



PERIMETER SCHOOL
A Covenant Christian Community

Dear parents of incoming kindergarteners,

Welcome to Perimeter School Kindergarten! We are thrilled to have you join us in this wonderful, new adventure of learning. We will play, laugh, learn, and grow together.

Parents often want to know what they can do to prepare their child for school. One of our highest values is to preserve childhood. In doing so, you will draw out the natural curiosity, inquisitiveness, and wonder in your child. This will also best prepare them for a lifetime of learning.

This summer:

- Explore the beauty of nature
- Celebrate the wonder of childhood
- Have great adventures as a family
- Enjoy fun, stay-at-home days together
- Laugh, play, explore, and enjoy
- Unplug

“Play is the work of childhood.” - Jean Piaget

“Play is the highest form of research.” - Albert Einstein

“It is a happy talent to know how to play.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning.” - Mr. Rogers

“The playing adult steps sideward into another reality; the playing child advances forward to new stages of mastery.” - Erik H. Erikson

“Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play, children learn how to learn.”

- O. Fred Donaldson

“We don’t stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing.”

- George Bernard Shaw

“Do not keep children to their studies by compulsion but by play.” - Plato

“Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.” - Mr. Rogers

“Play, vigorous healthful play, is, in its turn, fully as important as lessons, as regards both bodily health and brain-power.” - Charlotte Mason

As this summer approaches, we encourage you to play - a lot and with intention. Here are some fun activities that you can do often - at home, at the beach, in the car, on a rainy day, or when they say, “There’s nothing to do!” or ask, “What do I do now?”

It’s also OK for them to be bored. Let them find and create things to do. Research shows that children who are strong in these areas will be set up for success:

Gross and Fine Motor Activities:

- Hop, skip, jump, and run
- Ride bikes
- Take long walks
- Go swimming
- Play in the sprinkler
- Play with playdoh, silly putty, or clay
- Make cookies or bread or pretzels or pizza - knead that dough
- Let your child help you in the garden - dig, plant, pull, weed
- Set up simple mazes or obstacle courses
- Play with Duplos, Legos, Tinkertoys, or blocks
- Put together puzzles
- Do finger plays (Eency Weency Spider, Thumbkin)
- Play, draw, write in:

sugar	oatmeal	rice	salt	dirt
pudding	shaving cream	yogurt	sandpaper	
hummus (a baby carrot is a great writing implement)				
hair gel (sealed in a gallon Ziplock bag)				

- Make pictures with:

sand	shells	seeds	rocks and sticks	mud
m&m's	veggies	fruit	cookie dough	

Language Learning and Pre-Reading Activities:

- Play informal games in the car - "I'm thinking of something/someone that looks like..." (Describe objects or people with enough information to help paint a picture in your child's mind.)
- Play "Tell me what _____ looks like" – have your child tell you in his/her own words what an object or person looks like.
- Read nursery rhymes. Leave out a word and ask your child to supply the missing word.
- Write in the sand at the beach or in the sandbox - numbers, letters, shapes, happy faces, "I love you," anything. These are gross motor or tactile activities. Writing with pencil, crayon, or marker is not important. We'll teach them to write properly in August.
- Take a squirt gun or large paintbrush and "write" in water on the driveway.
- Give your child access to books. We recommend at least 10 minutes per day alone with books.
- Read together daily - both with your child and as a family. We recommend at least 1 book or 10 minutes per day.

We are looking forward to introducing your children to wonderful books with great authors, amazing illustrators, good stories, and big ideas! We have found some of the best of the best and will spend our year reading and learning together. As you prepare for kindergarten this summer, here are a few books you could read with your children. Although this is not an exhaustive list, it will get you headed in the right direction.

Nursery Rhymes:

- *The Real Mother Goose* illustrated by Blanche Fisher Wright
- *Mother Goose* by Tomie DePaola
- Paul Galdone has illustrated a good number of nursery rhymes that are wonderful

Fairy Tales: Grimm Brothers or Hans Christian Anderson or Charles Perrault

Fables: Aesop and others

Other recommended books:

- *Frances* series by Russell Hoban
- *Corduroy* books by Don Freeman
- *Curious George* books by Margaret and H. A. Rey (original version)
- *Raggedy Ann and Andy* stories by Johnny Gruelle
- *Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratley
- *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown
- *Ask Mr. Bear* by Marjorie Flack
- *Angus* books by Marjorie Flack
- *The ABC Bunny* by Wanda Gag
- *If Jesus Came to My House* by Joan Gale Thomas
- *Play with Me* by Marie Hall Ets
- *Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina
- *The Carrot Seed* by Ruth Krauss
- *Katy No Pocket* by Emmy Payne
- *Little Toot* by Hardie Gramatky
- *Stone Soup* by Marcia Brown
- Almost any book by:
 - Jan Brett
 - Eric Carle
 - Bill Martin, Jr.
 - Lois Ehlert
 - Leo Lionni
 - Tomie DePaola
 - Charlotte Zolotow
 - Margaret Wise Brown

Great Read-Aloud for Your Family:

- *Winnie the Pooh* by A. A. Milne (original version)

Resources for Recommended Children's Literature:

- *Books Children Love* by Elizabeth Wilson (forward by Susan Schaeffer Macaulay)
- *The Book Tree* by Elizabeth McCallum and Jane Scott

Have a wonderful summer! We look forward to a wonderful year together for the children's good and His glory!

Joyfully,
The Kindergarten Team