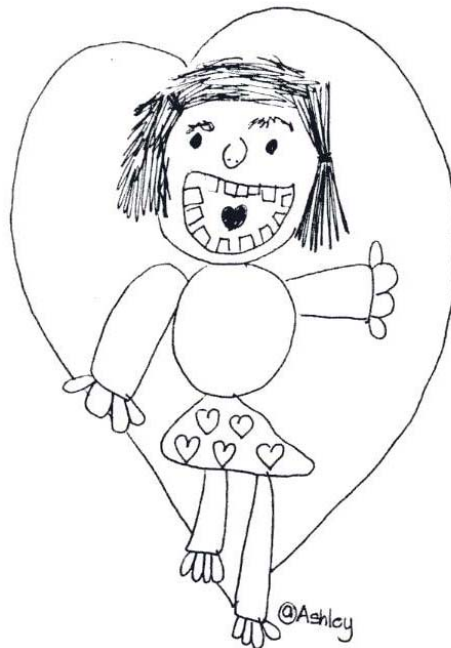


# Kindergarten Handbook



**Welcome!**

You are about to enter a place of wonder...

West Linn-Wilsonville School District

Updated July 2011

Dear Parents,

We are very pleased to welcome your kindergartner to our learning community.

The West Linn-Wilsonville School District's kindergarten program is an integral part of the entire school system. It is designed to provide a sound educational beginning for our children.

Meeting the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs of five-year-olds is indeed a delightful challenge. It is a challenge that is most successfully met when families and teachers work together. Please keep in close touch with us throughout your child's school years. We look forward to our partnership.

Sincerely,

Bill Rhoades, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

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# *Together...*

The kindergarten program in the West Linn-Wilsonville School District is based on the belief that young children "learn by doing." The complex interaction of thinking and experience determines the pace and range of each child's learning and skill development. During the kindergarten year children engage in experiences that enhance the natural processes of thinking, learning, and growing. Parents and teachers are partners in support of children's development. Together we extend what has already begun... learning through active, productive classrooms and enriching home experiences.

# *From the beginning...*

Much of a child's attitude toward school and learning is formed before reaching kindergarten. The attitudes and practices of parents are crucial because you're the most important person in your child's life. Children learn in many ways. One of the most prominent ways of teaching is by modeling those values that are important to you.

## **Children Learn What They Live**

*If a child lives with tolerance,  
He learns to be patient;*

*If a child lives with encouragement,  
He learns to be confident;*

*If a child lives with praise,  
He learns to be appreciative;*

*If a child lives with acceptance,  
He learns to love;*

*If a child lives with approval,  
He learns to like himself;*

*If a child lives with recognition,  
He learns it is good to have a goal;*

*If a child lives with honesty,  
He learns what truth is;*

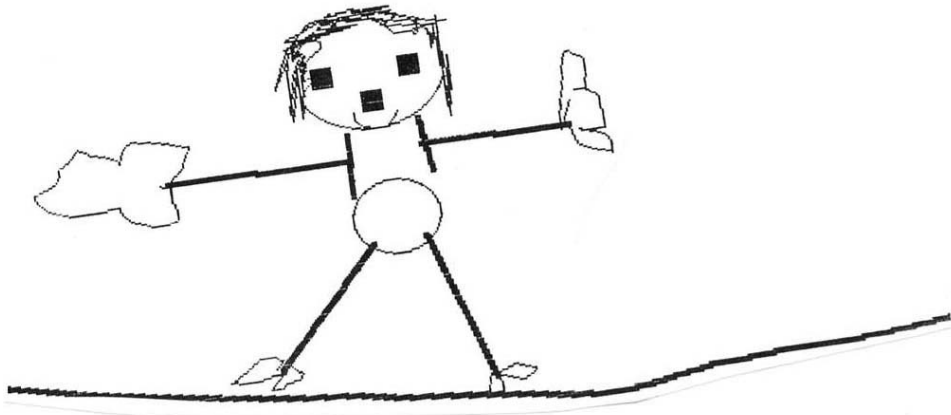
*If a child lives with fairness,  
He learns justice;*

*If a child lives with security,  
He learns to have faith in himself  
and those about him.*

# *Expanding the circle...*

Kindergarten is a year of discovering, experimenting, and experiencing the pleasure of learning. It provides opportunity for challenge and the stimulation of ideas, creativity, social interaction, and intellectual curiosity. In kindergarten, children...

- Develop lifetime habits that sustain the joy of learning.
- Contribute as members of the learning community through interactions that are characterized by honesty, integrity, respect, and responsibility.
- Construct meaning from print.
- Construct meaning in oral and written communication, movement, and drama.
- Manipulate concrete objects and describe their thinking to prepare for basic computation and mathematical reasoning.
- Learn about their world through questions, gathering data, and creating and communicating meaning.
- Develop understanding of broad-based concepts learning through first-hand investigations, inquiry, perspective taking, and the stories of predecessors and contemporaries.
- Begin to build a commitment to serve the global community.
- Explore art media, techniques, concepts, and vocabulary through the study of artists and art history, observation, and creation.
- Experience the joy and rhythm of music through movement, song, and instrumentation.
- Engage in activities that contribute to social, emotional, and physical development.
- Use technology as a tool for learning.
- Begin to make healthy choices that will become habits.



