



# Frisco ISD Kindergarten Handbook

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# FISD Elementary School Directory

## **Allen Elementary**

5800 Legacy Drive  
Frisco, TX 75034  
Phone: 469-633-3800  
Teresa Wilkinson, Principal

## **Anderson Elementary**

2800 Oakland Hills Drive  
Plano, TX 75025  
Phone: 469-633-2300  
Monica Jackson, Principal

## **Ashley Elementary**

15601 Christopher Lane  
Frisco, TX 75035  
Phone: 469-633-3700  
Kathy Kazanski, Principal

## **Bledsoe Elementary**

1900 Timber Ridge Drive  
Frisco, TX 75034  
Phone: 469-633-3600  
Beverly Woodson, Principal

## **Boals Elementary**

2035 Jaguar Drive  
Frisco, TX 75034  
Phone: 469-633-3300  
Anna Koenig, Principal

## **Borchardt Elementary**

4300 Waskom Drive  
Plano, TX 75024  
Phone: 469-633-2800  
Betty King, Principal

## **Bright Elementary**

7600 Woodstream Drive  
Frisco, TX 75034  
Phone: 469-633-2700  
Susie Graham, Principal

## **Carroll Elementary**

4380 Throne Hall Drive  
Frisco, TX 75034  
Phone: 469-633-3725  
Melissa Longfellow, Principal

## **Christie Elementary**

10300 Huntington Road  
Frisco, TX 75035  
Phone: 469-633-2400  
Manual Gonzales, Principal

## **Corbell Elementary**

11095 Monarch Drive  
Frisco, TX 75034  
Phone: 469-633-3550  
David Wehmeyer, Principal

## **Curtsinger Elementary**

12450 Jereme Trail  
Frisco, TX 75035  
Phone: 469-633-2100  
Angie Borgarello, Principal

## **Elliott Elementary**

3721 Hudson Crossing  
McKinney, TX 75070  
Phone: 469-633-3750  
Stacy Mills, Principal

## **Fisher Elementary**

2500 Old Orchard Drive  
Frisco, TX 75034  
Phone: 469-633-2600  
Nancy Fatheree, Principal

## **Gunstream Elementary**

7600 Rockyridge  
Frisco, TX 75035  
Phone: 469-633-3100  
David Smolka, Principal

## **Isbell Elementary**

6000 Maltby Drive  
Frisco, TX 75035  
Phone: 469-633-3400  
Ginger Lemons, Principal

## **Mooneyham Elementary**

2301 Eden Drive  
McKinney, TX 75070  
Phone: 469-633-3650  
Michele Lott, Principal

## **Ogle Elementary**

4200 Big Fork Trail  
McKinney, TX 75070  
Phone: 469-633-3525  
Laurie Tinsley, Principal

## **Pink Elementary**

3650 Overhill Drive  
Frisco, TX 75034  
Phone: 469-633-3500  
Bethany Rowan, Principal

## **Purefoy Elementary**

11880 Teel Parkway  
Frisco, Texas 75034  
Phone: 469-633-3875  
Mary Webb, Principal

## **Riddle Elementary**

8201 Robinson Road  
Plano, TX 75024  
Phone: 469-633-3200  
Jina Eksaengsri, Principal

## **Robertson Elementary**

2501 Woodlake Drive  
Little Elm, TX 75068  
Phone: 469-633-3675  
James Iorio, Principal

## **Rogers Elementary**

10500 Rogers Road  
Frisco, TX 75034  
Phone: 469-633-2000  
Susan Nesmith, Principal

## **Sem Elementary**

12721 Honey Grove Drive  
Frisco, TX 75034  
Phone: 469-633-3575  
Dianna High, Principal

## **Shawnee Trail Elementary**

10701 Preston Vineyard Drive  
Frisco, TX 75035  
Phone: 469-633-2500  
Sherri Wakeland, Principal

## **Smith Elementary**

9800 Sean Drive  
Frisco, TX 75035  
Phone: 469-633-2200  
Matt Kimball, Principal

## **Sonntag Elementary**

2001 Reagan Drive  
McKinney, Texas 75070  
Phone: 469-633-3850  
Shannon Acosta, Principal

## **Sparks Elementary**

8200 Otis Drive  
Frisco, TX 75034  
Phone: 469-633-3000  
Marilee McMichael, Principal

## **Spears Elementary**

8500 Wade Blvd  
Frisco, TX 75034  
Phone: 469-633-2900  
Martha Moroch, Principal

## **Tadlock Elementary**

12515 Godfrey Drive  
Frisco, TX 75035  
Phone: 469-633-3775  
Kellie Rapp, Principal

## **Taylor Elementary**

9865 Gillespie Drive  
Plano, TX 75025  
Phone: 469-633-3625  
Tanya Vargas, Principal



# Dear Parents,

Welcome to Frisco ISD! As we begin our partnership in your child's education, our goal is that the kindergarten year is a rich successful one in which each student discovers the many wonders of school and learning. You are welcomed and encouraged to be a partner with your child's school in this important beginning.

Meaningful experiences have been planned for your child that will develop skills in the curriculum areas of reading, writing, oral language, math, science, social studies, technology, art, music, and physical education. The learning environment in Frisco ISD is based on best practices, ensuring that instruction is academically and developmentally appropriate. This child-centered approach to instruction is individualized to meet your child's needs and foster his/her mental, physical and academic growth and development.

