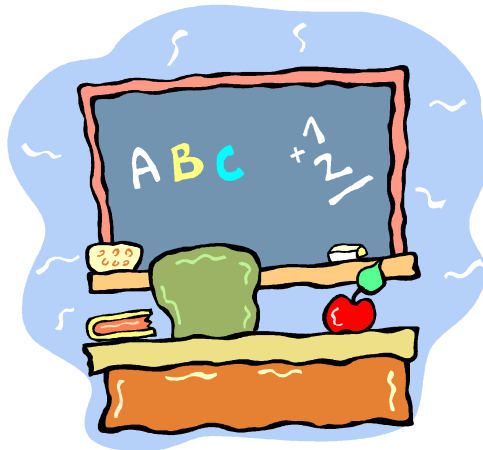


# Hilliard City Schools

## Getting Ready to Start Kindergarten

Revised 2019





## Hilliard City School District

Dear Parents,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to your family as we prepare for your child's entrance into kindergarten. We are excited to meet with you and hope that you will soon feel part of the Hilliard City School District family.

This is such an exciting time for young children. Kindergarten is a very important year as students begin to learn new skills and build a foundation for future learning. It is our hope that your child will develop a love for learning, form relationships with peers and school staff, and gain much self-confidence during this first year of your child's education.

Our staff is excited to begin working with your child and will strive to ensure that he or she feels comfortable and ready to learn each and every day. Not only will your child have the support of a caring teacher, but will also receive special attention from the building principal, office secretaries, school nurse, and other important staff in the building. These staff members stand willing and ready to help provide assistance to your child so that the school day is happy and successful.

I would like to encourage you to partner with us by helping your child prepare for the start of the upcoming year. You can help your child by consistently ensuring him or her that school will be a fun and important part of their day. Remind them that they will make many new friends and experience many opportunities while learning. Encouragement and support from you during the upcoming months will help prepare your child for the start of their kindergarten year.

I look forward to forming a partnership with you and your family during the 2019-2020 school year that will begin the journey towards graduation as a member of the class of 2032.

In service to children,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Dr. John Marschhausen'.

Dr. John Marschhausen, Ph.D.  
Superintendent



## Hilliard City School District

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Hilliard City Schools! We are excited to begin a very important journey with your child and look forward to working in partnership with you in your child's education. We have much to be proud of in our district and excitedly await your child's arrival!

The information included in this booklet is offered as a guide for your use. We hope you will enjoy the tips provided to help you prepare your son or daughter for this next big milestone in their development!

You may wonder why we provide screening activities for incoming kindergarten students. State guidelines require that we plan an appropriate educational program for all of our students, and that we prepare for the development of the whole child. The events that are part of kindergarten screening are not "pass/fail" tests. Rather, they are activities that provide us with insight into the overall development of your child and his/her readiness for school. Some activities will include assessments of academic readiness, and later assessments will include vision, hearing and speech.

The Hilliard City School District staff looks forward to working with you and your child for years to come! If you have questions or concerns throughout the registration or screening process, please call upon your building principal or me. We will be happy to assist you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Herb Higginbotham".

Herb Higginbotham  
Director of Elementary Education

## **Mission Statement**

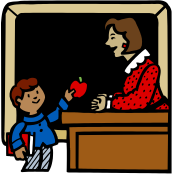
Hilliard City Schools will ensure that every student is Ready for Tomorrow.

## **Vision Statement**

Hilliard City Schools will Embrace, Empower and Inspire students, families and community in an active partnership.

## Elementary Buildings

ALTON DARBY ELEMENTARY	921-5000
AVERY ELEMENTARY	921-5100
BEACON ELEMENTARY	921-5200
BRITTON ELEMENTARY	921-5300
BROWN ELEMENTARY	921-5400
DARBY CREEK ELEMENTARY	921-5500
HILLIARD CROSSING ELEMENTARY	921-5600
HILLIARD HORIZON ELEMENTARY	921-5800
HOFFMAN TRAILS ELEMENTARY	921-5700
J. W. REASON ELEMENTARY	921-5900
NORWICH ELEMENTARY	921-6000
RIDGEWOOD ELEMENTARY	921-6100
SCIOTO DARBY ELEMENTARY	921-6300
WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY	921-6200



## Helping Your Child Get Ready for Kindergarten

Children develop at different rates. During the first year of school, you may help your child to learn the following skills:

### Can your child write his or her first name?

If not, here is what you can do:

1. Write your child's name in **large** letters. Say each letter aloud as you write it so that they can associate the name of the letter with the shape of the letter.
2. Label your child's door so that he/she can see his/her name in print.
3. Have your child practice writing his or her name using a variety of tools such as a Magna Doodle, crayons, pencils and markers. Also, have your child practice writing his or her name in different items around the house such as pudding, rice, sand and whipping cream.

