

# Dear Parent,

We excited to have your child in Kindergarten at Whitmore Lake Elementary School.



This is a very important year in your child's life. And we're pleased to be part of it.

At school, we're building on the skills that your child has already learned and we're introducing new ones. See this side of the brochure for details about what we're doing this year in English and Language Arts.

At home, your child can practice the skills we're learning at school. See the other side of this brochure for easy things that you can do to encourage that practice.

By working together, we can make sure that your child acquires the skills he or she needs to be successful in school and life.

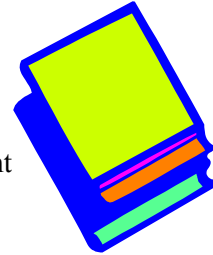
We look forward to working with you and your child this year. When you have questions, please feel free to contact us at 449-2051.

Sincerely,  
The Kindergarten Teachers

## In every grade, we teach English/Language Arts skills that will help students:

### Communicate Ideas

- Read and understand fiction and non-fiction materials.
- Write clear and correct sentences, paragraphs and compositions.
- Create meaning as they listen, speak, view, read and write.
- Use language to express ideas to different audiences and for different purposes.



### Understand Literature

- Read, respond to, and reflect on ideas found in a variety of materials.
- Explore and reflect on universal themes in oral, visual, and written texts.
- Apply what is learned to everyday life.

### Use Language

- Identify and use correct spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Describe and use various story elements.
- Use main ideas with supporting details in writing.
- Express ideas creatively.
- Explore and use tools found in books and media to help with understanding.

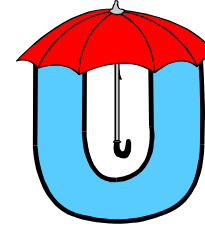
### Apply Knowledge

- Develop and use strategies to connect what they're learning to their lives.
- Check their own progress when using these strategies.
- Evaluate their work using set guidelines.

## In Kindergarten, we teach English/Language Arts skills that will help your child:

### Communicate Ideas

- Be excited about reading and writing.
- Choose books for free choice activities.
- Understand words used in kindergarten.
- Determine the meaning of new words using strategies.
- Demonstrate awareness of rhyming, sound blending, and sound deletion.
- Begin to associate letters and sounds.
- Recognize words are made of sounds.
- Understand that words are made of letters.
- Recognize a small number of words automatically (about 18).
- Use letter sounds and printed words seen in their surroundings for writing.
- Begin to form upper and lower case letters.
- Begin to leave space between words.
- Write from left to right and top to bottom.
- Use language for many purposes.
- Make oral presentations.
- Note a difference between classroom and recess language and voices.
- Participate in conversation while staying on topic, building on prior response.
- Follow one- and two-step directions.
- Demonstrate good listening (eye contact, attentive, supportive).
- Listen to a variety of stories.



### Understand Literature

- Identify stories, nursery rhymes, poetry, songs.
- Identify different types of informational texts.
- Respond to books through pictures, words, discussion.
- Recognize patterns in books.
- Connect personal experiences to text.
- Connect books to other books.
- Predict story events.
- Retell up to three story events.
- Acquire and apply information from texts in all subject areas.

### Use Language

- Discuss setting, characters, events from a story.
- Explain how authors and illustrators use pictures to explain meaning.
- Narrow possible words using multiple strategies (ex: letter sounds, picture clues, patterns).
- Write using pictures, word-like clusters.
- Write poetry using a guide from teacher.
- Brainstorm ideas.
- Use "kindergarten writing."
- Show originality in work.
- Spell a small number of words (about 18).

### Apply Knowledge

- Activate prior knowledge.
- Self-monitor comprehension.
- Recognize how to assess work with teacher guidance.





### Communicate Ideas

- Get your child a library card and visit the library together, regularly.
- Read aloud to your child – all kinds of material.
- Sing songs with rhyme and rhythm.
- Play games in the grocery store to practice letters such as, “Can you find a cereal box that has a K on it?”
- Talk to your child about his or her favorite things.
- Ask questions about the movies you watch together.
- Talk out loud when you are writing a letter in front of your child “Dear Grandma, oh, that is spelled D-e-a-r” so they get an idea that what you are saying is what you are writing.
- Let your child tell a story that goes along with a photograph.
- Model good listening for your child. Pay attention when your child is talking.
- Encourage conversations at home. (Consider having a “No TV” night).



### Understand Literature


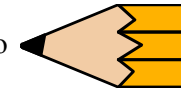
- Ask “wh” questions when you read a story: Who was in this book? Where did they go? What were they doing? What was your favorite part? What do you think is going to happen next?

### Use Language

- Let your child begin to write on his or her own. Drawing a picture is a means of written communication.

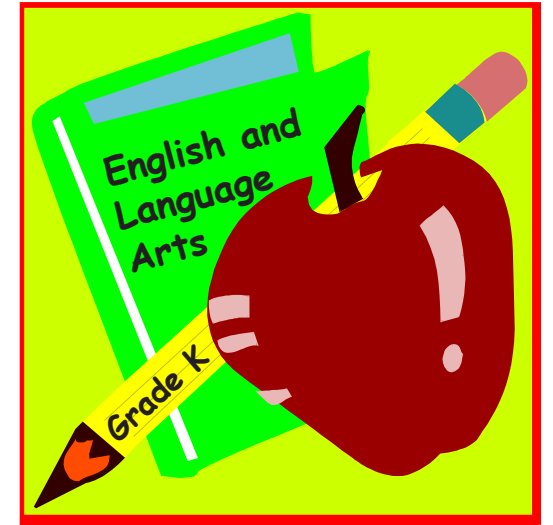
### Apply Knowledge

- Help your child relate new experiences with old ones. For example, when you visit a new park, say, “Remember when we rode the merry-go-round by the school? Let’s try this one and see if it goes as fast!”
- Give your child a reason to write (thank-you notes, a journal, or a grocery list).
- After cleaning his or her room ask your child, “What part of this clean room makes you the most proud? Why?”
- Help your child make connections between what is read and himself or herself, other material that was read, and what your child knows about the world.



*...exceptional,  
personalized education*

**For more good ideas, ask your child's teacher, or contact:**  
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(734) 449-2051 • <http://www.wlps.net>



Whitmore Lake Elementary School

In Kindergarten,  
we're teaching  
your child  
important  
reading and  
language skills.

*What are these skills?*

*How can you help your child practice them?*