

Harford County Public Schools

Meeting the Maryland State Department Voluntary State Curriculum Standards for Prekindergarten



Prekindergarten

Welcome to prekindergarten! Although prekindergarten is not mandatory in the State of Maryland, Harford County Public Schools has classes for prekindergarten in many of the elementary schools throughout the county. Entering the public school system can be a daunting task for a four year old, but our programs are developmentally appropriate and very skill oriented for children who will eventually enter kindergarten. Prekindergarten helps to build the basic skills that children need in school. The highly interactive curriculum focuses on basic skills for mathematics, language arts, science, and social studies in a fun environment! Other areas of instruction that children receive include art, music, and physical education. Teacher-led activities and lessons ensure that children get the support that is needed for young children to be successful in their first experiences with school.

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Superintendent

Integrated Language Arts

Reading: Hearing the sound of letters, recognizing the alphabet, and recognizing frequently used words are important skills for learning to read. Beginning with phonics, students will:

- tell whether sounds are the same
- recognize that letters represent sounds
- identify and repeat beginning sounds in words
- group words by initial sounds
- repeat rhyming words
- recognize rhyming words from non-rhyming words
- orally blend syllables into a whole word, such as funny=funny
- clap words in a sentence
- recognize similarities and differences in letter shapes
- identify and name some upper and lower case letters in words (child's own name)

Vocabulary skills are increased by listening to, independently reading, and discussing a variety of reading materials. The meanings of new words are discussed in every subject area. Students will:

- use illustrations to find meanings of unknown words
- understand that print conveys meaning
- understand that speech can be written and read
- demonstrate the proper use of a book; read from right to left, top to bottom, and identify title

Writing: Prewriting and practice writing strategies help the student to achieve success. Students will:

- generate ideas by using letter-like shapes, symbols, and letters dictating words and phrases
- write to express personal ideas
- contribute to a shared writing experience or topic of interest
- identify and use words to communicate feelings

Mathematics

Knowledge of algebra, patterns, and functions of numbers: Students will begin to understand the concepts of mathematics through a variety of activities. Students will:

- recognize simple patterns
- create a simple pattern of 2 different objects
- begin to understand comparing groups to determine more or less

Knowledge of geometry: Students will begin to describe different shapes, solve problems, and provide logical reasons for their answers. Students will:

- sort objects by criteria: shape, color, weight, length, and size
- match shapes like triangles, circles, squares
- understand and use words like over, under, above, on, next to, below, and behind

Mathematics

Knowledge of measurement: Mathematics skills are further strengthened by using a variety of techniques to understand and demonstrate measurement. Students will:

- understand and use techniques for bigger, smaller, taller, hotter, colder, lighter, and heavier
- measure length of objects
- explore the weight of objects
- explore volume of containers

Knowledge of number relationships: Being able to describe, represent, or apply numbers or their relationships is a skill that will provide the basic foundation of mathematics. Students will:

- show an understanding of quantity
- count to 10
- understand the meaning of first, next, and last
- use concrete materials to build sets of 0-5
- write numerals



Science

Constructing knowledge: Students will begin to think about the world around them by observing, demonstrating and seeking answers to questions. Students will:

- use tools such as thermometers, magnifiers, rulers, or balances to extend their senses and gather data
- use numbers and simple fractions in ordering, counting, identifying, measuring, and describing things
- seek information through reading, observation, exploration, and investigations

Applying evidence and reasoning: Students learn that people are more likely to believe your answers if you can give good reasons for them. Students will:

- provide reasons for accepting or rejecting ideas examined
- develop reasonable explanations for observations made, investigations completed, and information gained by sharing ideas and listening to others' ideas
- explain why it is important to make some fresh observations when people give different descriptions of the same thing

Technology: Students will demonstrate their ability to design and make things, identify parts of things, and examine a variety of physical models for the purpose of describing things in the real world. Students will:

- make something out of paper, cardboard, wood, plastic or existing objects that can be used to perform a task
- recognize the use of tools to do things better or more easily
- explain that sometimes it is not possible to make or do everything that is designed
- explain that a model of something is different from the real thing

Social Studies

History: Students need to understand how individuals and societies have changed over time. Students will:

- distinguish between past, present, and future time
- identify and describe events of the day in order
- describe events in terms of yesterday, today, and tomorrow
- compare tools and toys of the past with those of today
- observe and discuss photographs of the past

Geography: Using geography students will understand the role of culture and environment in the location and how it is important to them. Students will:

- describe how people adapt to and modify their environment
- identify ways that people travel on land, water, and air
- explain how transportation is used to move goods and people from place to place
- identify and describe how a globe and map can be used.

Economics: Students will learn processes to become effective citizens, workers, and consumers. Students will:

- recognize that people have choices
- recognize that workers do jobs in the home and school
- recognize natural resources, such as water, trees, and plants which can be used to make products
- be aware of technology and how it affects life

Political Science: Understanding democratic skills and attitudes to become responsible citizens also helps children become successful students. Students will:

- identify the importance of rules for the classroom and school
- identify common symbols like the American Flag and Statue of Liberty
- practice being a citizen by saying the Pledge of Allegiance and singing the Star Spangled Banner

