

# SVdP Kindergarten Program

An effective kindergarten program is broad enough in scope to accommodate the varying ranges in rate, timing and learning development that exist in young children. These needs center upon the whole child—mentally, physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually! Our kindergarten program is planned by teachers who know about the ways young children learn best. These are natural ways for children to use their capacities, to grow and to learn many skills. The St. Vincent de Paul kindergarten program captures this natural process through planned opportunities in these areas:

## **Spiritual Development**

The kindergarten year is a wonderful time for teachers to support families in developing the Catholic identity of their children. It is a time to celebrate simple rituals and the traditions of the Church. Kindergarten is a time to introduce the children to a beginning faith vocabulary and provide a readiness for future catechesis in the faith of the Catholic Church. Religious growth will include:

- a natural sense of wonder and awe that will foster a sensitivity to the sacred
- forming an image of God
- experiencing God's love through parents and teachers and clergy
- prayer that comes naturally and an enjoyment of ceremony and ritual
- becoming comfortable with formal and spontaneous prayer
- interpreting Bible stories and other stories literally

## Kindergarten Daily Prayers

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| <p><b>MORNING OPENING</b></p> <p>O my God, I offer Thee<br/>All my thoughts, words, and deeds<br/>of this day.<br/>I ask Thee to bless me, my God,<br/>And make me good today. Amen.</p>  | <p><b>GUARDIAN ANGEL</b></p> <p>Angel of God, my guardian dear,<br/>To whom God's love commits me here,<br/>Ever this day be at my side,<br/>To light and guard, to rule and guide.<br/>Amen.</p>   |
| <p><b>BLESSING BEFORE MEALS</b></p> <p>Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts,<br/>which we are about to receive,<br/>from Thy bounty, through Christ our Lord.<br/>Amen.</p>  | <p><b>GLORY BE</b></p> <p>Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,<br/>and to the Holy Spirit.<br/>As it was in the beginning, is now and<br/>ever shall be, world without end. Amen.</p>  |
| <p><b>HAIL MARY</b></p> <p>Hail Mary, full of Grace! The Lord is with<br/>thee, blessed art thou among women,<br/>and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.<br/>Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us<br/>sinners, now and at the hour of our death.<br/>Amen.</p> | <p><b>OUR FATHER</b></p> <p>Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed<br/>be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy<br/>will be done on earth as it is in heaven.<br/>Give us this day our daily bread, and<br/>forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive<br/>those who trespass against us, and lead us<br/>not into temptation, but deliver us from<br/>evil. Amen.</p>   |
| <p><b>FATIMA PRAYER</b></p> <p>O my Jesus, forgive us our sins and save us<br/>from the fires of Hell. Lead all souls to<br/>heaven, especially those in most need of<br/>Thy mercy. Amen.</p>  | <p><b>HAIL HOLY QUEEN</b></p> <p>Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our<br/>life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee<br/>do we cry, poor banished children of Eve,<br/>To thee do we send up our sighs,<br/>mourning and weeping in this valley of<br/>tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate,<br/>thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after<br/>this, our exile, show unto us the blessed<br/>fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O<br/>loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! (strike<br/>breast at each invocation) Pray for us, O<br/>Holy Mother of God. That we may be<br/>made worthy of the promises of Christ.<br/>Amen.</p> |

## **Language and Literacy Development**

Language development involves speaking, listening, writing and reading. Young children are excellent language learners. They have learned to communicate comfortably with others and are already very aware of written language.

During the kindergarten year, students experience the enjoyment of reading while they learn the foundational strategies and skills that will enable them to read independently. Students learn these enabling skills of phonemic awareness, letter names, sound-letter correspondences, decoding skills, high frequency vocabulary, and comprehension skills as they listen and respond to a variety of texts. They enjoy listening to stories, relating characters and events to their own life experiences, dramatizing stories, and responding to stories through art and writing activities. They can extend their oral language skills when given opportunities to express themselves, and they can learn how language is recorded to convey experiences and ideas as they observe their experiences and ideas being written. Kindergarten students will engage in word play, listen and respond to children's literature, and build reading and writing concepts, skills, and strategies. In our kindergarten program, children have the opportunity to:

- listen to and join in the reading of stories, songs, poems
- respond to stories through discussion, drama, art, music and movement
- work on projects collaboratively with other children
- explore sounds, letters, words, etc.
- experiment with writing by drawing, copying, manipulating magnetic letters
- browse through self-selected books and magazines.
- dictate stories
- read stories

## **Mathematical and Scientific Development**

The five-year old child acquires an understanding of mathematics and science through repeated experiences using concrete, manipulative material. The use of dittos and workbooks is limited, as these often

result in only superficial gains which mask deficiencies of understanding. Scientific and mathematical development occurs when children have opportunities to:

- sort and classify
- count
- match
- measure
- solve problems of interest to the child
- recognize numerals
- become aware of time intervals and spatial relationships
- develop number concepts
- explore, question, observe, predict, discuss the world around him (living things, color, shape, size, texture, etc.)

