

# All I Ever Really Wanted to Know I Learned in Kindergarten

By Robert Fulgham

Most of what I really need to know about how to live and what to do and not to be, I learned in Kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain but there in the sandbox at nursery school.

These are the things I learned. Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt someone. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Live a balanced life. Learn some and think and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some. Take a nap every afternoon. When you go in the world watch for traffic, hold hands and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup. The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why but we are all like that.

Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the plastic cup – they all die. So do we. And then, remember the book about Dick and Jane and the first word you learned was the biggest word of all – LOOK! Everything you need to know is there somewhere. The Golden Rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and sane living. Think of what a better world it would be if we all – the whole world—had cookies and milk about three o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankets. Or if we had a basic policy in our nation and other nations to always put things back where we found them and cleaned up after our own mess. And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.



## Lakeview Elementary Welcome to Kindergarten

### Kindergarten Program Philosophy

Welcome Parents,

As teachers, we look forward to providing you and your children with the best possible experience and we hope you will consider yourselves as partners with us in your child's educational experience.

The Kindergarten Program contributes to the continuing growth of young children's knowledge and understanding of themselves and their world. Experiences are provided which help create awareness and appre-

ciation of the changing world and help foster positive personal and social attitudes in young children. Opportunities for the development of aesthetic sensitivity and healthful living habits are also provided.

Through social interaction and participation in activities suited to their needs, children sustain and enhance their language and thought processes as learning is continually integrated and extended through play. In this stimulating, secure, responsive and child-centered environment, children experi-

ence the joy of learning as they live their childhood.

#### Goals

The goals of the Kindergarten Program are to provide a variety of experiences to foster the child's:

- Emotional and social development
- Social responsibility in a changing world
- Aesthetic and artistic development
- Intellectual development
- Physical development



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**We're on the Web!**  
See us at:

<http://lakeview.sd41.bc.ca>

### Learning through Play—why is it important?

**Play** is an essential component of the Kindergarten program. Play is the business of childhood; through play, children learn to understand themselves and the world around them.

Each day during center time, your child's classroom has a number of play "centers" to experiment with. The variety of

centers in the Kindergarten classroom allows your child to be creative, experiment with language and literacy, develop social skills, problem solve, and work with other children. Some of the centers your child will have the opportunity to play with:

- blocks and building

- sand or water table
- dramatic play
- puzzles
- writing materials and tools
- arts and crafts
- painting

Throughout the year, the items available at different centers may change in response to the theme being addressed at the time.



## First Day of School

The transition to Kindergarten can be a tiring and difficult one. During the first weeks of school, Kindergarten students will have a gradual entry schedule to help them adjust to the routines and expectations of Kindergarten (see below).

### Tuesday, September 3, 9:00-10:00 am

All Kindergarten students will meet in the Kindergarten modular unit. We will take attendance and do some introductory activities.



## Gradual Entry Schedule

### Wednesday, September 4, Thursday, September 5, and Friday, September 6

Group A attends from 9:00—10:30; Group B attends from 1:30—3:00

- On *Friday, September 6*, parents will sign-up for an intake interview with their child's classroom teacher

### Monday, September 9 and Tuesday, September 10

- Intake Conversations 9:00—11:00 and 1:00—3:00. Students do not attend school on these days, but are invited to come to the intake meeting.

### Wednesday, September 11

-students attend from 9-11:00 (students will need a healthy snack, **NO** nut products )

### Thursday, September 12

-students attend from 9-1:30 (students will need a healthy snack and a lunch, **NO** nut products)

### Friday, September 13

-students attend from 9-2:00 (students will need a healthy snack and a lunch, **NO** nut products)

### Monday, September 16 and every day after

-students attend from 9-3:00 (students will need a healthy snack and a lunch, **NO** nut products)

\*\*At Lakeview we hold back 2 hours from our gradual entry time to use for next years Welcome to Kindergarten. We will let you know that date in September. Students will be expected to be picked up at 1:00 on that day

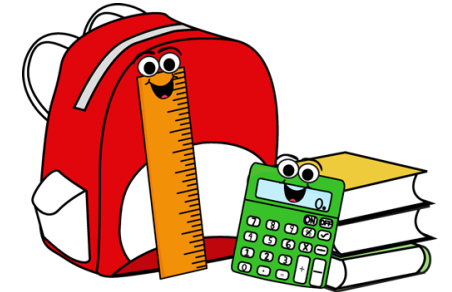
## Kindergarten Supplies

### What does your child need for Kindergarten?

- A pair of runners to wear to Gym, as well as on rainy days, that can be left at school. Please label each runner with your child's name. As we are encouraging our students to become more independent, **please provide runners that your child is able to put on and take off by themselves—no shoes with laces please!!!**
- A change of clothes, including socks and underwear, to be left at school. Please put items in a Ziploc bag and be sure to label each item.
- A backpack that will fit your child's lunch kit, library book, and completed projects.

### School Supplies:

Kindergarten supplies are used communally in the classroom. In September, your child's teacher will collect a school supply fee and purchase all of the supplies your child will use in their Kindergarten year.



## Preparing for Full Day Kindergarten

We are often asked what children beginning Kindergarten are expected to do. Children come into Kindergarten with a variety of preparation levels and experiences. Our main expectations for children beginning Kindergarten are that they are able to be independent and have some experience with the materials we will use in the classroom. Here are some tips that will assist you and your child as you prepare for Kindergarten in September:

- Teach your child to put on his or her own coat and shoes without help
- Encourage independence by giving tasks to do around the home (picking up and putting away things they have used, helping set the table, dressing self, opening containers)
- Teach your child to recognize his or her name. When printing name, encourage your child to begin with an upper case letter and then use lower case letters (J a n e)

- Practice holding a pencil and drawing different lines (straight, diagonal, curves, and circles). These shapes make up the basic formation of letters and numbers
- Practice using scissors safely and cutting lines or shapes. Encourage your child to cut on a line
- Set aside a special time to look at books and talk about them. Ask your child questions about the story and talk about the pictures
- Encourage curiosity and imagination. Have lots of conversations, ask questions, and let them explore the world around them. Sing songs and play games
- Establish a good bedtime routine with lots of sleep. Children entering Kindergarten often feel tired as their day at school is long and busy

