



MNPS Kindergarten Readiness Newsletter

Information and Resources to Support Families

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Dear Pre-K Families,

The MNPS Winter Holidays are around the corner! In this newsletter, we feature activities to support at home learning, and information on events for your family during the holiday season.

If you would like additional supports, please connect with your child's Pre-K teacher.

Warm Wishes, MNPS Early Learning Team



FAMILY ACTIVITY CORNER

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

Winter is fast approaching, and a fun book to read with your child during the Winter Holiday is [The Mitten by Jan Brett](#).

After you read the book together, review the book pages with your child and have your child name the animals in the story. As you look at the animals, work with your child to identify the differences between the animals. For an additional learning experience, have your child select an animal from the book and create their own story about that animal. This will help build your child's language skills.

ACTIVITY IDEA: "Look Out for Animal Tracks" - Use play dough and small toy animals for this activity. Have your child use the small toy animals to make animal tracks in the "snow" (play dough). Discuss and compare the different tracks, such as the track's size and shape. This activity also develops your child's fine motor skills.

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FAMILY PARTNER TIP

Pre-K students are sometimes eager to start writing, and that's a great opportunity to encourage your child to feel comfortable with learning how to write. Here are a few tips to support your child:

- Provide your child with crayons and plenty of paper to try to write.
- When you make your next market list, write it out with your child.
- If your child is curious about a word, write it down and encourage your child to copy the word based on sight.
- Don't worry if the letters are not perfect or the spelling is incorrect. ***They're learning!***



FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

There are many fun family activities to do locally or virtually during the Winter Holiday break. Below are a few resources for you during the break:

Nashville Public Library

The Nashville Public Library's main branch and local branches have great learning opportunities during the Winter Break. Some branches provide in person story time or virtual story time. Also, families can check out print and digital books for free (remember, a library card is free for Davidson County residents). Visit their website for event information:

<https://library.nashville.org>

Countdown to Kindergarten Website

The site provides information and resources to support kindergarten readiness. The website features an activity calendar that you can print or view online with fun at home activity ideas.

<https://earlylearning.mnps.org/countdown-to-kindergarten>



FAMILY SUPPORT CORNER

It's not too early for Pre-K families to start exploring their child's kindergarten school options. Your family will be receiving information on the MNPS School Options process.

School Options is an opportunity for families to apply to schools that they are not zoned for. To find your child's MNPS zoned school visit: <https://zonefinder.mnps.org/zonefinder/>

You will receive information on:

- School Options Application Process
- School Options Application Key Dates
- How to learn more about optional schools.

For more information visit: <https://mnps.org/learn/register-for-school/school-options>

Additional Key Kindergarten Dates:

- **January 2024:** 2024-25 School Options Application
- **February 2024:** 2024-25 MNPS Kindergarten Registration
- **April 2024:** MNPS Kindergarten Readiness Fair

Reminder: If a family applies for kindergarten through the MNPS School Options process, families will still need to register for MNPS kindergarten. MNPS kindergarten registration begins in February and information will be provided when students return from the Winter Break Holiday.

MNPS IMPORTANT DATES

December 20: Half day for all students; Second quarter ends

December 21 - January 3: Winter Break Holiday

January 4 - 5: Stockpiled Professional Development Day (Students do not report)

January 8: Students return to school.

SUPPORTING HEALTHY ROUTINES

Routines are important for Pre-K students during the Winter Holiday break.

Prior to the break, explain to your child how long he/she will be out of school, and what will be happening instead (i.e. different routines, who will be watching them at home, etc.).

During the break remember to maintain regular bed and nap time routines, as well as meal routines.

Keeping your child on a consistent schedule will support their transition back to school after the winter break.

For More Activities & Program Information Visit:



<https://bit.ly/MNPSCountdowntoK>