

Hembree Springs Elementary School
815 Hembree Road, Roswell, GA 30076
Phone: 470-254-2902 Fax: 470-254-2906



Kindergarten Parent Handbook

Welcome to Kindergarten

Welcome to the Hembree Springs family. Starting school can be overwhelming. Many parents have questions and do not know where to turn for the answers. This handbook is designed to answer many questions that you may have as well as some questions that you did not even know you had! We are looking forward to the upcoming year, teaching your child, and working with you.

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Teachers

Kindergarten Readiness Skills

To help create a successful kindergarten experience for your child, we have prepared a list of readiness skills. This list is neither definitive nor should it be mastered. Use the suggestions as a guide to help prepare your child for school. Teachers have found that it is beneficial to students if they have had prior experience or exposure to many of these basic skills.

- ❖ Writes first name beginning with a capital letter followed by lower case letters: ex: SUSAN
- ❖ Holds a pencil or crayon correctly
- ❖ Cuts with scissors and holds them with the proper grip
- ❖ Recognizes colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, white, black, brown, pink, and gray
- ❖ Knows full name, address, and phone number
- ❖ Knows birthday and age
- ❖ Knows parents' and siblings' names
- ❖ Listens to a story and retells it in own words
- ❖ Names and draws circle, square, triangle, oval, rectangle, and diamond
- ❖ Counts to 20; identifies numbers and sets 0 to 10
- ❖ Writes numbers 0 to 10
- ❖ Identifies body parts
- ❖ Identifies upper- and lower-case letters in the alphabet out of order
- ❖ Plays cooperatively
- ❖ Concentrates on a task for 15 to 20 minutes
- ❖ Is developing self-control
- ❖ Ties shoes
- ❖ Listens for a specific purpose without interrupting
- ❖ Expresses and share ideas
- ❖ Speaks in complete sentences

Preparing for the First Day of School

Discuss with your child events that will take place on the first day, such as riding the school bus, entering the building, eating lunch in the cafeteria, etc. If children are aware of what will happen, they will be less anxious. Be sure your child is well rested and has a good breakfast. This helps get children off to a good start! Make sure that your child knows that you are proud of him/her and excited about his/her new adventure. Let your child know that you are confident school will be a good experience. Do not let your child see or hear you worry.

If you are bringing your child to school, you may park and walk your child to class the first week of school. After the first two weeks, you will need to say goodbye at the front door of the school. Children happily settle in when parents make a quick departure.

What You Can Expect

You can expect to feel a little sad and to worry about sending your child to school for the first time, but don't let your child know this. You can expect your child to be very tired when they come home. You can expect your child to say that they do not have any friends. Don't worry. They will make friends and adjust quickly.

After School Care

Hembree Springs has after school care, Y after School, on site through the YMCA. Many daycare providers around the area shuttle students who need before and after school care as well.

GKIDS Assessment

The Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS) is a performance-based assessment administered throughout the year to kindergarten students. The goal of the assessment program is to provide teachers with the information about the level of instructional support needed by individual students entering kindergarten and first grade. GKIDS allows teachers to assess student performance during instruction, record student performance in an ongoing data base and generate customized reports for instructional planning, report cards, and/or parents. The primary purpose of GKIDS is to provide ongoing diagnostic information about kindergarten students' developing skills in language arts, math, social/emotional development, and approaches to learning. GKIDS also provides a summary of student performance at the end of the kindergarten school year to help in making placement decisions for first grade.

Attendance

Every kindergarten day is important. Therefore, please try to plan vacations, trips, doctor, and dental appointments when they do not interfere with school. Whenever a child is absent from school, it is required that we receive a signed, dated excuse stating the exact reason for the absence. Please send the excuse with your child upon return to school.

Our school day begins at 7:40 a.m. but students may begin arriving at 7:15 a.m. Dismissal begins at 2:20 p.m. When your child is late to school, he/she must be signed in at the office by the parent. If you need to check out your child, photo identification is required at the front office. Only those people on the student's approved pickup list may check the student out of school.

The federal law requires the state to rate a school as passing/failing based on student attendance. Therefore, we stress the importance of attending school unless there is an illness. You must send a note to your child's teacher explaining the absence the day your child returns to school. If your child has five unexcused absences, you will receive a letter from our administrators. Our school social worker will contact you if your child has seven or more unexcused absences.

Clothes

Please label all lunch boxes, water bottles, book bags, coats, and personal belongings. Tennis shoes must be worn on PE days. Make sure that your child can snap, button, fasten, buckle, or tie whatever he/she is wearing, especially shoes. Please practice shoe tying with your child.

Communication

We encourage positive communication between parents and teachers. Please check your child's book bag daily for important notes or student work. We encourage parents to use email, phone calls, and notes to regularly communicate with their child's teacher. Conferences are held in October, and/or we may have schoolwide conferencing events (i.e., Night to SOAR). However, conferences may be held at any time the parent or teacher feels a need.

