



MNPS Kindergarten Readiness Newsletter

Information and Resources to Support Families

November 2023

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Dear Pre-K Families,

We hope you and your family had a chance to connect with your child's Pre-K teacher during parent-teacher conferences. Remember it's important to continue the conversation with your child's teacher to support your child's academic success.

If you would need additional supports for your child, please make sure to connect with your child's teacher.

Warm Wishes, MNPS Early Learning Team



FAMILY ACTIVITY CORNER

Each month this section will feature a recommended book and activity for families.

Rhyming with your child is a great way to develop their early literacy and oral language skills. A fun book that can help your child practice rhyming is [The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss](#).

After you read the book together, go over the rhyming words in the story with your child. Play a rhyming game using the words in the story - say two words from the book and have your child tell you if they rhyme.

ACTIVITY IDEA: Cat in the Hat - My Rhyming Hat" - Fold the top of a lunch or medium sized paper bag, and paint red and white strips on the bag with your child. Use crayons, markers or paint. Tie a piece of yarn or string to each side of the open part of the bag to create a tie to hold the hat in place for your child. Have your child choose two rhyming words from the story and have your child try to write them on the bag.



FAMILY PARTNER TIP

The cold and flu season are approaching. These can be barriers to your child attending school.

Here are tips to help you prepare:

- Create a backup plan to get your child to school.
- Practice healthy habits with your child. Such as getting plenty of sleep, consistent hand washing and dressing warmly for the weather.
- Talk to your doctor or school nurse ahead of time to know when your child should and should not come to school when they are not feeling well.



FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

Many Pre-K students really enjoy books and probably need your help in reading a book. However, there is so much more that you can do than just read the words on the pages with your child.

The next time you read a book with your child, try the following:

Go On a Picture Walk

Let your child know that before you read the book that you are both going to explore the pictures to get familiar with the book. Start with the cover and ask your child what they see and what they think the book will be about. Then start going through the pages and ask your child questions as you explore the pictures. After you're done, read the book together.

Let Your Child be the Storyteller

Look at the book's pictures with your child, and work with them to create their own story based on the pictures. For example, if there is a bear in the story, ask your child, "Where do you think the bear is going?" and start creating a story together.



FAMILY SUPPORT CORNER

Parent-Teacher conferences are a great way to connect with your child's teacher and discuss your child's academic success.

After your parent-teacher conference, it is important that you continue the conversation with your child's teacher throughout the year. Below are a few tips on how to connect with your child's teacher:

- Ask your child's teacher what support or needs does the classroom have.
- At drop off or pick up (if you are able to) connect with your child's teacher and ask how your child's day went.
- Let your child's teacher be aware of any significant changes in your child's life (i.e. moving to a new home, new baby at home, etc.)
- Schedule a virtual meeting with your child's teacher, if you have additional questions or concerns about your child.

MNPS IMPORTANT DATES

November 10: Veteran's Day (Students do not report – District Closed)

November 22-24: Thanksgiving Holiday (Students do not report)

EARLY LITERACY SKILLS

Reading with your child before bed is a wonderful way to establish a healthy bedtime routine.

Often, we get into the habit of watching TV or playing on smartphones or tablets before bed, however this activity stimulates the brain and makes it difficult to sleep.

Spending time each night reading with your child will help prepare their brain and body for rest, as well as promote language development.

Book recommendations:

- Llama Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney
- Tomorrow I'll Be Brave by Jessica Hische
- Goodnight, Numbers by Danica McKellar
- Steam Train, Dream Train by Sherri Duskey Rinker

For More Activities
& Program
Information Visit:



<https://bit.ly/MNPSCountdowntoK>