

Ready...
Set...
Learn!



A Parents Guide to
Kindergarten Readiness



Elementary School Phone Numbers

Antelope Elementary School	530-495-2541
Bridgeport Elementary School	760-932-7441
Edna Beaman Elementary School	760-933-2397
Lee Vining Elementary School	760-647-6460
Mammoth Elementary School	760-934-7545



A special "Thank You" to Boise School District for sharing their ideas!

Dear Parents:

Welcome to Kindergarten! Expectations for our Kindergarten staff and students are high, and we will do our best to help all youngsters realize their potential.

We are committed to providing quality educational experiences for every student enrolled in our school. This handbook provides some suggestions to help you with this important foundational school year.

We believe that parents and guardians are an important part of our educational team, especially during the early years. Parent participation in a child's education enhances the school experience. I encourage you to take part in the many opportunities for involvement in our school.

I hope you will feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, suggestions or concerns about our school. We believe we have an outstanding educational environment and we are always willing to do anything we can to improve.

Our doors are always open to you!

For more information, contact:
Mammoth Unified School District, 760.934.7545
Eastern Sierra Unified School District, 760.932.7443

Ready...

Beginning School

Since the Kindergarten year lays the foundation for future success in learning, both parent and teachers are anxious for children to get a good start in school. Here are some suggestions to help your child get off to a good start:

- 👏 Prepare your child for school by telling him that school is a happy place where he will learn many new things. Share the excitement!
- 👏 Send your child to school fed and well rested.
- 👏 Teach your child her first name, last name, address, and phone number.
- 👏 It is critical to send your child to school regularly and on time.
- 👏 Call your child's school if he will be absent for any reason.
- 👏 Show an interest in your child's school experience. Take his learning very seriously and give praise often.
- 👏 Plan to attend Fall parent-teacher conferences to discuss your child's progress.
- 👏 Feel free to visit your child's classroom often. Volunteer!
- 👏 Please call the teacher or the principal if you have any questions or concerns.
- 👏 Provide comfortable clothing for your child that she can button, zip, snap or tie.
- 👏 Put your child's name on the inside of backpacks, sweaters, and outdoor clothing.
- 👏 Teach your child good health habits, including washing hands, toilet needs, covering mouth when coughing or sneezing, and using a tissue.
- 👏 Do not send your child to school if he does not feel well (fever, sore throat, cough, headache etc.)

Learn!

Math

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH THEIR NUMBER CARDS

- 👏 Lay out the cards and help your child identify each number. Begin with 0-5.
- 👏 Sequence the numbers, beginning with 0.
- 👏 After sequencing, remove one card. Ask the child to guess which one is missing.
- 👏 Match the number card to numbers in the environment, the clock, the television, the microwave, etc.
- 👏 Respond to questions by holding up a number card. Say, "How many fingers on your hand? How many wheels on a car?"

OTHER IDEAS

- 👏 Count objects like snack foods, pennies, rocks or buttons.
- 👏 Play a counting game by alternating the odd and even numbers. You say one, they say two, and so on. The next time you play you take the even numbers and they take the odd numbers.
- 👏 Provide your child with sorting opportunities, laundry, dishes, groceries, toys, etc.
- 👏 Help your child look for one of the four basic shapes, square, circle, rectangle or triangle in their environment.



Learn!

Language/Auditory Discrimination

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH THEIR PICTURE CARDS

- 👉 Lay out the cards and help your child identify each picture.
- 👉 Find pictures that rhyme.
- 👉 Present three cards, two that rhyme. Ask your child which one does not rhyme.
- 👉 Lay out the cards. Help your child identify the beginning sounds by having them repeat just the first sound after saying the word.
- 👉 Present three cards, two that start with the same sound. Ask your child which one does not belong.
- 👉 Choose one card. Give descriptive clues about the picture until your child guesses correctly. Take turns.

OTHER IDEAS

- 👉 Ask your child to retell a story with a beginning, middle and end.
- 👉 Play "I Spy" while driving in the car. Say, "I spy with my little eye something that is red, and round. What is it?" Focus on developing descriptive language.
- 👉 Read a book with rhyming text. After reading several times let your child fill in the missing rhyme. Extend the activity and challenge children to begin identifying other rhyming words, including nonsense words.
- 👉 Have your child name as many items in a category as they can. How many fruits can you name? How many animals can you name?
- 👉 Help your child learn their address or phone number by making up a tune to go with it.
- 👉 Once your child learns their phone number, allow them to call your house and leave a message.

Set...

Establishing a Positive Home Environment

Parents are the first and most important teachers a child will ever have. The home is a powerful factor in determining how well a child will do in school. Parents want their child to succeed in school and often ask, "How can I help?" The ideas in this booklet are intended to help you continue to be your child's most important teacher and to become a partner in their Kindergarten experience.

- 👉 Set work, play and bedtime schedules.
- 👉 Develop a sense of independence by assigning responsibilities at home.
- 👉 Talk with your child and listen to what she has to say.
- 👉 Allow children the opportunity to experiment with various art materials. The emphasis should be on the process not the final product.
- 👉 Most importantly, **read to your child daily.**



Learn!

Reading/Visual Discrimination

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH THEIR MAGNETIC LETTERS

- ✎ Put your letters on the refrigerator in alphabetical order and practice one sound for each letter.
- ✎ Find the letters in family names.
- ✎ Play “I’m thinking of a letter.” Allow your child to ask questions that can only be answered yes or no until they guess the letter.
- ✎ Hide a letter and have your child guess the missing letter.
- ✎ Sort letters by attributes: curves/straight, consonants/vowels, colors, etc.
- ✎ Take one letter and match it to environmental print around the home.

OTHER IDEAS

- ✎ Choose a letter and look for that letter as you read a book together.
- ✎ Write a grocery list with your child by involving them in identifying letter names.
- ✎ Play a riding in the car game that involves identifying familiar signs and logos in the environment.
- ✎ Look for letters on cereal boxes, ads, food products, clothes, etc.
- ✎ Provide opportunities for your child to name colors.

****Cookie sheets can also be used for magnetic letters, be sure to keep magnetic letters and other small objects out of reach of small children****

Learn!

Writing/Fine Motor

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH THEIR NAME WRITING STRIP

- ✎ Using the strip, have your child trace their name saying each letter, progress to writing their name on their own.
- ✎ Placing a thin piece of paper over the strip, have your child copy their name. Using that paper cut it apart and have your child reassemble it.
- ✎ Pour salt onto a plate and allow your child to write their name in the salt using the name strip as a model.
- ✎ Provide clay or play dough and have your child shape the clay into letters of his name on or below the name strip.

OTHER IDEAS

- ✎ Have your child practice with scissors by cutting from magazines, newspapers or any available paper.
- ✎ Ask your child to draw a picture about a book you’ve read or an experience you’ve shared. Create a label or sentence to go with the picture.
- ✎ Write words or sentences with your child and say the letter names as you write.
- ✎ Practice zipping, buttoning, tying and lacing.