### Can your child recognize the numbers 1-10?

If not, here is what you can do:

1. Read and enjoy counting books.
2. Point out numbers in the environment.



## **Can your child count to 10 orally or count objects to 10?**

If not, here is what you can do:

1. Have your child count his/her own snacks, such as pretzels.
2. Have him/her count each item as he/she picks up 10 things to put away in his/her room or in the house.



## **Can your child recognize the eight primary colors?**

If not, here is what you can do:

1. When your child is coloring, ask what colors were used.
2. Have him draw objects on his paper and ask him to color them certain colors.
3. Have her sort objects based on colors such as clothes.
4. Have him sort food based on colors such as "Fruit Loops".



## **Can your child color within the lines and cut on the lines?**

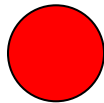
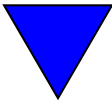
If not, here is what you can do:

1. Have your child help you cut out coupons.
2. Have your child cut out pictures in magazines of things your child is interested in.
3. Draw simple objects with some detail (including self, family, house and pets).
4. Explore coloring with markers, crayons, chalk and other items.

**Can your child recognize the 3 basic shapes- circle, triangle and square?**

If not, here is what you can do:

1. Point out objects that have the 3 basic shapes in your house and in the environment. Have your child name them.
2. Read and enjoy shape books.



**Can your child name the letters in the alphabet?**

If not, here is what you can do:

1. Read and enjoy alphabet books before bedtime. Make this a routine.
2. Help your child recognize letters of the alphabet in everyday life (i.e. restaurants, signs and buildings).



**Does your child open up a book from the front?**

If not, here is what you can do:

Point out the front of the book and the back of the book as you read to your child daily. Let him/her know that the front of the book is where the story begins and the back of the book is where the story ends.





## Some Tips to Help Parents with Beginning Readers

The greatest benefits of reading are obtained when the child is an active participant, engaging in discussion about stories, talking about meanings of words, predicting outcomes, and relating the story matter to his/her own life.

1. Read to your child daily.
2. Talk about the book as you read with your child and after you have finished.
3. Look at the book cover. Point out the title, author, and illustrator.
4. Point out words or phrases that are repeated several times throughout the story.
5. When your child draws a picture, encourage him/her to tell you about it. Then write down what your child says as he/she says it. Let your child see you write down what is said. Read it back. Point to the words as you read them.

6. Remember the focus is always on the meaning of the story. If your child reads something that doesn't make sense, often he or she will go back and try again. If this doesn't happen, stop and ask, "Does that make sense?" The important part is to allow children to self-correct first.
7. If your child comes to a word he or she doesn't know and asks for help, you could ask these questions:
  - Does the picture give you a clue?
  - What word would make sense here?
  - What letter does the word begin/end?
8. It is not necessary to correct every mistake. If a child makes a mistake, but the story or sentence still makes sense, let it go.
9. It does not matter if your child memorizes a particular phrase or story. That is an early stage in this process.
10. Encourage your child to point under the word with his or her finger as he or she reads.
11. Some helpful questions:

What happened at the beginning, middle or end of the story?

What do you think will happen next?

Why do you think the character did that?

What would you have done if you were that character?

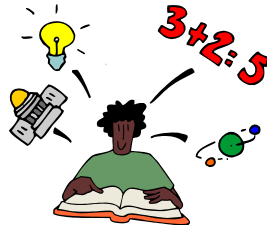
What was the best thing about the story?

12. Make sure your child sees you as a reader
  - reading a newspaper, enjoying a good novel, etc.
13. Give books as presents so that they become pleasurable and special.
14. When reading with your child, always sit beside him with the book between you so that you can both see the text and enjoy the pictures.