### **Physical Development**

The physical development and well-being of each child is very important to his overall growth and development. The kindergarten teacher recognizes that the young child is still developing his physical stature as well as attitudes toward good health. The program allows opportunities for each child to:

- develop muscular control and coordination
- develop a sense of rhythm
- find acceptable outlets for tensions and emotions
- learn to care for his body and value physical health
- learn and practice rules of safety
- find enjoyment in participating in physical activities

### **Social and Emotional Development**

Learning is an extricable part of the concept of self. No learning occurs that does not involve feelings, and what is learned affects a child's concept of self. It is the role of our teachers to provide a climate in which democratic living is practiced, and one that is happy, realistic, interesting and friendly where each child can:

- learn from the group
- share and take turns
- practice politeness and thoughtfulness and respect

- respect the rights and property of others
- feel a sense of belonging
- accept guidance and authority
- experience joy and satisfaction from self-expression and success
- obtain a sense of affection, approval, independence and self-respect

## **Creative Expression**

The kindergarten child needs many ways to express personal thoughts and feelings. As verbal expression develops so must expression through art, music, dance/movement, creative dramatics and literature. The children will have opportunities to:

- explore body movement through music
- use their voices in singing
- explore different art media—paint, clay, crayons, etc.
- express themselves creatively
- learn about famous artists
- understand the world about them through creative dramatics; role play, puppets.

**As a parent, you are the best judge of whether or not your child is ready. Here are a few questions to ask yourself:**

### **1. Age:**

When is your son's or daughter's birthday in relation to the school cutoff date of Sept. 1? Will they be the youngest or the oldest in the class? Being the oldest is often seen as a positive because a child will be more mature both physically and mentally- potentially more prepared to read, more coordinated in sports and other physical activities, and more able to excel. This can enhance their self-esteem, confidence level, and allow them to be a leader. Being the youngest can have benefits, especially for gifted children, but otherwise, it can be overwhelming. Younger children may appear immature and be unprepared to tackle tasks that their significantly older classmates find challenging and intriguing.

## **2. Social Skills:**

Does your child use words when angry instead of being physical? Can he follow simple one- or two- step directions? Can he pay attention for 15 minutes to adult directed tasks? Can she express her feelings and needs? Can she listen to stories without interrupting? Does she ask questions about the world around her? Can he play well with other children including sharing and taking turns? These qualities are all essential for children entering kindergarten. The ratio of students to teachers is lower in preschool, so kids need to be able to properly communicate, without the one-on-one guidance and intervention preschool often provides.

## **3. Motor Skills:**

Can your child hold scissors properly? Hold a pencil correctly? Put a puzzle together? Can he run, skip, and jump? Can she button/unbutton her clothes? Can he throw a ball and pedal a bike? Gross motor skills have to do with big muscles- the ones that help kids on the playground. Fine motor skills are small muscle movements of the fingers that eventually translate into the ability to do school readiness activities. If your child can't do these fine motor tasks, it means that they may have a harder time with the activities that typically occur in the kindergarten classroom- like art projects and learning to write.

## **4. Academic Skills:**

Does your child tell stories? Can she count to 10 and recite the alphabet? Does he speak in sentences of five words or more? Can he retell the general storyline of a book that has been read to him? Can she recognize five colors? Can she write her name? Kindergarten will build upon these skills, but a child should enter with some of these already in place.

Of course, no child is perfect at all things and everyone develops at their own pace. But all of these issues play a part in kindergarten readiness.

Parents struggle every year to decide if their child is ready to take that first big step into formal education. Even if this day and age, when children get their feet wet in preschool, not all kids are prepared for kindergarten. True, they may be able to do some basic reading and writing, but kindergarten is about so much more than academics.

### **Our Advice:**

Before sending your child off to school, think about what they'll need to be successful. It's not just about knowing their alphabet or being able to write their name. Age, social, motor and academic skills should all play a part in your decision.

Kindergarten is the first big step in a long line of formal learning. Remember, no one knows your child better than you do. Follow your gut and don't be afraid to ask questions. Rest assured that teachers want your child to succeed just as much as you do!

**To register go to the school page at**

**<http://www.svdpvikings.com/School/NewStudentRegistration.aspx>**

**Fill out the 2 forms found on this page and submit.**