



Welcome to Kindergarten!

We are excited that you have chosen our school for your little Kindergartener. Our hands-on curriculum motivates the most curious learners to discover the world around them. Our unique curriculum allows us to read aloud timeless classics that will instill a strong love of reading in every child, while firing the child's imagination and building the child's character. We explore the world of Mathematics through a variety of manipulatives that assist us in learning numbers and discover how they interact with one another. Science is another exciting part of our program where we explore God's beautiful creation through observations and experiments. Our faith has brought this wonderful community of learners together to Ave Maria, and through daily Mass and striving to become saints, we become the person God intends us to be!

We want our students to love coming to Kindergarten every day, which is why we want them to feel happy and confident from the first day they arrive. Following are some of the ways you can assist your child in preparing to start Kindergarten in August. Please review this checklist and work with your child in these specific skills. Your child doesn't have to master the skills but be working toward them. If there are any areas in which we can help you work with your rising kindergartener to better prepare him or her, please let us know.

KINDERGARTEN CHECKLIST:

- _____ 1. **Write first name**
- _____ 2. **Identify capital and lowercase letters Aa through Zz and their sounds.**
 - ✓ Write capital and lowercase letter (Ex: “Aa”) on a dry erase board, and discuss its name and sound with your child. Then draw pictures of words with beginning sounds of letter being introduced (Ex: apple, alligator, and ant). Review the same letter over several days, and slowly introduce new letter until all 26 letters have been learned. Once your child has learned all the letters of the alphabet, have them review and reinforce them by writing the letter you say on a dry erase board for letter identification, and the child telling you the sound that letter makes.
- _____ 3. **Identify beginning sounds of objects**
 - ✓ Play games such as, “I’m thinking of something that starts with /a/ like apple.” List as many words you can think of with same sound.
- _____ 4. **Identify words that rhyme**
 - ✓ Read Dr. Seuss or other books that have rhyming words and highlight with your voice the two words that rhyme, such as “cAT and hAT” rhyme.
- _____ 5. **Identify numbers 1 through 10, and their quantity.**
 - ✓ Write numbers 1 through 10 on individual construction paper (or use foam number tiles) and have your child hopscotch to the numbers you call out, or have them identify numbers as they jump from one to another.
 - ✓ Have your child count out small toys (teddy bear counters, marbles, etc) to match the numeral 1-10.
- _____ 6. **Identify basic shapes: (square, triangle, rectangle, and circle)**
 - ✓ Casually point out items or things with a particular shape for your child to identify (Ex. A “rectangle” window; a “circle” clock; a “triangle” pizza slice; a “square” photo frame, etc.)
- _____ 7. **Identify basic colors: (red, blue, green, yellow)**
 - ✓ Regularly identify colors of clothes, fruits, cars, toys, etc. so that children become familiar with the names of the colors. Then have the child identify colors of everyday items to you.