You play an important role in helping your child develop a positive attitude toward school and learning. As we partner with you, your kindergartner will develop life skills such as accepting responsibility, following directions, working and playing with others in a friendly manner, communicating effectively, and solving problems in a positive way.

We look forward to an exciting year with you and your child. Our staff strives to support you and your child as you transition into kindergarten.

We ask for your support and encourage close two-way communication between home and school. Your child's success is our number one priority! This handbook is intended to provide helpful information about our kindergarten program.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Lawson  
Director of Elementary Instruction

# Kindergarten Academic Program

A typical kindergarten day will include a literacy block consisting of read aloud time, lessons focusing on the development of phonological awareness and phonics, shared reading, independent reading, shared writing, independent writing, small group literacy instruction, literacy focused learning centers, and handwriting instruction using vertical block strokes (Handwriting Without Tears).

Also included as part of the children's day is a calendar time and math instruction including math centers and manipulatives. Kindergarten students will also engage in science and social studies instruction, regular access to the library, computer lab, physical education, and fine arts. Students are offered a daily recess time. The academic program for kindergarten addresses all the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Information regarding the TEKS can be found on the Texas Education Website: <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us>.

## CORE AREAS

### **Literacy: Reading/Writing**

As previously mentioned the kindergarten day includes a variety of literacy activities and teaching methods focusing on core areas of reading and writing. This is achieved through a balanced literacy approach. The typical kindergarten literacy block includes a mix of whole group and small group instruction. The curriculum ensures the state standards (TEKS) are carefully followed while also meeting the individual academic needs of each student.

### **Mathematics**

Our math curriculum is a problem-based, hands-on approach to foster the conceptual development of the state standards (TEKS). The mathematics block includes a blend of whole group and small group instruction, along with daily calendar activities that spiral required mathematical skills throughout the year. Kindergarten student learning standards can be found at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=6148>

### **Science, Social Studies and Health**

FISD kindergarten teachers approach science through hands-on learning opportunities. Students work in cooperative groups while performing investigations dealing with the five senses, matter and its physical properties; importance of light, heat and sound energy; location and motion of objects, weather; appearance of objects in the sky; interdependence of organisms; living and nonliving things; life cycle of plants; and likeness between parents and offspring. In social studies, students learn about their role in the classroom and their school environment. The student is also introduced to important figures in their school environment and community. In health, students study topics such as making healthy choices in the areas of food, bicycle safety, and exercise, as well as thorough hand washing techniques, weather safety and appropriate use of the 911 service.

# Learning Environment

The kindergarten learning environment is student-centered and unique. The classroom is set up in ways that encourage an active and hands-on approach to learning. Students will explore, create, and interact with others through a flexible yet structured atmosphere that ensures objectives are met.