## Can your child say their phone number?

If not, here is what you can do:

1. Using your phone number, make up a rhyme that your child can remember. Practice it daily.  
"Let's have some fun - 771  
And watch what I do - 4482!"
2. Have your child practice her phone number on a play telephone.



## Identification of Young Exceptional Children: Gifted Identification

Young children's skills and talents develop rapidly after they enter school. During kindergarten and first grade, teachers take time to become familiar with each child's learning style, interests, temperament, and capabilities. Teachers are especially alert for characteristics that suggest that a child has advanced cognitive or intellectual development.

During these first two years of school, teachers and parents work together to make note of exceptional ability as it is demonstrated both at school and at home. If multiple characteristics of giftedness appear to be enduring, a referral for case study may be forwarded to the district's Gifted Services department. Students are monitored throughout their school years for evidence of giftedness.

## **Students with Disabilities**

Nearly 12% of the Hilliard student population has been identified with a disability. These exceptional students have unique characteristics and needs, many of which are best met by the classroom teacher who differentiates instruction for them with support from a special education intervention specialist. Some exceptional students require more intensive services in a resource room setting. Special education intervention specialists work cooperatively with classroom teachers and other school personnel to ensure a common understanding and response to all of our students with disabilities.

The full continuum of special education services is available in the Hilliard City School District. Programs serving children with learning needs are available in nearly all buildings. Children with multiple areas of disability and/or social/emotional/behavioral needs are served only in select buildings. All eligible children receive special instruction specifically designed to meet their unique educational needs.



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## Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

To do well in school, children need to be supported and nurtured in all areas of development. It is also important that your child is physically, socially and emotionally ready for school. This checklist can help serve as your guide. Please remember, young children change so fast! If they cannot do something this week, you may see them do it a couple of weeks later.

Get your child ready for Kindergarten. Ask yourself these questions:

### Physical Skills

Does your child...

- ✓ enjoy outdoor play such as running, jumping, and climbing;
- ✓ draw and trace basic shapes;
- ✓ cut with scissors;
- ✓ bounce a ball; or
- ✓ ride a tricycle?

### TIPS TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH PHYSICAL SKILLS

- Materials that will help your child develop the motor skills needed to learn to write include crayons, markers, pencils, glue, scissors, paper and paint, puzzles, legos and blocks.
- Activities that will help your child's coordination include climbing, jumping, skipping, playing ball, using playground equipment and riding a tricycle.

## **Health and Safety Needs**

Has your child....

- ✓ had required shots;
- ✓ had a dental exam;
- ✓ had a vision exam;
- ✓ learned own first and last name;
- ✓ learned first and last name of parent(s);
- ✓ learned to watch for cars when crossing the street;
- ✓ learned not talk to strangers;
- ✓ developed a set routine for going to bed;
- ✓ learned to follow rules for safety?

## **TIPS TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH HEALTH & SAFETY NEEDS**

- Help your child learn their full name, address and telephone number.
- Help your child to look both ways when crossing the street.
- Talk with your child about strangers and who to go to for help.
- Use bedtime as the opportunity to read to and talk with your child.

## **Personal Needs**

Without your help, can your child....

- ✓ use the bathroom;
- ✓ wash hands;
- ✓ brush teeth;
- ✓ use tissue to blow nose;
- ✓ button and zip up shirts and pants;
- ✓ put on and take off coat;
- ✓ tie and/or Velcro shoes?

## **TIPS TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH PERSONAL NEEDS**

- Create morning and bedtime bathing and tooth-brushing routines.
- Allow your child to dress themselves.
- Practice putting shoes on.
- Help your child learn to use their words to tell other grownups when they are feeling sick or hurt.

## **Social and Emotional Skills**

Does your child...

- ✓ play well with other children;
- ✓ separate from a parent without being upset;
- ✓ share with other children;
- ✓ care about the feelings of others;
- ✓ follow routines;
- ✓ put toys away when asked?

## **TIPS TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SKILLS**

- Give your child small chores to learn responsibility.
- Help your child learn to follow directions by giving simple steps.
- Encourage your child to share.
- Praise your child when he/she does something well.
- Provide guidance when your child is having difficulty.