

A Smooth
Transition to
Kindergarten



PORTA CUSD #202
May 2009

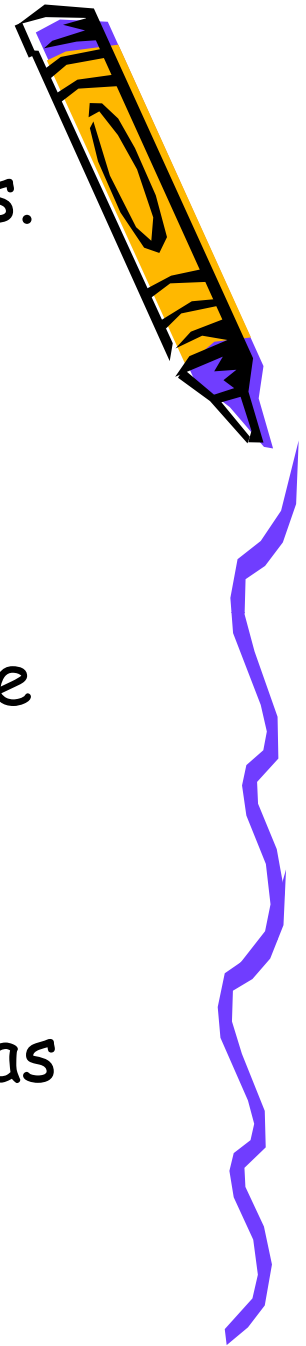


Somebody said the hardest part of
being a mother is labor and delivery.

That somebody never watched her
"baby" get on the bus for the first
day of kindergarten.



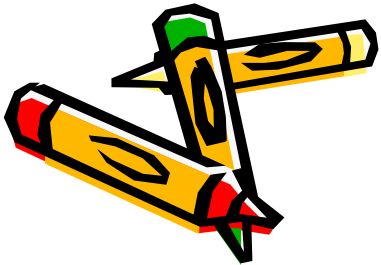
- Transitions are difficult for most of us.
- The better prepared parents and children are, the easier the process of moving from one program to another becomes.
- This presentation will hopefully prepare you, the parents, for your child's transition to Kindergarten.
- This way you will be able to make sure your child feels welcomed and at ease as he/she begins kindergarten next fall.



Let's start with the "nuts and bolts"



- In what ways are preschool and kindergarten different?
 - Kindergarten classes are in session from 8:15 a.m. until 3:15 p.m. as compared to the half-day (a.m. or p.m.) preschool sessions.
 - Attendance is required. If your child is absent from school, you must contact the school office. Children with more than ten absences may be contacted by the truancy social worker.
 - Students eat lunch at school / breakfast is also available
 - "Specials" such as PE, music, art, and library





Kindergarten Routine



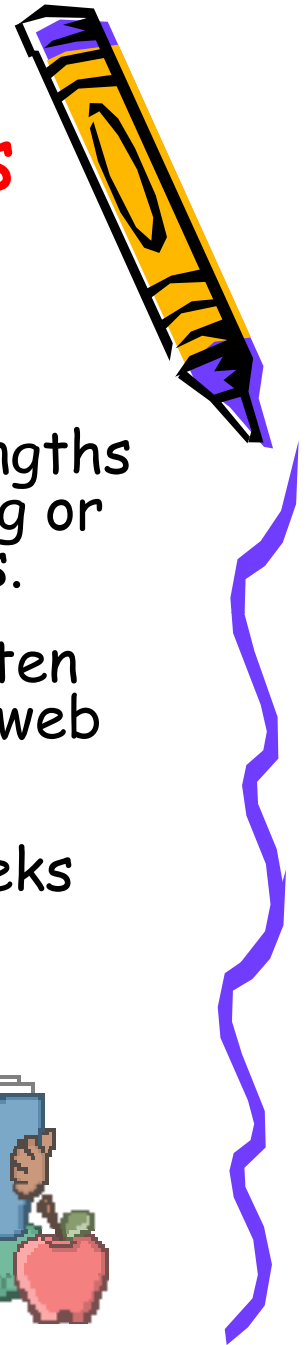
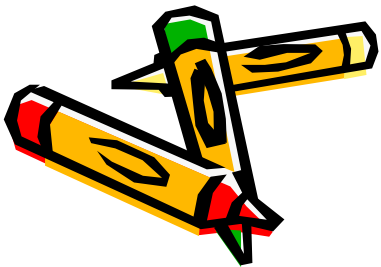
The kindergarten routine varies slightly from day-to-day to allow for special activities/classes. The day generally includes the following:

- Language Arts Block (2 hours) (includes Reading, Writing, Handwriting and Phonics).
- Math Block (60 minutes) (includes math concepts and math application).
- Science and Social Studies (100 minutes per week)
- Art (40 minutes per week)
- Music (60 minutes per week - two 30 minute sessions)
- Physical Education (90 minutes per week - three 30 minute sessions)
- Calendar, Center/Circle Time, Recess, Milk Break, Rest Time



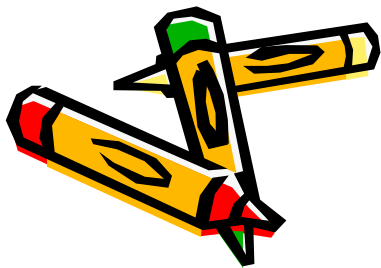
Kindergarten Readiness Screenings

- The PORTA District administers basic screening instruments to all children entering Kindergarten. These screenings are performed to help teachers better acquaint themselves with each child's strengths and weaknesses. Screenings are not for diagnosing or making long-term decisions about student services.
- Two screening instruments are used. A kindergarten reading and math recognition inventory and AIMSweb test of early literacy skills.
- Both screenings are given within the first few weeks of school.
- Screening results are used to provide additional support as needed.

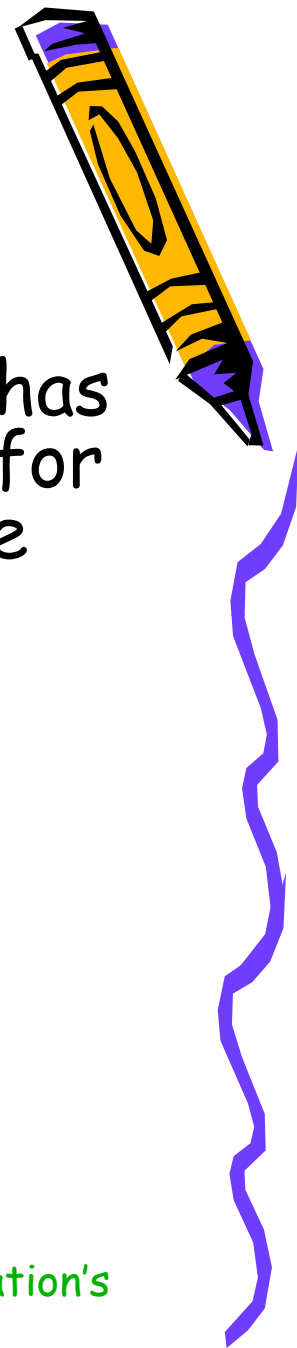


What will my child learn in kindergarten?

- The Illinois State Board of Education has established Early Learning Standards for Kindergarten. These standards include grade level expectations which cover:
 - Language Arts/Reading
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - Art
 - Health
 - Physical Education



For more information about the Illinois State Board of Education's Early Learning Standards visit www.isbe.net



