

Dear Families,

One of the biggest questions I receive is “What does my child do all day in kindergarten?” Usually when you ask your child the answer is a simple, “Nothing.” or “I don’t know.” Below is a quick overview of the day and life in kindergarten. We do most of these activities on a daily basis. In between these activities we usually sing and dance for movement breaks. Along with the description of the activity I have attached questions that can help guide the discussion with your child. You will get a more detailed answer from your child since the questions are specific to each activity. Please be advised, your child may not want to talk about his/her day as soon as you get home.

Some other helpful hints and other questions to ask your child

Try to avoid asking, “What did you do in school today?” It is way to general. Try using sentence starters such as; “*Tell me about...*”, “*What was the best part of your day?*” “*Who did you sit with at lunch?*” “*What did your table friends talk about during snack time?*” “*Did you learn any new songs?*” “*Did you do something different in school today?*”

Daily News

Daily news is a morning message written by the teacher. The children gather at the learning rug in front of the chart paper to watch and listen as the teacher models writing skills. At times children are asked to write parts of the daily news or give ideas for the teacher to write on the chart paper. The daily news is read as a class (we sometimes even act it out) as the teacher models how to read left to right using vocal expression.

Questions to ask:

How did your teacher begin (the greeting) the daily news today? (Dear, Hi, Howdy, etc)

How did your teacher close the daily news today? (Bye-Bye, Love, Ciao-Ciao for now, See ya)

What popcorn words did you find in the daily news?

Writer’s Workshop

During Writer’s Workshop, the children meet at the learning rug for a story and/or mini lesson that focuses on the target skill for the day. We will also study several authors throughout the year and will use their books as models for writing and to facilitate discussions. After the story/lesson, the teacher models writing in the journal then dismisses the children to complete their own journal/book writing. The children are free to choose what to write about when writing in their journals or creating books. The journals will come home at the end of the year and the books will come home as they are completed and shared with the teacher. The children’s “writing” consists of mostly pictures with words sprinkled in. We consider their pictures writing because it is conveying a message. As the children develop as writers throughout the year you will begin to see more sophisticated writing (a sentence with many popcorn words).

Questions to ask:

Did you study an author today? Tell me about him/her? What are some special things you learned about the author? (family background, how/why he/she started writing, the topics the author likes to write about, something unique about his illustrations/writing)

What do you like about the author's writing/illustrations?

What did you choose to write in today during Writer's workshop? (journal or make a book)

What ideas did you write about?

Independent reading bags: A part of Reader's Workshop is dedicated to practicing independent reading with "just right" books. The children are given a chance once a week to choose books and that they will read during independent reading time.

What color is your reading bag?

How did you decorate your name tag for your reading bag?

Where is your special spot to read? What do you like/dislike about it?

How many minutes is the class's reading stamina?

Calendar/Math

The math program is a hands-on, interactive, and spiraling program. The children are engaged in daily counting, patterning, and problem solving activities.

How many days have you been in school? Was the number a blue or black number?

Did anyone lose a tooth or get a haircut? Who has more haircuts, boys or girls?

Which weather boxes have the most days filled in (sunny, rainy, windy, snowy, cloudy)?

Free Choice

During free choice the children are allowed to choose freely between several activities. Play is facilitated by the teacher focusing on developing social skills.

What did you choose to play with during free choice?

Who did you play with?

Did you create anything creation station/arts and crafts?

We hope this helps. As always, if you have any questions feel free to contact your child's teacher.

The Kindergarten Team