

Kindergarten is not what it used to be.



Kindergarten is foundational.

Kindergarten is the beginning of your child's career as a student! You are preparing him/her for the next 17 years of their life!

Attendance and Punctuality:

Teach your child that attendance and punctuality are important. They will be better prepared to face the world armed with these two habits!

When we plant in our child the expectation that they must come to school every day*, AND be there punctually, we are preparing our child for a successful path. We let them know that what they are doing at school is SO important, that they must be there, and they must be ON TIME.



Thank you for instilling in your child a critical key to success!

* Naturally, if your child is ill, be sure to care for him at home and call the school office to let us know!

Santa Barbara Community Academy

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Preparing your child for **kindergarten**

Or the making of an
**AWESOME
ALLIGATOR!**



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Kindergarten is more rigorous and demanding than ever before.

Children must come to school ready to learn.

Here are some things you can do to help!



Reading and Writing Expectations

Congratulations! Your child is entering kindergarten. Whether this is your first experience with school or not, we'd like to: **WELCOME YOU TO A NEW WORLD OF LEARNING!**

Inside are some things that you can begin to do at home to help prepare your child for school, see how much your child is able to do, and if you can, guide your child so that s/he becomes familiar with some of these skills.

Kindergarten students need to be able to recognize, read and write their first name. Students begin to develop knowledge about the alphabet. Students have book-handling skills. Students can tell a story by looking at the pictures. It is a benefit if the students know some familiar nursery rhymes.

Check to see if your child is able to do any of these skills:

- ☐ My child can recognize his/her name.
- ☐ My child can tell a story by looking at the pictures.
- ☐ My child can hold a book and turn the pages without squishing or wrinkling them.
- ☐ My child can listen to stories without interrupting.
- ☐ My child can predict what will happen next while I read a story to him/her.
- ☐ My child can recognize rhyming sounds/words.
- ☐ My child can identify some capital and lower case letters.
- ☐ My child is beginning to write some letters.
- ☐ My child can hold a pencil correctly.
- ☐ My child can write his/her name with a capital first letter and the rest lower case (Michele).
- ☐ My child can draw a picture and talk about what is happening in it.

Activities to support your child:

- Storytelling – tell stories based on pictures in books or magazines
- Tell your child stories about yourself when you were a child, or about your family members.
- Read to your child EVERY DAY!
- After reading a story, have your child tell you what happened in the story.
- Have your child tell you the letters s/he sees in the world around him/her like driving to a relative's house, going to the store, or on a cereal box, letters are everywhere!
- Tell your child the proper names of plants/animals/ objects when you talk about them, so that they become familiar with specific vocabulary, and their vocabulary grows!

As a parent, you can help your child get ready for kindergarten by:

- Establishing routines in your home, (wake up, get dressed, eat breakfast, leave for school at the same time every day).
- Setting up a study area for your child with appropriate supplies, pencils, scissors, crayons, paper, etc.
- Reading with your child daily! Make it a routine.
- Teaching your child to clean up after herself, pick up toys, help with household chores, learn to take turns, etc.
- Having conversations with your child! This may be THE MOST IMPORTANT thing you do! By having conversations, you let your child know that you want to hear what she is thinking (because she is intelligent), that she is important to you, AND that you care about her! *Nothing helps brain development in a child as this simple activity.* So remember talk WITH your child, not at her.