



ABC's of Kindergarten



St. John the Baptist Catholic School

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Mrs. Huneke's ABC's of Kindergarten

A

Achievement – Progress folders help both the children and parents see their progress. It helps communication between parents and school. If you know what cognitive level your child is at, it is easy to work on concepts during the teachable moments.

Action – Children remember 90% of what they do. This is why my room is busy doing activities.

B

Balance – We do a variety of activities worksheets, hands on activities, and games.

Birthday Bag – A birthday bag is sent home with a number of birthday stories and a journal. The birthday child and family member can journal about their birthday, draw pictures, and/or add photographs.

Birthday Parties – If your child will be having a birthday party for some of his/her friends, we ask that the invitations are NOT passed out at school unless all the children from the class are invited. We want to avoid hurt feelings.

Blessings – Each child is a blessing.

C

Constructivism – Children can learn most when building from where the children are at cognitively.

D

Developmentally Appropriate – Classroom curriculum and classroom activities are developmentally appropriate. Kindergartners are not required to spell correctly.

E

Emotional Trigger – Children learn best what has significant meaning to them. For example, if Susie has a brother John, when teaching the letter “J” to Susie using her brother John as a “J” word would be an emotional trigger.

F

Field Trips – Each year we go on several all-school field trips and some geared for our class specifically. Please let staff know if you have any great field trip ideas.

Folders – The children need a folder for the classroom that will go in their cubbies. Each day we will fill the folders with daily work. We ask parents to check backpacks **every day**.

Free Choice – Free Choice is a period of time where the children are allowed to explore all of the opportunities in the classroom.

Fun – I strive to make learning fun.

G

God's Gifts – Each child is a gift from God. They have been given special gifts from God and should be encouraged to use them to their fullest.

H

Handwriting – I will have the children write their name starting with an uppercase letter followed by lower case letters.

Homework – You are invited to work with your child whenever possible. You can always look at the progress folder and work on concepts not yet mastered.

I

Immersion – Children learn best when immersed in written language, thus I have a word wall, a variety of reading materials, labeling around the room, letter songs, rhyming poems, etc.

Inclusiveness – Children from all faith traditions are welcome at St. John's School.

Individualization – Each child has different learning styles and each child has strengths and weaknesses. During free play, I call each child to work on concepts they need to work on.

J

Journaling – Each year we start journaling by making a thankful journal. We progress to writing more as the year goes on.

K

Kindergartners – Yah! For Kindergartners!

L

Learning Kits – We have a few learning kits that I may send home to help work on Kindergarten concepts not yet mastered - for example shoe tying, opposites, etc.

Leveled Reading Books – The Kindergarten classroom has a variety of leveled reading materials.

Library – The children go to the school library every other week to check out books.

Lunches – On Mondays, pizza is delivered from Dominoes. Families can send cold lunch or buy pizza for a reasonable rate. On Tuesdays through Thursdays the children bring a bag lunch and eat them in the Community room. On Fridays, children can bring cold lunch or volunteer parents serve a hot lunch that the families can buy at a reasonable rate.

M

Mass – The children attend weekly Masses. After the first of the year the children start participating more in Mass. The children are able to say petitions, carry the cross, carry up the bread, wine and water, and other liturgical jobs.

Milk Break – Each day the children have a milk break with a choice of chocolate or white milk.

Multisensory Approach – The children will be encouraged using a variety of senses when learning.

Music – A music teacher comes into our school twice a week to teach the children. The children perform Christmas and spring concerts.

N

Names – Put names on everything!!!!

Noise – My classroom has some quiet times but there is also time for singing, dancing, and talking.

Number Sense – The children will build their number sense by estimation, everyday math, counting on, etc.

O

Optimal Learning – Optimal learning occurs when an adult/teacher can help the children with the next concept in a sequence of concepts that the children cannot learn by themselves (assisted learning/scaffolding).

P

Paint Shirt – Please send a paint shirt.

Peace Table – Early in the school year the children will learn to use a peace stick. I will encourage the children to go get a peace stick and take turns talking out disagreements.

Phonemic Awareness – We do a variety of activities to build phonemic awareness - rhyming, alliterations, listening for letter sounds, etc.

Physical Education – Classes with the physical education instructor are held twice per week. Tennis shoes are needed for our gym floor.

Prayer – Prayer is an integral part of our program. We start each day with prayer and it is incorporated throughout the day.

Progress Folders – Each child will receive a folder with a list of letters to check off for letter sounds and letter recognition. The folder will have a list of sight words, numbers to check off for number recognition, etc. This folder will serve as a communication tool for the child's progress.

Q

Quality Program – We feel that we offer a quality program, and we welcome your input to define what "quality" means for your child.

R

Reading Buddies – The fourth graders come in the room weekly and read to the Kindergartners. As the Kindergartners learn to read, they read at least one book to the fourth graders.

Room Parents- Room parents volunteer to organize holiday parties.

Rotate Toys – The dramatic play area is changed monthly.

S

Show and Tell – Each child will have one day per week they can bring something in to share with their classmates. The children tell a little about the object and what letter it begins with. Then they ask if there are any questions. This is great practice formulating questions.

Sight Words – The National Standards for Education states that Kindergartners should learn 40 frequency words or sight words as a minimum. We learn the words in a variety of ways - songs games, etc.

Sign Language – The children will learn a variety of signs during the year.

Spanish – The children will learn some basic words in Spanish.

Special Intentions – Each day the children are invited to pray for their special intentions.

Student of the Month – Each child will have a special time to bring in 10 to 15 family pictures to show to the class and put up on a small bulletin board.

SuperStar – Children earn superstars when the whole class is action super. After they earn 20 superstars they are rewarded with a party to celebrate their success.

T

Teachers – Children are also teachers. The children learn a lot from each other.

Technology – Technology is integrated into the curriculum to help meet each child at their “just right” learning level. We use Chromebook laptop computers and desktop computers as part of our learning rotation.

U

U – are great!!!! So are your children.

V

Volunteer – I encourage volunteering.

W

Websites – www.drjean.org, www.harcourtlearning.com, www.starfall.com, www.abcya.com, www.kindergarten-sjbschool.weebly.com, www.stjohns-vermillion.com

Word wall – We create a word wall for sight words and frequently used words.

Writing – Writing is important.

X

Excellence – The children at St. John the Baptist Catholic School excel after graduating and transferring to other schools.

Y

Yearbook – Each year a yearbook is available for purchase.

Z

Zone of Proximal Development – The place where children can accomplish the most learning with assistance.

Zaner-Bloser – This is the style of handwriting we use. Check out my school webpage for a video on how to form letters.