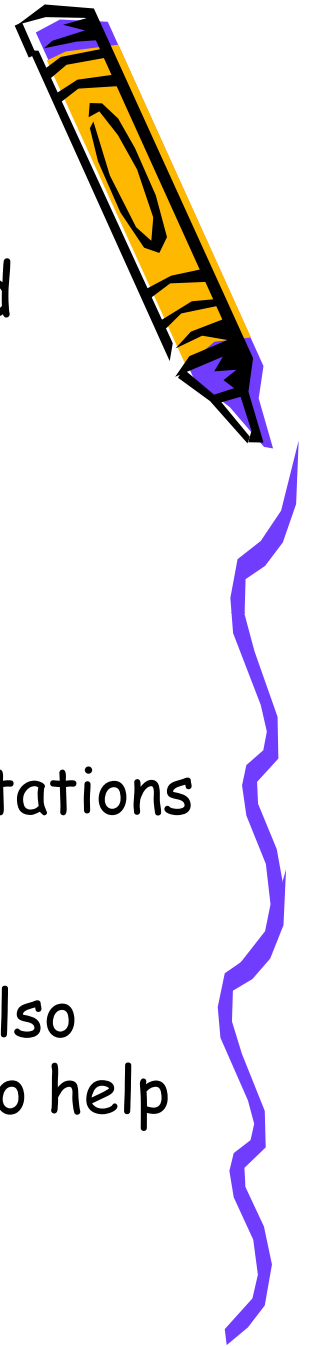
Progress Reports

- Your child will receive a Kindergarten Student Report Card four times during the school year.
- Mid-term Progress Reports will be used by the kindergarten teacher to report child's progress between grading periods.
- Make sure that you communicate with your child's teacher on a regular basis about his/her progress.



Skills-based Report Cards

- In kindergarten, students are graded based on progress towards meeting grade level expectations.
 - E = Exceeds Expectations
 - M = Meets Expectations
 - P - Progressing but below current expectations
 - U = Unsatisfactory
 - Skill levels for each academic area are also measured using a rating scale from 1-4 to help parents identify their child's areas of strengths and weaknesses.



How can I prepare my child to have a successful kindergarten experience?

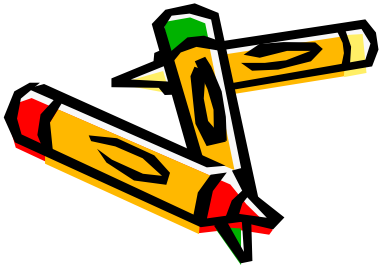


Breakout Sessions in kindergarten hallway.

Follow directions on cards for rotating through sessions.

Following the last session, return to the cafeteria for closing remarks.

Group A - Mrs. Peterson / Group B - Mrs. Thomas
Group C - Preschool Staff / Group D - Office Staff



Some general suggestions prior to the start of the school year.

- Put your child's name inside all personal items, i.e. lunchbox, backpack, sweater, jacket, etc.
- Be sure your child goes to sleep at an appropriate time starting two weeks before school starts and wake your child up early as if going to school.
- Be positive about going to Kindergarten. Your child will reflect your attitude. Smile as you drop him/her off.
- Practice where you will meet your child at dismissal and be there promptly to pick him/her up or to meet the bus.



Have we addressed your
worries, concerns, and fears?

Questions and answers!



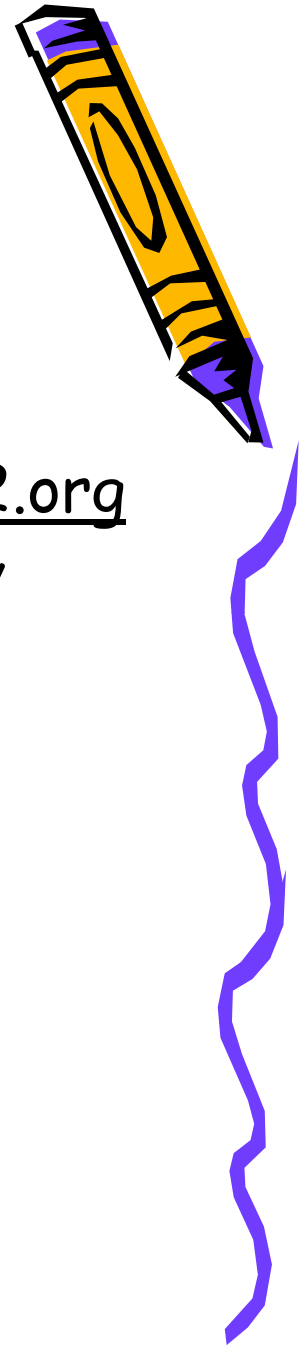


Remember the
2009-2010 School Year
starts

August 21, 2009



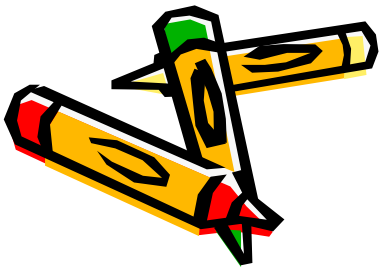
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PORTA CUSD #202 WEBSITE
www.porta202.org



Thanks SO much for coming!

We hope the information shared with you this evening helps you and your preschooler make the transition from preschool to kindergarten an enjoyable experience!

