

January 22, 2008

Dear Kindergarten Parent,

Can you believe we are now in the second semester of school? This school year is going by quickly and first grade will be here before we know it! In an effort to have your child as prepared for first grade as possible, we are going to be making some changes in our schedule. As we proceed through the months of January and February, we will be cutting down on our nap time each day. By the time we head into March, we will begin taking away a nap day each week. In April and May, we will not be napping anymore. We will be engaged in more learning activities that will make us truly ready for first grade. Along with this change, you will only be receiving a behavior chart once weekly instead of everyday. This will reflect your child's behavior over the entire week. While we will still be communicating with you about your child's academic performance and behavior as needed, we encourage you to talk with your child about school every day. This will help build their communication skills. Ask your child about the classroom activities, breakfast/lunch, P.E., library, etc. You should also be working with your child on the following to help ensure your child is ready for first grade:

- Address & Phone Number
- Colors / Reading Color Words
- Numbers / Reading Number Words
- Letter recognition / Letter Sounds
- Months of the Year
- Days of the Week
- Shoe tying
- Opening/Closing containers
- Follow multi-step directions (For example: "Put your dirty clothes in the basket, put on your pajamas, and put the toys in the toy-box.")
- Time management (For example: "You have 5 minutes to put away your toys." or "You have 10 minutes to finish your math homework sheet.")
- Read a book every day.

These things need to be practiced daily now and all summer. We truly enjoy teaching your children and want them to be successful now as well as next year in 1st grade. If you have any questions about any of the changes we are making, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Lenae Wilson
April Linley