



## Getting Ready for **Kindergarten**



***WELCOME,  
to Vandalia-Butler City Schools!***

***We hope this is just the beginning  
of a positive educational journey  
for you and your child.***

***Please use this brochure as an  
informational tool to assist you in  
preparing your child for kindergarten.***

**Contact Information for Kindergarten Parents**

[www.vbcasd.com](http://www.vbcasd.com)

**Demmitt Elementary School**

1010 East National Road  
Vandalia, OH 45377  
937.415.6500  
937.415.6538 fax

**Latchkey Program (BASE)**

Demmitt BASE - 937.415.6535  
Helke BASE - 937.415.3034  
Smith BASE - 937.415.7033  
Supervisor's Office - 937.415.7041

**Helke Elementary School**

611 Randler Avenue  
Vandalia, OH 45377  
937.415.3000  
937.415.3031 fax

**Vandalia-Butler Board of Education**

500 South Dixie Drive  
Vandalia, OH 45377  
937.415.6400  
937.415.6429 fax

**Community Bus Service**

8675 Peters Pike  
Vandalia, OH 45377  
937.415.6691 or 937.415.6692  
937.415.6651 fax  
[transportation@vbcasd.com](mailto:transportation@vbcasd.com)

**Ohio Department of Education**

[www.ode.state.oh.us](http://www.ode.state.oh.us)

## Kindergarten Readiness Information

### From Preschool to Kindergarten

Make the preschool-to-kindergarten transition easier by being well prepared.

- Register your child at the appointed time for kindergarten.
- Attend kindergarten meetings/activities.
- Visit the school and classroom.
- Meet your child's kindergarten teacher.
- Provide information from your child's preschool that will be helpful to the kindergarten staff.
- Give information about your child that will help the new teachers get to know him or her.

### Kindergarten Readiness

Kindergarten readiness means that a child has adequate social, physical, and intellectual development to succeed in tasks that he or she will be expected to accomplish at the kindergarten level.

Whether a child is ready for kindergarten has more to do with levels of development than the date of his or her birthday.

To enter kindergarten, a child's most important skill is the ability to learn. However, sometimes parents and teachers may elect to postpone kindergarten if a child is unusually small, socially and emotionally immature, or poorly coordinated. This purpose is to allow extra time for the child to develop more in these areas.

Remember, each child is unique and develops at his or her own pace. Most children are stronger in some areas and weaker in others. Don't worry if your child doesn't match perfectly in all areas.

If you have doubts or questions about your child's readiness, talk to your child's preschool teachers and kindergarten staff. They know your child's strengths and weaknesses. They also teach many children so they know what adequate development for a particular age is and are trained to assess children in these areas.

### Home Habits That Will Help Your Child at School

#### *For the child:*

1. Putting away toys at pickup time.
2. Completing simple household tasks.
3. Listening to others and following directions. (A parent should give only one direction at a time and check to see that the child does what is asked.)
4. Helping others – parents, siblings, and pets.
5. Eating a good breakfast. (Parents should allow plenty of time for their child to eat so he or she does not feel rushed.)

#### *For the parent:*

1. Making sure your child leaves home in a happy frame of mind and is dressed according to the weather.
2. Taking time to talk with your child about feelings, experiences, and achievements. You should be excited over pictures and items made at school. Time spent playing and working with your child is worthwhile.
3. Arrange bedtime so your child gets approximately ten hours of sleep every night.
4. Encouraging daily outside play after school – exercise is vital for your child's physical and emotional health.
5. Providing your child with nutritious meals and wholesome snacks.
6. Encouraging your child to be enthusiastic about life at school and to talk about the day's events.

## Readiness Skills by Age 5

### Language & Literacy

- Speaks so others understand
- Listens to stories read to them
- Expresses ideas using language
- Recognizes and says simple rhymes
- Says first and last names, and street address
- Names some upper and lower case letters in addition to those in first name
- Recognizes and writes name
- Asks and answers “what, when, where, why, how” questions
- Makes up stories or tells about past events
- Tells the difference between print and pictures
- Holds a book correctly

### Cognition & General Knowledge

- Identifies and names numbers 0 to 10
- Creates a simple pattern with objects such as green, red, green, red
- Counts to 20 by touching each item
- Sorts objects by color, size, or shape
- Sorts everyday objects into categories (clothing, food, animals)
- Begins to understand sense of time (day, night, today, yesterday, tomorrow)
- Observes a situation and makes predictions on what might happen next
- States solutions to simple problems

