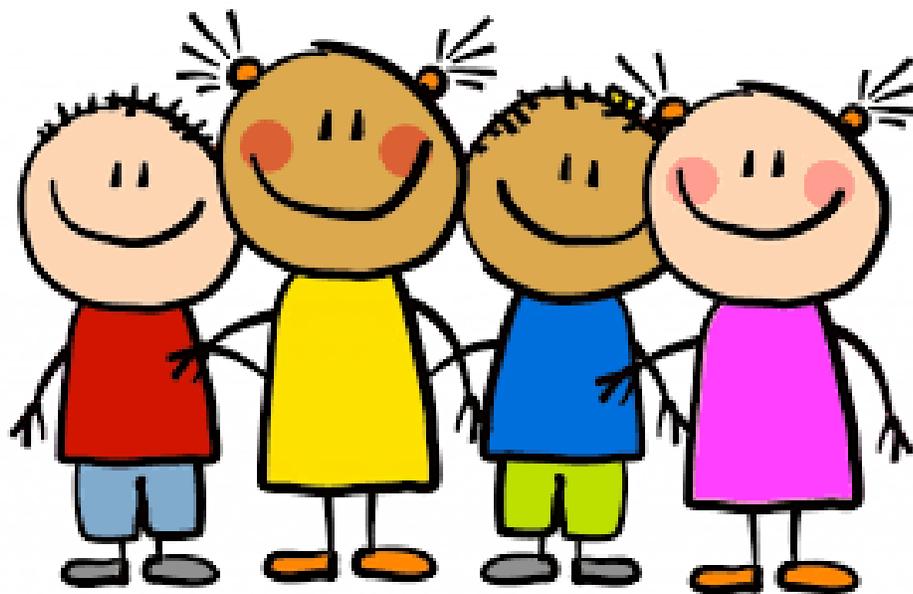


Kindergarten Information Night

Cornerstone Christian School



Kindergarten Curriculum

These are brief overviews of the curriculum in the academic areas that your child will be experiencing this school year.

Bible:

Our Bible Curriculum is made by *Purposeful Design* and focuses on the foundational teachings from the Bible about the nature and character of God, the qualities of His people, and His church. Students are given an overview of the Bible, with an emphasis on God's attributes, Biblical characters, the early Church, and what it means to know Jesus Christ and live for Him. Included in the series are:

- 34 lessons, spanning a week in length, with a specific lesson focus for each day
- Scripture memory embedded in each week's lesson
- Vivid, inspiring illustrations that bring Bible truths to life
- Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter

Phonics and Literacy:

For our phonics and literacy instruction we use *Story Town*, which is a research-based, developmental reading and language arts program. The program uses high-quality children's literature, as well as information texts, in an organized, direct approach to teach reading. The program emphasizes explicit, systematic instruction to teach phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension and writing.

Writing:

We use *Benchmark Writer's Workshop* for our writing instruction, which exposes children to the idea of writing as a form of communication and encourages a print-rich environment in the classroom. It includes three units: journal writing (narrative), book reviews (opinion), and informational (reports). Every lesson begins with

a mini lesson, then students write independently, and then we end the workshop with some sharing of the student's writing.

Math:

Our math curriculum is *Saxon Math*. This series uses a "hands-on" approach through manipulatives to help students succeed. The program is divided into three main sections (1) Meetings: Math Meetings occur daily and focuses on the calendar. Students will learn to identify the day, month, year, patterns, numbers, and counting. (2) Lessons: A lesson will occur each day where children are taught and then practice concepts individually or in small groups. (3) Assessments: Oral assessments will be conducted periodically to monitor learning.

Science:

For our science curriculum, we use *Purposeful Design*. We cover many topics in Kindergarten (seeds, plants, seasons, weather, etc.), but our main focus is on the human body. We will learn about our teeth, bones and muscles, heart and blood, lungs and air, and the stomach and food.

Social Studies:

Our Social Studies curriculum is called *Hello World*. Students will explore five main ideas that will help them better understand the world we live in and how the past and our interactions affect our community and our world. There are five units: (1) We Have Families, (2) Where We Live, (3) People Long Ago, (4) Why We Work, and (5) Getting Along Together.

