



Baltimore County Public Schools

Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

2011-2012 Guide for Parents *PreKindergarten Standards*

LANGUAGE ARTS

Direct instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, spelling, handwriting, and written language is included in a comprehensive language arts program. Students in prekindergarten should know and be able to:

- Listen attentively in a variety of situations.
- Comprehend basic concepts.
- Classify information.
- Communicate ideas clearly when speaking.
- Recite nursery rhymes, finger plays, songs, and poems.
- Demonstrate phonological awareness skills.
- Identify some upper and lower case letters.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the concepts of print.
- Sequence and retell events or stories.
- Comprehend information in fiction and non-fiction texts.
- Communicate ideas through drawings, scribble, symbols, and letters.
- Use pictures to perform a task.

MATHEMATICS

The elementary mathematics content includes algebra, geometry, measurement, statistics, and number relationships and computation. Students explore these concepts through problem solving, reasoning, communicating ideas about math, and making connections within math and to other subject areas and to the real world. Students in prekindergarten should know and be able to:

- Count orally to ten.
- Use one-to-one correspondence (touch an object and give that object a number name) to count up to five objects.
- Match objects that are the same size, shape, and color.
- Sort objects by one characteristic (color, size, shape, etc.).
- Use materials to make a simple pattern (such as red block, blue block, red block, blue block, red block, blue block.)
- Match triangles, circles, squares, and rectangles.
- Use pictures and concrete materials to display and interpret data.
- Use objects to recognize and apply measurement attributes for length, capacity, and weight.
- Begin to orally use mathematical vocabulary to describe and explain thinking.

SCIENCE

Curriculum is centered on themes and units that reflect real-life experiences that are appropriate and meaningful. Students in prekindergarten should know and be able to:

- Use the senses to observe and describe the environment.
- Investigate using simple tools and equipment.
- Compare objects and things in the environment.
- Observe and describe weather patterns.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Curriculum is centered on themes and units that reflect real-life experiences that are appropriate and meaningful. Students in prekindergarten should know and be able to:

- Identify likenesses and differences in self and families.
- Identify the tools and responsibilities of community workers.
- Identify the purpose for rules in the home and school.
- Demonstrate an awareness of technology in daily living.

HEALTH

Health instruction is designed to provide the functional knowledge and skills to enhance health and well-being. Students in prekindergarten should know and be able to apply:

- Basic safety rules and practices.
- Age-appropriate emergency procedures.
- Healthful eating habits.
- Personal cleanliness skills.
- Good dental hygiene.

LIBRARY MEDIA

The library media program focuses on preparing students for success in the 21st Century through inquiry-based learning. Students will apply critical-thinking skills to investigate essential questions, to gather information to solve real-world problems, and to communicate new knowledge and understanding. Also, students learn comprehension skills and literacy strategies to become engaged, purposeful, and strategic readers who choose reading as a lifelong endeavor. Students in prekindergarten should know and be able to:

- Use the Internet, digital content, and technology tools to efficiently and effectively locate, explore, gather, evaluate, organize, synthesize, and communicate information.
- Listen to and discuss stories that provide examples of characters solving problems that reflect human experiences.
- Discover the pleasure of reading by listening to and viewing a variety of printed and digital text.

MUSIC

The elementary music program is a comprehensive program of instruction aligned to the *Maryland State Curriculum*. Students in prekindergarten should know and be able to:

- Compare and contrast sounds with word association.
- Develop listening skills.
- Develop gross motor skills.
- Develop awareness of different uses of the voice.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The physical education program focuses on skill development in body and spatial awareness; fundamental and creative movement; basic skills; and rhythms and dance. By the end of prekindergarten, students will:

- Participate in kinesthetic activities that encourage language development and reading readiness.

TECHNOLOGY

The instructional technology program helps students develop the skills they need to use the computer as a tool. Students use computers to find and use information, to solve problems, and to create products to communicate ideas. Students learn that technology is important at home, school, and work. Ethical use of computers is also an important part of the program.

VISUAL ARTS

The prekindergarten visual arts program focuses on the theme: *A Time for Exploring and Discovering*. Students in prekindergarten should know and be able to:

- Identify shapes, colors and lines.
- Manipulate art media, materials, and tools safely.
- Identify ideas expressed by artists.
- Use color, line, and shape to represent ideas from observation, memory, and imagination.
- Describe and share personal artworks.