



FRISCO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

KINDERGARTEN HANDBOOK

2008-2009

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Listing of Schools

Anderson Elementary
2800 Oakland Hills Dr.
Plano, TX 75025
Phone: 469-633-2300
Teresa Wilkinson, Principal

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

Bledsoe Elementary
1900 Timber Ridge Dr
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 Ellis, Principal

Christie Elementary
10300 Huntington Road
Frisco, TX 75035
Phone: 469-633-2400
Christina Hernandez, 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
J'Lynn Anderson, Principal

Elliott Elementary
3721 Hudson Crossing
McKinney, TX 75070
Phone: 469-633-3750
Susan Murphy, Principal

Fisher Elementary
2500 Old Orchard Drive
Frisco, TX 75034
Phone: 469-633-2600
Nancy Lawson, 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 Dr.
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

Riddle Elementary
8201 Robinson Road
Plano, TX 75024
Phone: 469-633-3200
Rachel Taylor, Principal

Robertson Elementary
2501 Woodlake Dr.
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
Meredith Choate, 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
Matthew Kimball, 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 Dr.
Frisco, TX 75035
Phone: 469-633-3775
Kellie Rapp, Principal

Taylor Elementary
9865 Gillespie Drive
Plano, TX 75025
Phone: 469-633-3625
Tanya Hall, Principal

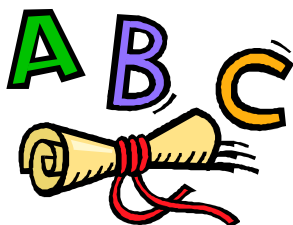
Welcome Parents

Welcome to Frisco ISD! Kindergarten is a very important beginning to your child's education. Your child will be in school for many years to come. Frisco ISD wants your child's kindergarten year to be a rich, successful one in which he/she discovers many wonders of school and learning. You are welcomed and encouraged to be a part of this important beginning.

A foundation is being laid for your child that will impact all future learning. We want this foundation to be a solid one that will ensure your child's success throughout his/her academic career. Meaningful experiences have been planned for your child that will develop concepts in the curriculum areas of reading, writing, math, science, social studies, technology, art, music, and physical education. The learning environment in Frisco ISD is based on best practices, which is instruction that 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. In Kindergarten, your child will learn to accept responsibility, follow directions, work and play with others in a friendly manner, communicate effectively, and solve problems in a positive way.

We are looking forward to an exciting year with you and your child. Our staff wants to help you and your child make a happy, comfortable transition into kindergarten. We ask for your support and continued contact. Your child is our number one priority!



Kindergarten Academic Program

A typical kindergarten day will include a literacy block consisting of shared reading, independent reading, shared writing, independent writing, guided literacy groups, center activities, word work, phonological and phonics work, and handwriting instruction (D'Nealian style of manuscript). Also included is a calendar time and math instruction including math centers and math manipulatives. Kindergarten students will also have science and social studies instruction, regular access to the library, computer lab, physical education, and fine arts. Students are offered a daily quiet time during which they can relax and enjoy a variety of books. Kindergarten students also have a daily recess time.

The academic program for kindergarten addresses all the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

Core Areas:

- **Literacy: Reading/writing**
Literacy assessments are administered to all kindergarten students. Assessment information is used to customize the students' instructional program. 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.
- **Mathematics**
FISD uses a hands-on manipulative based approach to teach mathematics concepts. Students will receive whole group as well as small flexible group instruction. Teachers also work with students individually to review, reteach, or extend mathematics concepts. Assessments are administered throughout the year to keep abreast of the individual student's progress in mathematics.
- **Science, Social Studies and Health**
FISD uses a hands-on based approach to teach science concepts. Students work in cooperative groups while performing experiments dealing with the five senses, light, heat, plants and animals. 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.