Kindergarten Schedule

Daily Schedule:

8:30-9:00	Welcome and Morning Work
9:00-9:30	Morning Meeting/Circle Time (Prayer, Pledges, Calendar, Schedule, Counting, Weather, Jobs, etc.)
9:30-10:00	Writer's Workshop
10:00-10:15	Snack Break/Recess
10:15-11:20	Literacy (phonics/reading/handwriting)
11:30-12:00	Lunch
12:00-12:30	Recess
12:30-1:00	Rest Time
1:00- 1:30	Bible
1:30-1:40	Snack
1:40-2:10	Math
2:10-2:40	Special Classes (Gym, Art, Music)
2:40-3:10	Science, Social Studies, and/or Centers (Fridays Choice Time/Free Play)
3:10-3:30	Closing/Dismissal

(Our schedule varies slightly due to specials.)

Special's Schedule:

Monday	Gym 2:10-2:40
Tuesday	Music 1:15-1:45
Wednesday	Gym 2:10-2:40
Thursday	Art 2:00-2:45
Friday	Chapel 9:30-10:00 Library 10:00-10:30 Music 2:20-2:50

Gesell School Readiness Screening

Entrance into school is an important step in a child's life. If a child begins too early, patterns may develop that could hinder the learning process. How does one determine if a child is ready for this extremely important step? At Cornerstone Christian School, we use a carefully researched assessment procedure to determine school readiness. It is called the *Gesell School Readiness Survey*. In the near future, you will be contacted about a time to bring in your son or daughter for their assessment.

What is School Readiness?

God has made each child with a unique rate and pattern of growth. The growth rate helps determine a child's readiness for Kindergarten. Readiness cannot be externally produced or speeded up, nor can it be ignored.

Several factors combine to determine school readiness. Two of them are size and language development. However, neither of these factors, nor high I.Q., nor advanced reading ability, nor being five years old, guarantees readiness for Kindergarten.

How is School Readiness Known?

Readiness can be partially assessed by you as a parent. Observe your child. Does he or she seem to be as mature as others of the same age? Do you have concerns about specific areas of your child's development? Sometimes parents decide on their own that their child is not ready for school.

However, an objective measure of readiness is a more reliable guide. The *Gesell* approach makes use of normative data derived from assessing thousands of children. It helps both parents and the school reach a decision about the developmental readiness of an individual child.

What Is the Gesell Screening?

The *Gesell Readiness Survey* is not a test of skill or intelligence. There are no right or wrong, pass or fail answers. It reveals a child's maturation level. It is more concerned with how a child uses his/her abilities, rather than what those abilities are.

The assessment takes about twenty minutes and may be conducted with the parent present or in a one-to-one situation. During the test, your child will be asked to perform such tasks as building with blocks, copying forms, drawing figures and expressing oneself verbally. Children generally find the screening a pleasant experience.

Facts About Readiness

- ❖ Intelligence and maturity level are not the same thing.
- ❖ Readiness is often overestimated because of a high I.Q., good verbal skills, ability to read, or large physical size.
- ❖ Placing children in Kindergarten before they are mature enough to profit from the experience may hinder learning.
- ❖ Unready children do not usually catch up.
- ❖ Five-year old boys are (on the average) six months less mature than five-year-old girls.
- ❖ Not many children who turn five in September, October or November are ready for Kindergarten.

Is Your Child Ready for Kindergarten?

At the age of five, children are expected to begin Kindergarten. Parents, understandably, wonder if their child is "ready" for Kindergarten at Cornerstone Christian School.

September 1st is the cut-off date for Kindergarten at CCS. The best way to judge if your child is "developmentally" (not just chronologically) ready is to see how he/she compares to other children. Here are some questions you may ask yourself...

Can my child say his/her whole name?

How well does he/she care for his/her belongings?

Can he/she be away from parents for 2-3 hours without being upset?

How well does he/she sit and listen (5-10 minutes) without restlessness?

Does he/she ask questions about many of the things seen around him/her?

How well does he/she work without being (easily) distracted?

How well does he/she listen to directions and follow through with them?

Can he/she speak clearly and stay on the subject of a discussion?

Can he/she give the main idea of a story?

Can he/she adjust to changes without becoming fearful?

How well does he/she obey rules?

How well does he/she play cooperatively with other children?

How well does he/she accept a certain amount of defeat without crying/sulking?

Can he/she play without coming to you to solve his/her problems?

Does he/she understand the limitations of paints, clay, blocks, crayons, etc.?

If the majority of the answers are "good" or "yes" then this is one signal that perhaps your child is ready for Kindergarten this fall. If most of the answers were "no", then perhaps another year of preschool is in his/her best interest.