## *Smoothing the way...*

Practicing the best route to the school or bus stop will give your child confidence.

Visit the school with your child before the first day of school. Taking a tour of the school grounds fosters a sense of safety, and visiting the classroom to meet the teacher can build a sense of adventure.

Talking about school in a positive, friendly way helps your child think about school as a happy place.

Answering questions with assurance lets your child know there will be friendly people to help on those first days of school.

Giving your child many opportunities to play with other children helps them develop socially.

Encouraging your child to wash and dress, put away toys, and take care of toilet needs unassisted develops independence.

Playing an important role in the life of your family by including them in daily chores helps your child develop a sense of routine, responsibility, and self-worth.

## *Traveling the road together...*

Riding the bus to and from school can be an exciting adventure. The bus company and the school work together to assure a safe, happy ride for children.

The bus company sets bus routes for our kindergarten children during the summer. The routes are designed to bring the children as close to home as possible. During the Kindergarten Parent Orientation in August, we will have bus maps for you to look at so you can confirm your child's bus schedule. We encourage you to walk your child to the bus stop and meet there on the return home.

Bus notes are essential for the safety of the children. When your child visits another child's home or goes to another address for day care, we need a note from you. Please send a note to school anytime you make a change in your child's normal transportation routine.

If you have any questions about bus transportation, please call the bus company at (503) 570-8604.

## *Creating safe habits...*

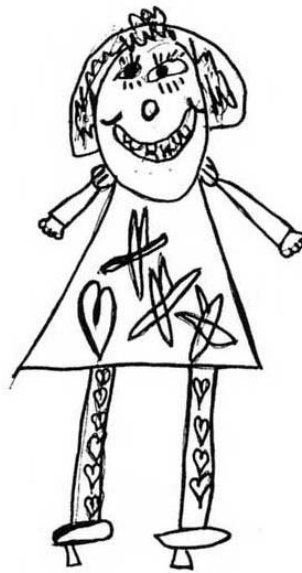
Access to the following information provides children with tools to keep them safe and builds self-confidence:

- To give name, address, telephone number, and parents' full names to people who can help them.
- To ride or talk with familiar people only.
- To obey traffic lights.
- To look both ways before crossing the street.
- To walk directly to the kindergarten classroom from the bus.
- To stay on the grounds while at school.
- To get approval before going to another child's home after school.
- To go directly home after school, taking the safest route (if you pick up your child after school, please be on time).

## *Dressing in style...*

The children are busy learning and playing, so please... send your child to school in clothing that is:

- comfortable
- easily managed
- weather appropriate
- simple
- washable



## *Getting started...*

A gradual beginning allows time for the teacher to get to know your child in a small group and your child to learn about school.

The first week of school, the kindergartners come to school in the following manner:

Day 1	One half of the children attend
Day 2	The other half of the class attends and the first half stays home
Day 3	All children attend

During the late summer a letter will be sent home to let you know which day your child will start. Please send school supplies on the first day of school. Supply lists will be in the summer packet.

School is children's work. Having a regular schedule and going to school every day reinforces the importance of responsibility and routine. Consistency helps create a sense of security, control, and belonging.

Have children arrive at school five to ten minutes before class begins so that they can naturally transition into their day.