Learning Environment

The kindergarten learning environment is special and unique. The classroom is set up in literacy/learning centers with space provided for large group and individual learning activities. The centers are active and inviting to children and provide a time for hands-on learning and problem solving. Students are encouraged to 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:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| *Reading/Library | *Science/Discovery |
| *ABC/Letter Study | *Listening/Stories on tape |
| *Word Study | *Fine Motor/Puzzles |
| *Word Wall | *Blocks/Legos |
| *Writing/Publishing | *Puppets/Flannel Board |
| *Math Manipulatives | *Sand/Water/Beans/Rice Table |
| *Computer/Technology | *Art/Crafts/Projects |
| Ex. Living Books | *Playdoh |
| Jump Start | |
| *Housekeeping/Dramatic Play | |

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

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

- daily literacy and math instruction
- daily calendar time
- centers: academic reinforcement
- science, social studies, and health instruction
- physical education
- fine arts
- library time
- computer lab
- daily quiet time to enjoy self-selected texts
- daily recess with peers
- daily lunchtime

Assessment and Evaluation

Assessment is an ongoing process throughout the kindergarten year. The primary sources of assessment are Frisco ISD's Developmental Reading Assessment and Math TEKS Checks as well as teacher observations, which are more informal assessments.

***Math Assessments** are administered periodically during the grading period. The material to be tested comes from the district's aligned mathematics curriculum. .

***Frisco ISD's Developmental Reading Assessments** consist of several components:

***Letter Identification**

***Letter/Sound correspondence**

***Concepts About Print (Book Awareness)**

***Phonological Awareness: the ability to recognize the sounds in spoken language and how they can be segmented (pulled apart), blended (put back together), and manipulated (added, deleted and substituted).**

***Reading level**

***Speech articulation and language testing are available if needed.**

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.
- School newsletters are regularly sent home.
- A fall conference day is set on the school calendar each year. To better accommodate parent schedules, the hours for conferences are 11:00am-7pm.
- An academic checklist 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 are working collaboratively. As a Frisco 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 themes introduced at school (ex. monthly homework sheet)
- *Checking take home folder, monthly calendar and behavior sheets daily

Volunteering

Volunteer opportunities are available both inside and outside the classroom. Contact your child's teacher for specific opportunities.

Volunteers and visitors are required to check in with the office prior to entering any other area of the building. We also request that you wear a guest badge for identification purposes.

Your help in the classroom 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 Criminal History form must be completed before working in the classroom. These are available in the office.

Student safety is of utmost importance, thus it is critical that we monitor all visitors entering our schools.

At what age do children start kindergarten?

A student is eligible to attend our full-day kindergarten program if they are 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 if they are able to pass the third grade TAKS test.

Is kindergarten all day?

Kindergarten in FISD is a full day program. Kindergarten students begin the day at 8:00 and are dismissed at 3:00.

What do I need to register my child for kindergarten?

(Click for registration checklist)

http://www.friscoisd.org/forms/docs/reg_checkList.pdf

To register your child for kindergarten you will need:

- state-issued birth certificate
- social security card, if applicable
- immunization record
- proof of residence, (current utility bill other than phone, closing statement on house or lease agreement)
- enrolling parents' or guardians' driver's 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 may select a variety of 2-4 items. Students are assigned a six digit student identification number or given a bar-coded identification card. This number is used 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 and click "Menu" 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.

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.
- Obtain a library card for your child. Click here for more information about the Frisco Public Library:
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 to 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?

SKILLS THAT HELP EASE TRANSITION INTO KINDERGARTEN			
READING READINESS	LISTENING & SEQUENCING	Hops	Identifies other children by name
Remembers pictures from a printed page	Follows simple directions	Alternates feet walking downstairs	Takes care of toilet needs independently
Repeats a 6 to 8 word sentence	Pays attention	Marches	Washes hands thoroughly after toileting and before eating
Pretends to read (has been read to often)	Recognizes common sounds	Stands on one foot/10 seconds	Cares for own belongings
Identifies own first name in writing	Retells a simple story in sequence	Walks backwards/5 feet	Dresses self
Attempts to print own first name	Repeats a sequence of sounds	Throws a ball	Brushes teeth
Answers questions about a short story	Repeats a sequence of numbers heard	Glues pictures on paper	Can be away from parent for several hours
Looks at pictures and tells a story	SIZE, POSITION & DIRECTION Understands the following concepts:	Claps hands	Joins in family conversation
Understands words are read left to right	Big and little	Buttons clothes	Carries a plate of food
Familiar with the letters of the alphabet	Long and short	Zips/Snaps clothes	Maintains self-control
Can recite some nursery rhymes	Up and down	Ties shoes	Gets along well with others
Knows the meaning of simple words	In and out	Builds with blocks	Talks easily
TIME	Front and back	Completes simple 5 piece puzzle	Meets visitors without shyness
Understands day and night	Over and under	Draws or colors beyond a simple scribble	Puts toys away
Knows age and birthday	Hot and cold	Controls pencil and crayon well	MY CHILD KNOWS...
RECOGNIZES COLORS & SHAPES	Empty and full	Handles scissors	Body Parts
Recognizes primary colors	More and less	Cuts and draws simple shapes	Own first name
Recognizes shapes: rectangle▭, triangle△, circle○, square□	Fast and slow	SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL	Own last name
NUMBER CONCEPTS	Top and bottom	Expresses self verbally	Own gender
Counts to 10	MOTOR SKILLS	Looks forward to going to school	Parents' names
Can count objects	Runs	Recognizes authority	Siblings' names, if any
	Walks in a straight line	Shares with others	Home address
	Jumps	Helps with family chores	Home phone number
		Works independently	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:

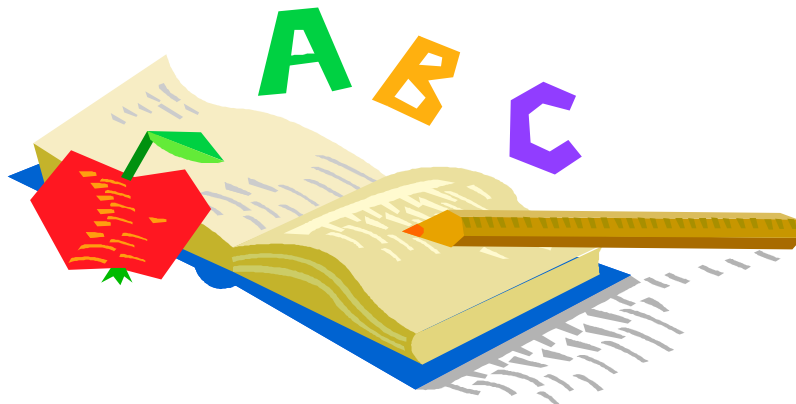
Frisco ISD teaches D'Nealian handwriting because it involves a unique, lower-case manuscript alphabet that is very easy to write. Most letters are formed with one continuous stroke so that rhythm is built in from the beginning. The manuscript letters are slanted as cursive letters are. As a result, when the time comes to learn cursive, the basic patterns are already in place.

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.

The paper should be positioned at a slant. The slant of the paper should approximately parallel the writing arm.

For more information about D'Nealian Handwriting visit their website at: www.dnealian.com.



Helpful Tips When Reading

What To Do When a Reader Makes a Mistake:

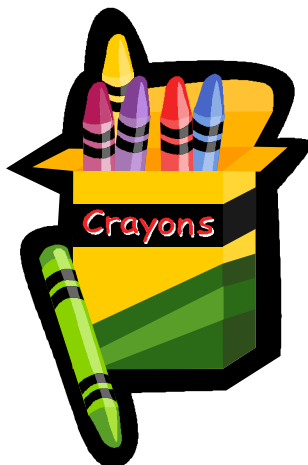
1. If the mistake makes sense, don't worry about it.
2. If the mistake doesn't make sense, wait until the end of the sentence and see if the reader will fix it.
3. At the end of the sentence, say, **“Try that again.”**
4. Say, **“You said...(repeat what reader read). Does that make sense?”**
5. At the 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, **“Think what would make sense.”**
5. Say, **“Do you know a word that looks like that?”**
6. Say, **“Sound it out in chunks.”**
7. Tell the word.

FISD Kindergarten School Supply List 2008-2009

- 2 Crayola Crayons, 24 count
- 1 Crayola Washable Markers, Classic Thick
- 1 Crayola Washable markers, Classic Thin
- 1 Crayola Watercolor Paints
- 12 #2 Pencils
- 1 Fiskars for Kids Scissors, blunt tip
- 2 Bottles of Elmer's Glue, 4 oz.
- 4 Large Elmer's Glue Sticks
- 1 Spacemaker 8x5 School Box (no handle)
- 1 Assorted Construction Paper, 12x18
- 1 Wide Ruled Spiral Notebook, 70 sheets
- 4 Folders with brads/pockets-blue, red, yellow and green
- 1 Large Box of Kleenex Tissues



For additional information and frequently asked questions, please visit

www.friscoisd.org

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