For most schools, there are NO requirements for children to "get into" Kindergarten. Teachers do not expect children to be able to recognize the alphabet or read, to recognize numbers or to add, etc. However, there are some basic concepts and skills that will help your child get off to a good start.

Here are some examples...

- Say first and last name
- Tell age in years
- Recognize first name (and write first name easily)
- Recognize and name colors
- Recognize and match shapes
- Match objects one to one
- Copy circle, square, cross, and triangle
- Draw a person complete with facial features
- Draw a house with windows, door, roof, and chimney
- Put together a circle or triangle that has been cut in two
- Recognize some nursery rhymes and/or familiar stories
- Identify common objects that have a functional use
- Know common farm and zoo animals
- Finish an incomplete sentence with a proper word
- Answer questions about a short story
- Look at pictures and tell a story
- Understand: up/down, in/out, front/back, top/bottom/side/next to, hot/cold, fast/slow
- Be able to: run, jump, hop, balance on one foot for nine seconds, and walk backwards
- Be able to take care of bathroom needs independently
- Dress self

No child will do all of these things perfectly; but if he/she can do a majority of them reasonably well by the start of Kindergarten, this is another sign that perhaps the child is ready for Kindergarten.

Why is Christian Education so Important?

1. All of a child's education should be Bible and God-centered.

"Parents, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

Training that is not of the Lord will "exasperate" (provoke to anger, sorrow, or frustration) our children. The contrast in the verse ("**Do not exasperate..instead** bring them up in the training of the Lord") tells us we should expect "exasperated" children from secular education.

2. Education should be positive and truthful.

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

We should avoid situations that desensitize our children so they are more comfortable living in the midst of repeated sin against their Lord. Train a child in the way he **should** go.

3. Peer influence should be positive and Christlike.

"He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion to fools suffers harm" (Proverbs 13:20).

"Do not be deceived, 'Bad company ruins good morals'" (1 Corinthians 15:13).

4. Every teacher's pattern of life should be worthy of imitation.

Jesus knew that teachers would have tremendous impact not only on studies, but on attitudes toward all aspects of life:

"Everyone when he is fully taught will be like his teacher" (Luke 6:40).

5. Only God-centered education gives true wisdom.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Psalm 111:10)

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10).

"In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3).

How can we get a true perspective on God's creation from a system that begins by excluding His words? If we quietly assume the Bible is mainly intended for use inside Sunday School classes, then secular education will be our natural choice. But, if we do think the Bible guides us in all areas of life, then we'll give our children education that applies Scripture to every area of training for life.

6. Christian schooling is the best hope for transforming society.

"You are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13,14).

School is where we learn to **think**. It's where we learn how to **work** and **relate to others** and **influence the world**. Christian parents sometimes say they want their children to be "salt and light" in secular school. But how much salt and light can untrained, silent Christians be? Must we not rather train our children in Christian school that they may become like salt and brilliant lights to transform a society wandering in darkness?

A Christian education for your child may be one of the most important decisions you can make.

(Taken from "Biblical Reasons for Sending Children to a Christian School: by Dr. Paul A. Kienel, a pamphlet by A.C.S.I)



Read Aloud
15 MINUTES
Every child. Every parent. Every day.



More than one in three children arrive at kindergarten without the skills necessary for lifetime learning.

Research shows that reading aloud is the single most important thing you can do to help a child prepare for reading and learning.

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

The number of words that a child knows on entering kindergarten is a key predictor of his or her future success.

LITERACY SKILL BUILDING

Vocabulary, Phonics, Familiarity with the printed word, Storytelling, Comprehension, Reading aloud builds literacy skills.

INSTILL A LOVE OF READING

Your example demonstrates that reading is important, pleasurable and valued.

WHY READ ALOUD?

BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

From birth to age 3 are critical years in the development of language skills.

KNOWLEDGE GAINED & SHARED

Books are a pleasure, yes, and they are also informative. You and your child can learn something new as you read aloud.

BONDING

Is anything better than sharing a good book?

More than 15% of young children, 3.1 million, are read to by family members fewer than three times a week.

DON'T GOOD PARENTS ALREADY READ ALOUD DAILY? NO

Only **48%** of young children in this country are read to each day.

Reading 15 minutes every day for 5 years:
27,375 MINUTES

456.25 HOURS

IS 15 MINUTES ENOUGH TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE? YES!



Learn more at ReadAloud.org