

# Oakview Elementary



Getting Ready for Kindergarten

## What Can Parents Do at Home?



Students begin school with different degrees of readiness.

Children also become excited about starting school when their parents show excitement about this big step. As your child gets ready to enter kindergarten, talk to him about school. Talk about the exciting things that he will do in kindergarten, such as making art projects, singing and playing games. Be enthusiastic as you describe all the important things that he will learn from his teacher—how to read, how to count and how to measure and weigh things. Give your child opportunities at home to begin to develop the following positive qualities.

- **Confidence:** Children must feel good about themselves and believe they can succeed. Confident children are willing to attempt new tasks – and try again if they don't succeed the first time.
- **Independence:** Children must learn to do things for themselves.
- **Motivation:** Children must want to learn.
- **Curiosity:** Children are naturally curious and must remain so to get the most out of learning opportunities.
- **Persistence:** Children must learn to finish what they start.
- **Cooperation:** Children must be able to get along with others and learn to share and take turns.
- **Self-control:** Children must learn that there are good and bad ways to express anger. They must understand that some behaviors, such as hitting and biting, are not acceptable.
- **Empathy:** Children must have an interest in others and understand how others feel.

**Here are some things that you can do to help your child develop these qualities.**

- **Children who feel loved are more likely to be confident.** Your child must believe that, no matter what, someone will look out for him.
- **Set a good example.** Children imitate what they see others do and what they hear others say. When you exercise and eat nourishing food, your child is more likely to do so as well. When you treat others with respect, your child probably will, too. If you share things with others, your child also will learn to be thoughtful of others' feelings.
- **Provide opportunities for repetition.** It takes practice for a child to crawl, pronounce new words or drink from a cup. Your child doesn't get bored when she repeats things. Instead, by repeating things until she learns them, your child builds the confidence she needs to try new things.
- **Use appropriate discipline.** All children need to have limits set for them. Children whose parents give them firm but loving discipline generally develop better social skills and do better in school than do children whose parents set too few or too many limits.
- **Let your child do many things by herself.** Young children need to be watched closely. However, they learn to be independent and to develop confidence by doing tasks such

as dressing themselves and putting their toys away. It's important to let your child make choices, rather than deciding everything for her.

- **Encourage your child to play with other children and to be with adults who are not family members.** Preschoolers need social opportunities to learn to see the point of view of others. Young children are more likely to get along with teachers and classmates if they have had experiences with different adults and children.

## Language and General Knowledge

Children can develop language skills only if they have many opportunities to talk, listen and use language to solve problems and learn about the world. Long before your child enters school, you can do many things to help her develop language. You can:

- **Give your child opportunities to play.** Play is how children learn. It is the natural way for them to explore, to become creative, to learn to make up and tell stories and to develop social skills. Play also helps children learn to solve problems—for example, if her wagon tips over, a child must figure out how to get it upright again. When they stack up blocks, children learn about colors, numbers, geometry, shapes and balance. Playing with others helps children learn how to negotiate.
- **Support and guide your child as she learns a new activity.** Parents can help children learn how to do new things by “scaffolding,” or guiding their efforts. For example, as you and your toddler put together a puzzle, you might point to a piece and say, “I think this is the piece we need for this space. Why don’t you try it?” Then have the child pick up the piece and place it correctly. As the child becomes more aware of how the pieces fit into the puzzle, you can gradually withdraw your support.
- **Talk to your child, beginning at birth.** Your baby needs to hear your voice. Voices from a television or radio can’t take the place of your voice, because they don’t respond to your baby’s coos and babbles. The more you talk to your baby, the more he will learn and the more he will have to talk about as he gets older.
- **Listen to your child.** Children have their own special thoughts and feelings, joys and sorrows, hopes and fears. As your child’s language skills develop, encourage her to talk about her thoughts and feelings. Listening is the best way to learn what’s on her mind and to discover what she knows and doesn’t know and how she thinks and learns. It also shows your child that her feelings and thoughts are valuable.
- **Ask your child questions,** particularly questions that require him to give more than a “yes” or “no” response. If, as you walk with your toddler in a park, he stops to pick up leaves, you might point out how the leaves are the same and how they are different. With an older child, you might ask, “What else grows on trees?”
- **Answer your child’s questions.** Asking questions is a good way for your child to learn to compare and to classify things—different kinds of dogs, different foods and so forth. Answer your child’s questions thoughtfully and, whenever possible, encourage her to answer her own questions. If you don’t know the answer to a question, say so.

