

Paradise Valley Unified School District

Cultivating world-class thinkers

The Kindergarten Experience

Parent and Child Handbook



Cultivating world-class thinkers

Paradise Valley Unified School District
15002 North 32nd Street
Phoenix, AZ 85032

Kindergarten Success

The Paradise Valley Unified School District is proud to offer a free full-day kindergarten program for students who turn five years old before September 1 of the enrolling year. In addition to academic preparation, kindergarten students participate in electives such as music, art, PE, and library/media services.

The kindergarten teachers believe that an on-going working partnership between a child's home and the school environment is essential to the child's success.

Research shows that there is a very strong connection between a child's enthusiasm towards school and his/her parent's active involvement in the educational process. The education of the total child is our primary concern, and we need active parent involvement both at home and in school to accomplish this goal.

Parent conferences are held in the fall and winter to discuss your child's progress. Kindergarten report cards are sent home four times a year.

Your child's kindergarten teacher is looking forward to working with you and your child to provide the best educational experience possible.

Dear Kindergarten Families,

Welcome to the Paradise Valley Unified School District. The kindergarten experience promotes your child's physical, emotional and mental development. Kindergarten teachers are often asked what parents can do to help prepare their child for a successful year in kindergarten.

There are many skills your child can practice to enrich his/her academic development before kindergarten. It is helpful to work with your child practicing these basic skills:

- Tying, zipping, buttoning and snapping clothes and shoes.
- Counting from 1-20.
- Recognizing and naming the following colors: red, blue, yellow, green, orange, black, purple, brown, gray, pink and white.
- Recognizing his/her name in print (or letters in his/her name).
- Writing his/her name, beginning with an uppercase (capital) letter, followed by lowercase (small) letters such as....

Katie

These are suggestions to help your child begin a wonderful public school experience:

- Reward your child often with praise and encouragement.
- Concentrate on your child's successes.
- Provide an example or model of what you expect your child to do.
- Spend quality time with your child.
- Read to your child every day (this can include "environmental print" such as cereal boxes, road signs, and store signs).
- Talk with your child, asking questions, and listening to their responses.

A typical kindergarten day may include:

Greetings and calendar
Writing
Discussion and planning
Mathematics
Choices of activities from options
Music
Learning in all curricular areas
Literature
Social Studies
Special projects
Outdoor/movement time
Science
Dance, Creative Drama
Health
Eye, hand, and body coordination
Construction
Reading
Manipulatives
Oral language development
Center time
Art
Physical Education
Media Center

- Not all the above activities will be included every day. Each teacher may have a slightly different daily schedule. The schedule will be flexible, but will maintain a regular sequence.



Parent/Child Activities

Here is a sample of activities to help prepare your child for a successful kindergarten experience. Enjoy them together.

Learning to hold and use scissors is VERY IMPORTANT!



Show your child a picture in a magazine for 30 seconds to 1 minute. Remove the picture and ask your child to tell you what he/she remembers.

PLAY DOUGH RECIPE

4 cups flour
1 cup salt
4 Tbl. Oil

Add water until right consistency. Knead with flour.

Option: add food coloring to water for colored play dough.

Help your child use crayons, paper and other materials.



After reading a simple story to your child, have him or her retell it in his/her own words.



- Read the story "I Like to Play" (below) to your child.
- Put the eraser end of a pencil or your finger under each word as it is read.

I Like to Play

I like to run.

I like to skip.

I like to hop.

I like to jump.

I like to play.



This helps your child learn that English reads from left to right and top to bottom.

- Put a book in your child's lap with the cover facing up.
- Use your finger to point out the title of the book as you read the title.
- Look at the pictures on the cover and on the first page.
- Read the first page. Use your finger to point to each word as you read.



- Say each word that rhymes.
- Ask your child to say a word that rhymes



1. bag
2. cap
3. dish
4. pan
5. bike



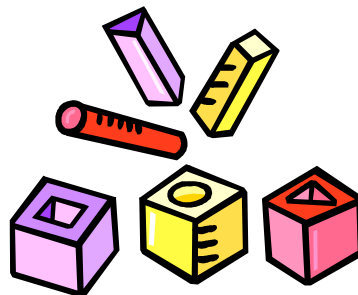
SORTING

Ask your child to sort common household items into categories:

- Large
- Medium
- Small
- Circles
- Squares
- Colors

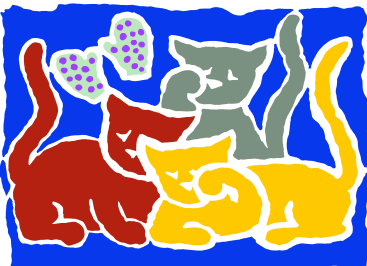
MATCHING

Ask your child to match items according to size, color, function, shape



COUNTING

Ask your child to draw a number of items. For example, draw 3 cats...draw 5 cars



The Paradise Valley Unified School District Governing Board has approved Project READ, an initiative that provides a strong instruction focus on reading. Project READ is designed to:

- improve reading achievement and literacy levels of students
- increase reading instruction time
- assess and identify students having reading problems early in the school year
- increase parent communication and involvement regarding reading progress

Your support and involvement in your child's literacy is important. Your child's teachers and school will continue to work with you, informing you of progress.

Thank you for the continued support of your child, the staff, school and district as we work together to make literacy a primary focus of instruction and learning.



Kindergarten Learning Experiences are planned:

- to give the child time to grow.
- to help the child develop a strong sense of self.
- to provide an environment rich in equipment and materials, where experiences are direct and concrete, and build the foundation for later, more abstract experiences.
- to provide movement experiences for development of physical and motor skills.
- to promote growth in visual (seeing), auditory (hearing), and tactile (touching) perception..... to sharpen the senses.
- to provide many and varied opportunities for oral expression and language development.
- to build a strong foundation of math concepts through a variety of manipulatives and concrete materials.
- to build a strong foundation of literacy skills.
- to promote their already strong belief they are readers and writers.
- to continue to actively engage the children in shared reading and writing activities.
- to help children understand and relate to others socially and to be a part of a group.