

Kindergarten at The Classical Academy

There is no one quality or skill that children need in order to do well in Kindergarten. A combination of factors contributes to school success. These factors include physical well-being, social and emotional maturity, language skills, the ability to solve problems and think creatively, and a general knowledge about the world. School success also depends upon the “match” between a child’s skills and knowledge base, and the expectations of the school. The Classical Academy’s Core Values and introductory videos found on our website will give you important information regarding what TCA values and what you can expect for you child as they enter our K-12 program.

Kindergarten Readiness

Students ready for kindergarten are able to:

1. State their first and last name
2. Take turns, share and act respectfully toward others
3. Participate in group experiences (familiarization through Sunday school, preschool, library time)
4. Dress themselves (snap, button, zip) very helpful for using the bathroom independently
5. Demonstrate large motor skills such as skipping, hopping, and jumping
6. Apply fine motor skills using pencils, crayon, scissors, and glue with proficiency
7. Follow one, two, and three step directions
8. Identify the front cover of a book, hold the book correctly and listen intently to the entire story
9. Recite portions of basic nursery rhymes from memory
10. Stay focused while sitting and listening for a period of 15 minutes at a time
11. Write first name with a capital letter at the beginning followed by lowercase letters
12. Identify all 26 letters of the alphabet, colors and basic shapes and numbers to 25
13. Count from 1 to 25 and name the days of the week

Parental Responsibilities for Supporting Kindergarten Success

1. **Background knowledge** is the most important factor contributing to your child’s success in reading and listening comprehension. Create opportunities for your child to explore the world by taking nature walks, visiting museums, zoos, art displays, and historical sites.
2. An **expansive vocabulary** is the second most important factor in setting up your child for success. Be purposeful in having conversation with your child. Turn off or limit TV, video, and computer games. Rather let your child be saturated in an environment of real human interaction.
3. **Read to your child daily.** Read aloud to them often and from a variety of genres. Books and conversations about books plow the soil for a future passion for reading.
4. **Motor skills are essential for kindergarten success.** Give your child opportunities to build large motor skills by spending time outdoors. Build fine motor skills by working puzzles, coloring, and playing with building toys such as Legos.
5. **Support in-class learning** by reading aloud to them every day, practicing phonograms and spelling words introduced, assisting with math skills by playing board games that involve dice, counting and problem solving and provide opportunities to follow multi-step directions.
6. **Stay involved** by visiting the classroom occasionally to help with small groups, attend a field trip, or assist the teacher.

Please view this very thought provoking TED Talk by Dimitri Christakis, a pediatrician that speaks on Media and Children: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BoT7qH_uVNo&t=11s