Literacy/Learning Centers that may be found in the kindergarten classroom include:

- ▶ Classroom Library
- ▶ Listening/Stories on Tape
- ▶ Writing/Publishing
- ▶ Computer/Technology
- ▶ Number/Shape Study
- ▶ Science/Discovery
- ▶ Word Study
- ▶ Art/Crafts/Projects
- ▶ Math Manipulatives
- ▶ Patterns/Measurement
- ▶ ABC/Letter Study
- ▶ Fine Motor/Puzzles
- ▶ Problem Solving

## What will my child's day include while at school?

While schedules will vary, a typical kindergarten week will include:

- Daily literacy, science and math instruction
- Daily calendar time
- Centers for academic reinforcement of previously taught skills
- Social studies and health instruction
- Physical education
- Fine arts
- Library time
- Computer lab
- Daily recess with peers
- Lunchtime



# Assessment and Evaluation

Assessment is an ongoing process throughout the kindergarten year. The primary sources of assessment are Frisco ISD's Literacy Assessments and Math Concept-Based Assessments, Science Observation Checklists and teacher observations.

- ▶ Math Assessments are administered periodically throughout the nine-week grading period. The material to be tested comes from the district's aligned mathematics curriculum.
- ▶ Frisco ISD's Literacy Assessments consist of several components:

- ISIP (iStation's Indicators of Progress) ISIP is a computer adaptive testing system. Kindergarten ISIP assessments include listening comprehension, phonemic awareness, letter knowledge and vocabulary. ISIP assessments may be administered monthly to monitor progress in order to assist teachers in planning appropriate literacy instruction.
- DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) It is not necessary for a student to know how to read to begin kindergarten. However, if a student enters kindergarten reading, literacy instruction at the student's reading level will be provided. The DRA is administered when needed to help teachers select appropriate texts for small group reading instruction (guided reading.)
- Ongoing assessments of reading progress during small group reading instruction

## How will I find out about my child's progress in school?

Parents are informed of their child's progress in various ways throughout the school year.

- Teachers have a daily conference / planning period to meet with parents as needed or requested.
- A weekly folder is used to communicate expectations and accomplishments in addition to e-mail communication.
- School newsletters are regularly posted on each school's website.
- A fall conference day is included on the school calendar each year. To better accommodate parent schedules, the hours for conferences are 10 am-6 pm.
- An academic report noting the child's progress is given to parents following each nine-week grading period.



# Parental Involvement

Your involvement and participation in school is essential to your child's success. We believe that your child's fullest potential can be reached when home and school work collaboratively. As a Frisco ISD parent, you are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the many opportunities to be involved by:

- Joining your school PTA (Parent Teacher Association)
  - Attending monthly PTA meetings
  - Serving on various PTA committees
- Volunteering your time and energy to various classroom and school projects (see note below)
- Attending parent-teacher conferences scheduled throughout the year
- Reinforcing skills and concepts introduced at school
- Regularly checking your child's take home folder

## Volunteering

Volunteer opportunities are available at each school. **Please check with your child's school and teacher for a list of these opportunities.** Volunteers and visitors are required to check in with the office prior to entering any other area of the building. The first time you visit the school, you will be asked for your Driver's License. This will be scanned through the Raptor System. You only have to do this once. We also request that you wear a visitor name tag for identification purposes. This will be provided to you when you sign in at the school each time you visit.

Your help at school is greatly appreciated; therefore, we ask that you make arrangements for siblings so that your time is used efficiently. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

For the safety of our students a Background Check Application must be completed before working in our schools – serving as a sponsor for study trips, working with small groups of students, etc. **These forms are available in the office or on the district's website.** (<https://forms.friscoisd.org/backgroundcheck>)

**Student safety is our first priority.**



# At what age do children start kindergarten?

A student is eligible to attend our full-day kindergarten program if he/she is five years of age or older on or before September 1 of the school year. A student who is younger than five years of age as of September 1 may enter kindergarten but is required to pass the third grade level state mandated test.

## Is kindergarten all day?

Kindergarten in FISD is a full day program. Kindergarten students begin the day at 7:50 am and are dismissed at 2:50 pm.

## What do I need to register my child for kindergarten?

To register your child for kindergarten you will need:

- Birth certificate
- Social security card, if applicable
- Immunization records
- Proof of residence

For example: Current utility bill (other than phone), closing statement on house or lease agreement

- Enrolling parents' or guardians' driver license.

