand and make meaning of stories they read
- Learn to have beginner conversations about storybooks with reading partners
- Use strategies for figuring out tricky words
- Read high frequency sight words
- Use text features to help make meaning of reading
- Become independent with reading and build stamina
- Identify characters in stories

### ***Practice these skills at home ~***

- *Read with your child every day*
- *Read to your child every day*
- *Retell stories and events*
- *Always ask your child questions*
- *Play games with rhyming*
- *Identify letters, words and sounds*
- *Encourage responsibility*
- *Take turns talking & listening*

### **Writing**

- Tell, write stories and revise stories about true things that have happened to them.
- Revise their writing for publishing and celebrations
- Learn conventions and mechanics of their writing
- Draw and write in a sequence of steps to communicate to others
- Teach others through writing about personal experiences
- Learn to write for an audience and share writing with others
- Write persuasively

### ***Practice these skills at home ~***

- *Write stories*
- *Draw pictures to tell a story in sequence*
- *Take turns writing, you write, I write*
- *Model correct conventions*

### **Social Studies**

- Learn about jobs, roles, following routines, and tasks to make our classroom community run well.
- Learn about our Community by knowing our community workers (fire, police, doctor, nurse, store clerks, etc.) and our neighborhoods.
- Learn about character education and the social curriculum by understanding normal conflict as well as things like bullying, and conflict resolution.

### ***Practice these skills at home ~***

- *Explore different cultures*
- *Set goals and how to reach them*
- *Share stories about family, etc*
- *Have play dates*
- *Visit local parks*
- *Encourage social opportunities*

### **Science**

- Understand the basic needs of living things, including humans
- Understand the patterns of weather
- Understand the concepts of pushing and pulling
- Learn about the effects of the sun on the Earth's surface

### ***Practice these skills at home ~***

- *Observe changes in nature*
- *Explore your surroundings*
- *Look for living and nonliving things*
- *Have conversations*
- *Take turns talking & listening*

### **Math**

- Count and write numbers from 0-100
- Compare Numbers
- Identify and describe two- and three-dimensional shapes
- Describe and compare objects weight and length
- Add and subtract whole numbers from 0-10
- Classify and sort data (color, shape, size)

### ***Practice these skills at home ~***

- *Encourage counting*
- *Read or write numbers*
- *Sort by attribute (size, shape)*
- *Use math in real life situations*
- *Discuss length of an object*

### **Recommended Resources:**

- [Yardsticks](#), by Chip Wood
- [www.responsiveclassroom.org](http://www.responsiveclassroom.org)
- [www.childdevelopmentinfo.com](http://www.childdevelopmentinfo.com)

Please visit your child's teacher website for additional resources and information at [www.ctsdnj.org](http://www.ctsdnj.org)