- **Read aloud to your child every day. The single most important activity for building the knowledge for success in reading is reading aloud to children.** Talk to your child about the meaning of stories. Help them to look for details in pictures. Have them retell the story in their own words.
- **Be aware of your child’s television viewing.** Good television programs can introduce children to new worlds and promote learning, but poor programs or too much TV watching can be harmful. It’s up to you to decide how much TV and what kinds of shows your child should watch.
- **Be realistic about your child’s abilities and interests.** Set high standards and encourage your child to try new things. Children who aren’t challenged become bored. But children who are pushed along too quickly or who are asked to do things that don’t interest them can become frustrated and unhappy.
- **Provide opportunities for your child to do and see new things.** The more varied the experiences that she has, the more she will learn about the world. No matter where you live, your community can provide new experiences. Go for walks in your neighborhood or go places on the bus. Visit museums, libraries, zoos and other places of interest
- **Sing or recite nursery rhymes, songs or finger-plays.** Rhyming helps children start to pay attention to the sounds in words which is an important first step in learning to read. Read nursery rhymes to your child. Stop before a rhyming word and encourage the child to fill in the blank.

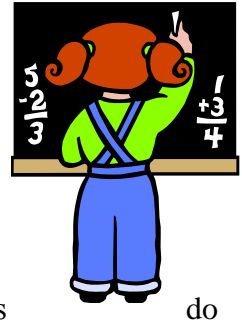
## Helping with Letter Identification

- ✓ Ask your child to name letters in traffic or store signs
- ✓ Count the letter “d” in McDonalds
- ✓ Use magnetic letters on the refrigerator
- ✓ Write letters with chalk, paint, sand etc.
- ✓ Read and discuss alphabet books with your child
- ✓ Find letters in magazines, newspapers, etc.
- ✓ Circle letters in old newspapers etc.
- ✓ Locate letters on cereal boxes, food labels
- ✓ Help your child notice all the print around



## Getting Ready for Math

Hands on activities that involve counting, measuring and using number words are a good way to introduce your preschooler to math. As you go about your daily activities, always talk with your child.



- ✓ Talk about numbers and use number concepts in daily routines.  
Examples: “Let’s divide the dough into two parts.” “How many plates we need on the table?”
- ✓ Talk about your child’s age, her address, her phone number, her height and weight
- ✓ Talk about hours, days, months years
- ✓ Talk about younger, older, yesterday, today, tomorrow
- ✓ Talk about taller, shorter, longer, feet and inches
- ✓

## Before Kindergarten Your Child Should...



- ✓ Know their name, address, birthdate and phone number
- ✓ Be able to tie their shoes and get their coat on and off
- ✓ Be able to use the bathroom and wash their hands
- ✓ Have experiences cooperating with other children; wait their turn, work with other, share supplies etc.
- ✓ Use language appropriately and extensively
- ✓ Have a healthy feeling of self-worth and positive feeling of self and of others
- ✓ Have good health and nutrition habits
- ✓ Be a good listener. Be able to follow 2 step directions
- ✓ Know the letters of the alphabet. Know that sounds and letters correspond. Begin writing letters
- ✓ Be able to count orally to 20
- ✓ Recognize and know basic colors and shapes
- ✓ Be able to coordinate large muscles for hopping, skipping, and running
- ✓ Use small muscle coordination for writing, drawing and cutting

## To Learn More About Kindergarten at Oakview...

Visit Oakview's website

[www.greenville.k12.sc.us/oakview](http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/oakview)

### School Tours

School Year: Fridays at 1:00

Summer : Thursdays at 1:00

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