## Is there a lunch program at school?

Lunch is prepared and served at every campus. Parents will receive a calendar at the beginning of the year with lunch choices listed. Kindergarten students eat at designated tables in the school's cafeteria. Students are assigned a six digit student identification number used to purchase lunches and for parents to access lunch accounts. Please check your child's account weekly. There are several payment options for parents. Free and reduced-price meals are available to students who qualify based on family size and income as established by federal guidelines. For more information, visit our website at [www.friscoisd.org](http://www.friscoisd.org) and click "Lunch Menu/Nutrition Forms" to visit the Child Nutrition page.

## Do kindergarten students share common school areas with older students?

Every FISD school is designed using pods/hallways that accommodate specific grade levels. Restrooms are located in each pod or hallway and designated for use by the particular grade levels in the area. Each grade has an assigned recess and lunchtime. Kindergarten students will eat at tables with other kindergarten students and will participate in recess with other kindergarten students as well.

# What can I do to prepare my child for school?

- Make reading with your child part of your daily routine.
- When reading with your child, stop periodically to discuss the content of the text and pictures.  
This promotes reading comprehension.
- After reading a story with your child, immediately engage them in retelling the story (with your support).
- Provide a wide variety of books.
- Make a special place for books in your child's room.
- Obtain a library card for your child. For more information about the Frisco Public Library go to [www.friscolibrary.com](http://www.friscolibrary.com).
- Give your child books as presents.
- Encourage your child to draw pictures and tell a story about their drawings.
- Accept your child's pretend reading.
- Point out print in the environment (signs, cereal boxes).
- Make signs and labels for objects.
- Provide materials (crayons, pencils, paper) and a space for writing.
- Provide opportunities for your child to scribble and draw.  
Scribbling is early writing.
- Have a place to display your child's writing efforts.
- Provide magnetic letters for your child to practice forming words.
- Let your child see you write and read.
- Encourage your child to recognize their first name in print.
- Allow your child the opportunity to practice writing their name with the first letter capitalized and the remaining letters in lowercase.
- Sing familiar songs.
- Teach your child nursery rhymes.
- Focus on your child's strengths and celebrate their accomplishments.
- Set up a routine or sequence for personal care and other daily routines.
- Talk with your child about what interests him or her.
- Use open-ended questions that have more than one answer such as  
"What do you think?"  
"How would you feel?"
- Encourage language development by listening carefully to your child and encouraging two-sided conversations.

- Play rhyming games.
- Get down on eye level and show your interest.
- Encourage other family members to listen.
- Provide age appropriate toys that require thinking. This includes puzzles, blocks, or sorting toys.
- Foster creativity.
- Provide experiences with scissors such as cutting pictures from a magazine.
- Provide opportunities to use crayons, markers, pencils, and glue.
- Save scraps, bits, boxes and other things from around the house to use for building and other creative experiences.
- Let your child set the table and count objects around the house such as plates and forks for the table, crackers for snacks, etc.
- Provide opportunities to compare objects.
- Play games with your child using directions such as:  
“Put the ball under the chair.”
- Play Simon Says.
- Take your child to the park to play on outdoor equipment.
- Allow your child time to dress himself/herself.
- Provide opportunities for your child to experiment with balls, tricycles, and jump ropes.
- Practice hopping, skipping and balancing.
- Set expectations for behavior and consequences.
- Help your child develop appropriate skills for learning by: following directions, attending to a speaker and getting an adult’s attention appropriately.
- Most importantly, enjoy your child.



# What skills will help ease my child's transition into kindergarten?

## Reading Readiness

- Remembers pictures from a printed page
- Repeats a 6 to 8 word sentence
- Pretends to read (has been read to often)
- Identifies own first name in writing
- Attempts to print own first name
- Answers questions about a short story
- Looks at pictures and tells a story
- Understands words are read left to right
- Familiar with the letters of the alphabet
- Can recite some nursery rhymes
- Knows the meaning of simple words

## Time

- Understands day and night
- Knows age and birthday

## Recognizes Colors and Shapes

- Recognizes primary colors
- Recognizes shapes
  - Rectangle ■
  - Triangle ▲
  - Circle ●
  - Square ■

