



PERIMETER SCHOOL
A Covenant Christian Community

A Ready First Grader

“How do I prepare my child for first grade at Perimeter School?” Often, parents who ask this question are looking for a checklist of skills to be mastered. Although we have provided such a list, learning at our school is much more than curriculum. At Perimeter School, we live in the atmosphere of lifelong learning. Our covenant community of believers share the love of learning. We are excited about ideas! Our professional faculty know that the love of learning is the engine that propels children forward and motivates them to achieve academically.

Habit Readiness

If academic achievement is the train, then habits are the rails that keep the train moving in the right direction. Training your children to rely upon good habits is the primary responsibility of parents. When a person has learned to rely on good habits, his/her mind, strength, and heart are free from the overwhelming burden of constant uncertainty and relentless decision-making. Perimeter School espouses certain essential habits that will keep learners “on track.” A ready first grader is expected to pay attention, to obey, to be courteous, and to demonstrate self-control and fortitude. We expect first graders to be neat and orderly, to think, to remember, to be responsible, and to be truthful. These habits are taught at home and reinforced at school and are a part of our progress evaluation.

Academic Readiness

Perimeter School firmly believes that parents are a child’s first and foremost educators! Your child is hard-wired to connect with you - remember how your newborn child was intensely fascinated by your face and voice! Everything you have been doing since the day your child was born has been preparing for school. Now, you are continuing to nurture the development of learning by the atmosphere, structure, routine, and activity of your family’s life. Here are some specific activities that help prepare children for the rigor of school life:

A child who is ready to read:

- has experienced lap-reading with parents and shows an interest in reading.
- can track from left to right with his/her eyes and fingers.
- “pretend” reads favorite books.
- knows how books “work” - right side up, front to back, left to right, page numbers.
- knows upper and lowercase letters as well as their sounds.
- can complete a sentence when a final word or phrase is left out.
- can hear the similar sounds of rhyming words and supply rhyming sounds.
- can distinguish the beginning and final sounds in words.
- can recognize simple three letter words like “hat” or “sit.”

A child who is ready to write:

- has good core strength that allows him/her to sit up straight at a desk.
- holds a pencil, crayon, and paint brush with a tripod grip.
- copies upper and lowercase letters with correct strokes, top to bottom.
- writes his/her full name with the first letter capitalized and the others in lower case.
- makes attempts at tracing and copying words and designs.
- draws a human form with anatomical accuracy that shows body schema.

Readiness for numeracy is indicated when a child:

- can count sets of up to 20 objects one by one and then name the set.
- can identify numbers by representative symbols, including numerals.
- can write numbers sequentially and neatly through 20.
- can order groups of numbers from least to greatest.
- can recognize, describe, and continue patterns.
- can break a whole set into parts and put it back together again (part, part, whole is the foundation of arithmetic).
- can remember 3 to 5 things - holding them in “working memory.”
- can identify and draw 2 dimensional shapes such as circle, square, triangle.