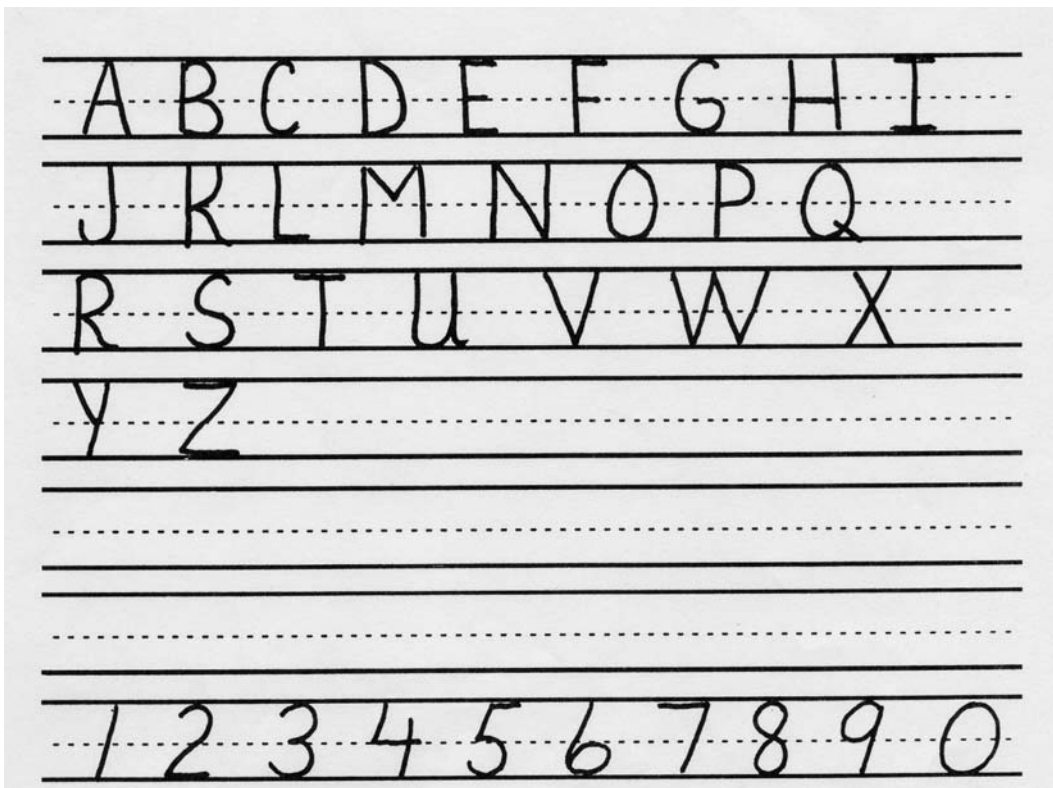
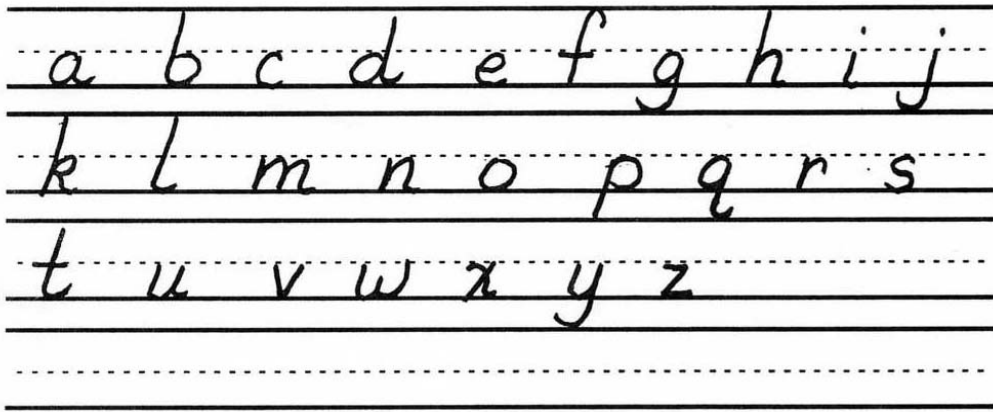
## *Building a bridge...*

There is a strong correlation between parent participation in the schools and children's achievement. Your contribution as a volunteer is important to the health of the entire school community. It models caring and commitment to education. The following ideas build strong school-home partnerships.

- Talking with your child every day about school and school events allows your child to rehearse learning and keeps you informed.
- Reading with your child models the use and enjoyment of language.
- Encouraging your child to write creates a budding avenue of communication.
- Being affectionate with your child and expressing interest in school progress and development grounds your child in security while acknowledging growing independence.
- Checking backpacks for important notes and newsletters daily assures good communication.
- Supervising homework, making sure your child has a place to work and that assignments are completed, scaffolds good work habits.
- Providing learning experiences outside of school at parks, museums, libraries, zoos, and historical sites extends the richness of learning.

## Constructing the way...

D'Nealian manuscript letters and numbers are taught in kindergarten. Most D'Nealian lower case letters are written with one continuous stroke. Many kindergarten children can successfully write their name on lined paper. Attempts at writing that are encouraged and accepted in the spirit of fun and exploration build children's expertise and confidence.



Can you print your name? Use upper and lower case letters.



# *Contacts...*

If after reading this handbook, you have further questions, please call your primary school at any time.

## **West Linn-Wilsonville Primary Schools**

<b>Boeckman Creek Primary School</b> 6700 SW Wilsonville Road Wilsonville 97070	(503) 673-7750
<b>Bolton Primary School</b> 5933 SW Holmes Street West Linn 97068	(503) 673-7050
<b>Boones Ferry Primary School</b> 11495 Wilsonville Road Wilsonville 97070	(503) 673-7300
<b>Cedaroak Park Primary School</b> 4515 South Cedaroak Drive West Linn 97068	(503) 673-7100
<b>Lowrie Primary School</b> 28995 SW Brown Road Wilsonville 97070 (opens Fall 2012)	(503) 673-7700
<b>Stafford Primary School</b> 19875 SW Stafford Road West Linn 97068	(503) 673-7150
<b>Sunset Primary School</b> 2351 Oxford Street West Linn 97068	(503) 673-7200
<b>Trillium Creek Primary School</b> 1025 Rosemont Road West Linn 97068 (opens Fall 2012)	(503) 673-7950
<b>Willamette Primary School</b> 1403 12th Street West Linn 97068	(503) 673-7250