

## **Parents – Get Ready for Kindergarten**

- When can my child start kindergarten?
- When can I register?
- How can I help my child?
- What do I need to register my child?
- Where can I get shots?
- What books can I read?

### **When can my child start kindergarten?**

Any child who is five years old on or before August 1 can enroll in kindergarten. Proof of age is required to register. Kindergarten registration is held in early spring. Children must go to kindergarten before they begin first grade.

### **When can I register?**

Residents who wish to enroll their child in kindergarten classes may register at the elementary school during spring registration or during the summer prior to the start of school.

Simply bring the following documents to the elementary Building to enroll:

- Birth certificate
- Proof of residence (such as a utility bill)
- Immunization record
- Custody papers (if applicable)

If you need further information, call 335-5439.

### **How can I help my child?**

- Read to your child often and have him/her "read" to you. Talk about the picture and story.
- Talk to your child about everyday activities; look for shapes, sizes and colors.
- Group objects together – like all the vegetables, all the round things or find everything that is blue.
- Sing songs and play memory games.
- Help your child recognize printed words like his/her first name or words on traffic signs or in the store.
- Allow your child to make choices.
- Encourage motor skills by jumping, skipping, coloring or stringing beads.
- Count pennies, chairs and everyday items
- Encourage your child to play with other children.

## **What do I need to register my child?**

- Child's birth certificate;
- Child's Social Security card;
- Each child should have a physical and dental exam for his/her permanent record; and
- Required immunizations – new kindergartners must have the following vaccinations:
  - One dose of the chicken pox vaccine is required no earlier than four days prior to the first birthday or approximate month and year of chicken pox disease (this immunization is new for 2006 and will be phased in over the coming years for additional grades).
  - Three doses of hepatitis B (the second dose must be given no sooner than 24 days after the first; the third dose must be given no sooner than 52 days after the second, no sooner than 108 days after the first and no sooner than 164 days of age – four days prior to 24 weeks of age);
  - Two doses of MMR (the first dose must have been received no earlier than four days prior to the first birthday and the second dose no earlier than 24 days after the first);
  - Four doses of DTP, DTaP, DT or Td (if the fourth dose was given before the fourth birthday, a fifth dose is required); and
  - Three doses of polio (if the third dose was given before the fourth birthday, a fourth dose is required).
  - Students must finish the vaccine series as soon as the scheduled time between doses allows.

When you take your child to register, you must provide:

- Proof of residence; and
- Proof of custody (if parents are divorced/separated)

## **Where can I get shots?**

You may schedule immunizations with your family physician or at the Miami County Health Department.

## **What books can I read?**

- "ABC" by John Burningham
- "Colors" by Jan Pienkowski
- "I See" by Helen Oxenbury
- "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle
- "The Snowy Day" by Ezra Jack Keats
- "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" by Laura Joffe Numeroff
- "Read Aloud Rhymes For the Very Young" by Jack Prelutsky
- "Frog and Toad Series" by Arnold Lobel

