



## Highroad Academy Kindergarten

Thank you for choosing Highroad Academy's kindergarten program for your child. We are a Christian school that focuses on Christian character and the development of Biblical principles. Highroad Academy also strives to infuse academics through play in order to create a life-long love of learning and build a strong academic foundation in math and pre-reading skills. We believe that using programs such as Spell to Write and Read at the kindergarten level provides a firm foundation for our students as they move forward in their school career.

Although kindergarten is a year full of fun, play, and work there are certain skills that can help your child be successful. If you are wondering if your child is ready for kindergarten, here is a guideline of possible indicators.

### **Emotional and Social Development**

- Is showing an interest and curiosity about school
- Can be separated from parents without being upset
- Can manage bathroom needs independently
- Answers when spoken to
- Is able to take turns and ask for help
- Plays cooperatively and respectfully with others
- Is able to sit for approximately 10 minutes and tend to a task
- Appropriately expresses feelings and emotions

### **Physical Development**

#### **Gross Motor**

- Is able to hop on one foot
- Is able to catch a medium sized ball
- Is able to walk heel to toe
- Can run, jump and gallop

## **Fine Motor**

- Is able to hold a crayon or pencil with control
- Cuts with scissors
- Can build a 10 piece puzzle independently
- Is able to trace basic shapes
- Is able to button shirts, pants and coats as well as zip zippers
- Is able to colour simple pictures without scribbling

## **Cognitive Development**

- Can identify and name 6 basic colours
- Can match objects that are the same and can sort objects into categories
- Can name basic body parts
- Follows 2-3 step directions
- Is able to speak in complete sentences of 5-6 words
- Speech is understandable to others
- Has understanding of basic concepts: in, on behind, above, below, front, back, etc.
- Can touch-count numbers up to 10 or beyond
- Understands that numbers represent quantity
- Uses and understands many words and identifies pictures
- Can express ideas and tell about personal experiences
- Is able to re-tell a simple story
- Is able to answer who, what, when, why questions
- Is able to tell first and last name when asked
- Is able to identify likenesses and differences in pictures

## Questions Parents Commonly Ask

1. My child has a late birthday (November, December), are they ready for kindergarten?

All children develop at different rates. If there is any doubt as to your child's developmental readiness, it may be beneficial to hold them back and allow them extra time to grow. In general, it is better to be the oldest child in the class rather than the youngest. The older child will have more confidence that will have long lasting benefits.

2. Does my child need to go to pre-school to be ready for kindergarten?

A child may be ready for kindergarten without attending pre-school, however, pre-school will prepare your child with social experiences that will teach them to share, listen and take turns. A skill-based pre-school will begin to teach your child the readiness skills that your child will need to be successful in kindergarten.

3. Are there any community programs available to help my child get ready for kindergarten?

A few suggestions may include:

- Sunday school
- Story time at the library
- Kinder Music
- Gymnastics/ballet
- Community sports

If you have any doubts about your child's readiness, talk to their pediatrician, pre-school teacher or future kindergarten teacher. In some cases, keeping your child home for an extra year has the potential to increase your child's academic success.

With this in mind, your child may be asked to have a short one on one interview. The purpose of this interview is to determine the maturity and readiness of your child based on the criteria as outlined in this document. Highroad Academy will begin scheduling kindergarten interviews in March and April.

We look forward to meeting you and beginning the Kindergarten journey with you.

Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Larsson

