

## Darlington Community School's Parents' Guide to Kindergarten

### Traits Exhibited by Many Five- to Seven-Year Olds

All children develop differently but you may notice the following traits as your child attends Kindergarten, or First Grade:

- Has a strong attachment to their home and family
- Has a short interest span
- Has an awareness mainly of themselves and their own desires
- Has a preference for imaginative, make-believe play
- Has a sense of curiosity, a desire to explore their expanding world
- Typically sleeps about 11 hours daily
- Has a desire for repetition of enjoyable experiences
- Is easily upset by changes in routine or environment
- Tattling is a pronounced characteristic.
- Boys and girls play together readily
- Depends on adults to meet physical and emotional needs
- Has a need for patient understanding and close supervision

### This year your child will learn to:

#### Art

- Use materials purposefully and safely
- Express self through art media

#### Reading/Language Arts

- Use language to convey appropriate message
- Listen when others are speaking
- Contribute ideas to discussions
- Follow simple verbal directions
- Use concepts of print and prior knowledge to understand texts
- Identify upper and lowercase letters of the alphabet
- Know letter/sound relationships
- Use picture clues, letter-sound relationships (phonics), 18 high frequency words and prior knowledge to read texts
- Make predictions about a variety of texts
- Write personal thoughts
- Use appropriate end punctuation (period)
- Write using letter-sound relationships to represent words
- Print letters
- Write own name (first/last)
- Understand that information is presented in different forms (graphs, books, magazines, internet)

#### Mathematics

- Use problem solving strategies
- Understand and communicates mathematical ideas
- Count to 100
- Understand one-to-one correspondence (0-31)
- Identify numbers to 31
- Write numerals correctly 0-31
- Will manipulate objects to add and write number sentences to 5
- Understand basic units and processes of measurement (length, weight, time, temperature)
- Recognize basic shapes
- Use measuring instruments
- Understand that coins have different values
- Understand and use position words: inside, outside, between, above, below, behind, in front of, up, down
- Will manipulate objects to show and understand patterns
- Understand and use graphs
- Count by 10's to 100
- Count by 5's to 100
- Count by 2's to 20

#### Physical Education

- Understand the relationship between physical activity and good health
- Understand the purpose of rules in games
- Understand the social contributions of physical activity (respect, cooperation, sportsmanship)
- Engage in activities that increase respiration and heart rate
- Engage in activities that develop flexibility, muscular strength and endurance
- Use a variety of basic loco-motor movements (walk, skip, hop, jump)
- Use a variety of basic non-loco-motor movements (bend, twist, turn)
- Use a variety of basic object control skills (throw, catch, kick, bounce)
- Use control in weight-bearing balance activities
- Use control in travel activities
- Exercise to music
- Dance (hokey pokey, chicken dance, bunny hop, limbo rock)
- Understand and use concepts of spatial awareness and movement control (speed, over, under, dodge, flee, change of direction)
- Use feedback to improve performance

### **Science**

- Know that changes on the earth can be observed (night/day, daily weather, seasons)
- Know the environment contains many diverse and interrelated resources (air, water, land)
- Engage in classroom experiments and investigations to gain scientific knowledge using simple science equipment
- Know that plants and animals both need water, animals need food to eat, and plants need light
- Know that objects can be described and classified by their composition (wood, metal, etc.) and by their physical properties (color, size, shape, etc.)
- Know the difference between living and non-living things and that all living things have life cycles
- Understand that we are influenced by changes in technology

### **Social Studies**

- Understand that people are alike and different in many ways
- Know that rules at home, at school and in the community improve our social environment
- Understand that we depend upon workers who produce goods or services
- Know the physical and human characteristics of a local community (e.g., neighborhoods, schools, parks)
- Know how various American holidays reflect the shared values, principals, and beliefs of the diverse American society
- Know and identify significant historical leaders, events, and symbols (Lincoln, Washington, American Flag)
- Understand directions (North, South, East, West) through the use of maps and globes
- Understand that different groups of people have different cultures

### **Music**

- Sing with others a variety of songs
- Echo short rhythm and melody patterns
- Use the voice to sing, whisper, speak, and call
- Respond with movement to melody, tempo, dynamics and style of various music
- Demonstrate ability to read iconic representations of rhythm and pitch
- Play classroom instruments to a steady beat

### **Information and Technology**

- Use computers to practice math and reading skills
- Understand basic computer functions (screen, icons, mouse)
- Understand that technology use is widespread (toys, careers, home appliances, cars)
- Understand that information is organized in the library in a logical manner
- Choose appropriate library materials

### **Self-Directed Learning**

- Follow school and classroom rules
- Use self-control
- Show respect for others
- Work to solve own problems
- Work cooperatively with others
- Work independently to a greater degree as the school year progresses
- Use time productively
- Make plans and organizes before working
- Evaluate own work