

KinderKids

Our KinderKids philosophy is to provide a safe and nurturing environment where children can explore, create, and develop as independent and cooperative learners.

The KinderKids program is a bridge between Preschool and Kindergarten. It is an ideal place for children who are young 5-year-olds that might need another year to develop socially or academically before moving into Kindergarten. Our program is designed to give children the skills they will need to tackle the challenges they will face in Kindergarten. The children in KinderKids and Kindergarten are at different levels socially, emotionally, and academically but will be striving towards similar goals. Kindergarten students will pursue a very similar set of skills using a comparable curriculum but at a more advanced level. KinderKids will provide quality discovery-based learning experiences for children as a strong preparation for entering Kindergarten the following year.

Below is a brief snapshot of a few of the Reading Readiness, Mathematics, and Social Skills expectations that will be addressed in the KinderKids classroom throughout the school year.

<i>Reading Readiness</i>	<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>Social Skills</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Identifies uppercase letters</i>▪ <i>Identifies lowercase letters</i>▪ <i>Matches sounds with letters</i>▪ <i>Retells a simple story in sequence</i>▪ <i>Can hear/name rhyming words</i>▪ <i>Demonstrates understanding of size, position, and direction pairs</i>▪ <i>Uses phonetic skills to decode</i>▪ <i>Uses letters and phonetically spells to write ideas</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Identifies number sets (more, less, same)</i>▪ <i>Counts groups of objects up to 10</i>▪ <i>Identifies numerals 0-20</i>▪ <i>Arranges numerals in 0-10 order</i>▪ <i>Creates a 2-, 3-, 4-step patterns</i>▪ <i>Identifies 1st, 2nd, last</i>▪ <i>Counts backwards: 10-0</i>▪ <i>Draws a picture to represent a problem</i>▪ <i>Rote counts to 50</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Listens without interrupting</i>▪ <i>Shares ideas clearly and with organization</i>▪ <i>Demonstrates self-control</i>▪ <i>Follows rules/directions</i>▪ <i>Resolves conflict appropriately</i>▪ <i>Accepts responsibility for actions</i>▪ <i>Respects feelings/property of others</i>▪ <i>Knows age and birthday</i>▪ <i>Knows address or phone number</i>

Any child whose 5th birthday falls between March 1st and September 15th can be enrolled in KinderKids. The choice to enroll a child in either Kindergarten or KinderKids is that of a parent. Based on a child's individual needs, parents must make their own decision considering a variety of factors such as:

- Social and emotional development
- Motor skills
- Language abilities
- Reading and math readiness
- Self-help skills

Other Frequently Asked Questions about KinderKids

Where will KinderKids be located? Will busing be provided to and from the classroom?

- The program will be located at Fairview Elementary. Regular Spencer Schools transportation is available to the classroom.

How long is a typical day in KinderKids?

- KinderKids is available to all eligible students as a Monday-Friday full-day program that follows the same schedule as the regular K-12 school and district calendar.

Would you recommend that *any* student who turns 5 after March 1st be enrolled in KinderKids?

- Definitely not. The regular Kindergarten program is the right place for the great majority of 5-year-olds, regardless of their birth date. Our Kindergarten teachers are highly skilled at taking students with significant differences in knowledge and experiences and helping them to progress rapidly in a very short amount of time. KinderKids is designed for students who need an additional year to develop or mature, not as a "prep" for Kindergarten.

Is it a possibility for my child to attend KinderKids if he/she has a birthday shortly after September 15?

- Unfortunately, no. By Iowa state requirements, any child entering KinderKids must turn 5 years old on or before September 15.

If you have any further questions, please contact Principal Lucas Dewitt at 262-4842.

Please contact Fairview Elementary at 262-4842 if you wish to enroll your child in the KinderKids program. Thank you!