## Number Concepts

- Counts to 10
- Can count objects

## Listening and Sequencing

- Follows simple directions
- Pays attention
- Recognizes common sounds
- Retells a simple story in sequence
- Repeats a sequence of sounds
- Repeats a sequence of numbers heard

## Size Position and Direction

- Understands the following concepts:
- Big and little
  - Long and short
  - Up and down
  - In and out
  - Front and back
  - Over and under
  - Hot and cold
  - Empty and full
  - More and less
  - Fast and slow
  - Top and bottom

## Motor Skills

- Runs
- Walks in a straight line
- Jumps
- Hops
- Alternates feet walking downstairs
- Marches
- Stands on one foot/10 seconds
- Walks backwards/5 feet
- Throws a ball
- Glues pictures on paper
- Claps hands
- Buttons clothes
- Zips/snaps clothes
- Ties shoes
- Builds with blocks
- Completes simple 5 piece puzzle
- Draws or colors beyond a simple scribble
- Controls pencil and crayon well
- Handles scissors
- Cuts and draws simple shapes

## Social-Emotional

- Expresses self verbally
- Looks forward to going to school
- Recognizes authority
- Shares with others
- Helps with family chores
- Works independently
- Identifies other children by name
- Takes care of toilet needs independently
- Washes hands thoroughly after toileting and before eating
- Cares for own belongings
- Dresses self
- Brushes teeth
- Can be away from parent for several hours
- Joins in family conversation
- Carries a plate of food
- Maintains self-control
- Talks easily
- Gets along well with others
- Puts toys away
- Meets visitors without shyness

## My Child Knows...

- Body parts
- Own first name
- Own last name
- Own gender
- Parents' names
- Siblings' names, if any
- Home address
- Home phone number
- When to use a handkerchief/tissue
- Left/right

*The above skills do not represent the Frisco Independent School District's kindergarten curriculum. This listing simply provides a checklist for parents noting skills that will ease the child's transition into kindergarten.*

# Information About Handwriting Instruction

Frisco ISD will teach vertical block handwriting beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, using the Handwriting Without Tears curriculum.

Medium-soft pencils are used for most handwriting lessons. Children should grasp their pencil lightly between the thumb and index finger, usually about an inch above the pencil point.

The index finger should rest on the top of the pencil, and the pencil should be supported on the first joint of the middle finger. This pencil position is the same for left and right-handed children.

The posture of children learning handwriting should be the same good posture essential to healthy body growth. Children should sit tall, with both feet on the floor and arms relaxed on a table or desk.

# Helpful Tips for Working With Beginning Readers

## What To Do When a Reader Makes a Mistake:

1. If the mistake makes sense and does not interfere with the meaning of the sentence, it is not necessary to correct your child. Your child's teacher will be addressing these types of reading errors in class.
2. If the mistake doesn't make sense, wait until the end of the sentence and see if the reader self corrects the error.
3. At the end of the sentence, say, "Try that again."
4. Say, "You said...(repeat what reader read). Does that make sense?"
5. At the end of the sentence, say, "Did what you read look right and sound right?"
6. Tell the correct response.

## What To Do When a Reader Gets Stuck:

1. Wait and see if the reader can work it out.
2. Say, "Read it again and start the tricky word."
3. Say, "Look at the picture."
4. Say, "What word might make sense in that sentence?"
5. Say, "Do you know another word that looks like that word that might help you?"
6. Say, "Is there a part of the word that you know that might help you?"
7. Tell the word.





# Frisco ISD

Making A World of  
Difference

## IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Texas Minimum State

Vaccine Requirements for Students,  
Grades K-12, are available online at

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school>

Click on Immunization Requirements

Forms are available in both English and Spanish

All immunizations should be  
completed by the first date of attendance.





# Kindergarten School Supply List

Please check with your child's school, or visit the school's website to obtain a school supply list. Each school is allowed to develop its own supply list.

For Additional Information and  
Frequently Asked Questions, Please Visit

**[www.friscoisd.org](http://www.friscoisd.org)**

- Highlight Schools & Programs
- Click Educational Programs
- Scroll to Pre-K & Kindergarten