### Social & Emotional

- Shows concern for the feelings of others
- Shows increased independence (by verbalizing wants and needs)
- Cooperates with peers in play
- Actively seeks new experiences (separates from family without being upset)
- Adjusts or adapts to group settings

### Physical & Motor Development

- Walks on tiptoes
- Skips, jumps, hops, and catches
- Walks backwards
- Throws ball overhead
- Catches large ball with both hands
- Stands on one foot without holding on
- Prints name
- Draws a person with six or more body parts
- Copies letters/shapes
- Cuts on a straight line with scissors
- Uses pencils, crayons, and scissors
- Dresses and meets toileting needs independently

### Approaches to Learning

*(curiosity, initiative, creativity, follow-through)*

- Sustains interest in a task, independently or with some adult support
- Tries several ways to solve a problem
- Experiments with a wide range of materials
- Wants to finish an activity once it is started
- Engages in pretend play with props
- Follows simple rules and routines easily
- Listens to adults/others and follows simple instructions

## Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

To do well in school, children need to be supported and nurtured in all areas of development. In addition to your child learning basic skills for reading, it is also important that your child is physically, socially, and emotionally ready for school. This checklist can help serve as your guide. But please remember, young children change so fast! If they cannot do something this week, you may see them do it a couple weeks later.

**Is your child ready for kindergarten?** Ask yourself these questions:

Development Area	Tips and Activities to Help Prepare Your Child
<p><b>Physical Skills</b> Does your child...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ enjoy outdoor play such as running, jumping, and climbing</li> <li>○ draw and trace basic shapes</li> <li>○ cut with scissors</li> <li>○ bounce a ball</li> <li>○ ride a tricycle</li> </ul>	<p><b>Limit TV time. Give your child time each day to play outdoors.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Materials that will help your child develop the motor skills needed to learn to write include crayons, markers, pencils, glue, scissors, paintbrushes, puzzles, legos, and blocks.</li> <li>❖ Activities that will help your child's coordination include climbing, jumping skipping, playing ball, using playground equipment and riding a tricycle.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health and Safety Needs</b> Has your child...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ had required shots</li> <li>○ had a dental exam</li> <li>○ had a vision exam</li> <li>○ learned own first and last name</li> <li>○ learned first and last name of parent</li> <li>○ learned to watch for cars when crossing the street</li> <li>○ learned to not talk to strangers</li> <li>○ developed a set routine for going to bed</li> <li>○ learned to follow rules for safety</li> </ul>	<p><b>Children need to be healthy in order for learning to occur. Make sure immunizations are up to date and your child has had a recent check-up.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Help your child learn their full name, address, and telephone number.</li> <li>❖ Help your child to look both ways when crossing the street.</li> <li>❖ Talk with your child about strangers and who to go to for help.</li> <li>❖ Use bedtime as the opportunity to read to and talk with your child.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Personal Needs</b> Without your help, your child can...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ use the bathroom</li> <li>○ wash hands</li> <li>○ brush teeth</li> <li>○ use tissue to blow nose</li> <li>○ button, snap, and zip up shirts and pants</li> <li>○ put on and take off coat</li> <li>○ tie and/or Velcro shoes</li> </ul>	<p><b>Encourage your child to try things they've learned before asking for help. Praise their attempts whether or not successful on the first try.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Create morning and bedtime bathing and tooth brushing routines.</li> <li>❖ Allow your child to dress themselves.</li> <li>❖ Practice putting shoes on.</li> <li>❖ Help your child learn to use their words to tell other grownups when they are feeling sick or hurt.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social and Emotional Skills</b> Does your child...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ play well with other children</li> <li>○ separate from a parent without being upset</li> <li>○ verbalize wants and needs</li> <li>○ share with other children</li> <li>○ care about the feelings of others</li> <li>○ follow routines</li> <li>○ put toys away when asked</li> <li>○ adjust or adapt to group settings</li> </ul>	<p><b>Your child needs to feel excited and comfortable about starting kindergarten. Talk with them about what to expect, listen to their thoughts and ideas, and let them know that you are excited too!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Give your child small chores to learn responsibility.</li> <li>❖ Help your child learn to follow directions by giving simple steps.</li> <li>❖ Encourage your child to share.</li> <li>❖ Praise your child when he or she does something well.</li> <li>❖ Provide guidance when your child is having difficulty. Ask them to talk with you about why and problem solve together.</li> </ul>



Visit us on the Web at [www.vbcd.com](http://www.vbcd.com).