Georgia Standards of Excellence

Fulton County Schools adheres to the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) as a framework for its Reading, Language Arts, and Math curriculum. These standards were developed with a specific goal in mind: Students will have the skills necessary to be successful in college and/or career by the end of high school. In order to achieve this goal, standards were developed that focused on more informational text, text complexity, application of knowledge through higher order thinking skills, integration of standards, balanced assessment, and increased usage of technology. For more information about GSE or specific grade level standards, please visit these websites: www.georgiastandards.org; www.fultonschools.org.

Lunch

ALWAYS send money to school in an envelope or zip-lock bag and make sure it is clearly labeled with your child's name and what the money is for (ice cream, lunch, extra milk, book orders, field trips, etc.). It is a good idea to send in checks instead of cash. It is also a good idea to pay for lunch weekly or monthly. If you choose to pre-pay, please do so on Mondays.

Medication

If medication must be taken at school, the parent must fill out a written authorization form. The child's doctor must sign it if it is a prescription medication. All medicine must be brought in by the parent in its original container and kept in the clinic and administered by the clinic aide.

Newsletters

You will be receiving class newsletters, school newsletters, and PTA newsletters to help keep you informed. You will also receive samples of your child's work on a weekly basis so you will have the opportunity to review them with your child at home.

Parent Involvement

There will be many opportunities for you to participate in your child's education. Volunteers are greatly appreciated! Parents can volunteer for such things as media helper, classroom parent, or assisting with PTA events. Parents may also be asked to help in the classroom for reading a story, group projects, making center activities, or assisting small groups or individuals or chaperoning for field trips. In order to volunteer in your child's classroom, you must register online to be a volunteer and get approval from Fulton County schools. You will receive specific information on how to do this when your child starts school.

Report Cards

Report cards will be sent home every nine weeks. Your child will receive an S (Satisfactory), N (Needs Improvement) or U (Unsatisfactory) in reading, math, language arts, science, social studies, health, music, art, and physical education.

Safety

Hembree Springs Elementary School has school-wide emergency plans. Students practice fire drills, tornado drills, and intruder drills regularly. All doors are locked throughout the day when the students are inside the building. To enter the building, you must use the "call" button and our front office staff will let you into the building. Visitors must check in with the secretary, sign in, and wear a visitor badge. All classroom visits and teacher conferences must be made in advance with the teacher.

Student Information

Please keep the school informed of all changes regarding phone numbers, addresses, emergency information, medication the child may be taking, and any other pertinent information you feel we should know.

Transportation

Please send in a dated note for **ALL** transportation changes. ***For child safety purposes, our school cannot accept phone calls, emails, or faxes for transportation changes unless it is an EMERGENCY. ALL CHANGES MUST BE SIGNED AND IN WRITING.*** An adult must be at the bus stop or the child will be returned to the school.

Tips for Parents

- ❖ Have a positive attitude about your child entering school and about his/her future teachers and principal.
- ❖ Help your child learn his/her full name, address, phone number, and birth date.
- ❖ Teach your child how to hold pencils and scissors correctly.
- ❖ Establish rules that encourage respect for others.
- ❖ Assist your child in becoming independent by encouraging him/her to do age appropriate tasks without your help. Resist the urge to do everything for them.
- ❖ Provide opportunities for play and socialization with children the same age as your child.
- ❖ Read with your child. Talk about details in pictures and in story. When the child is familiar with the story, let him/her tell it to you.
- ❖ Point out letters, words, and sentences on road signs as you travel, buy groceries, read books, etc.
- ❖ Give your child numerous opportunities to express himself/herself artistically and to develop eye-hand coordination using crayons, magic markers, paints, scissors, glue, play dough, sand, water, etc.
- ❖ Let your child help with everyday chores, such as cooking, making beds, setting the table, gardening, and taking out the trash. Let them be responsible for certain things and be consistent.

- ❖ Turn errands into “field trips” for your child. Talk about things you see and do at the post office, grocery store, department store, park, restaurants, etc.
- ❖ Help your child develop number concepts by creating story problems involving addition and subtraction.
- ❖ Limit the amount of time your child spends watching television and playing video games.
- ❖ Maintain a sense of humor.

Important Information and Phone Numbers

Hembree Springs	470-254-2902
Hembree Springs Fax	470-254-2906
TBA	Principal
Andrea Smith	Assistant Principal
Carrie McAtee	Curriculum Support Teacher
Shannon Reynolds	Counselor
Linda Hill	Food Service Manager
Vera Turner	Head Custodian
Jenny Soberanis	Media Specialist
James Jones	Tech Specialist
Jean Bagwell	Clinic
Ana Maria Jimenez	Bi-Lingual Parent Liaison
Beth Dilworth	Title I Parent Liaison
Dee Duzak	Professional Assistant II
Lisa Dossey	Data Specialist
JoAnne Dicks	Professional Assistant III

Kindergarten Suggested Supply List 2020-2021

Please bring supplies during Open House.

3 packages of disinfectant wipes
(Purell Professional Disinfectant Wipes strongly preferred)
2 boxes of Puffs Kleenex
1 pair of Fiskar scissors
50 Elmer's glue sticks
3 boxes 24-pack Crayola Classic crayons
1 box of Crayola Classic markers
1 box of Crayola Colored Pencils
2 packages Fine Tip Dry Erase Expo markers— any color
1 bottle liquid antibacterial soap
1 ream of white card stock paper

Boys:

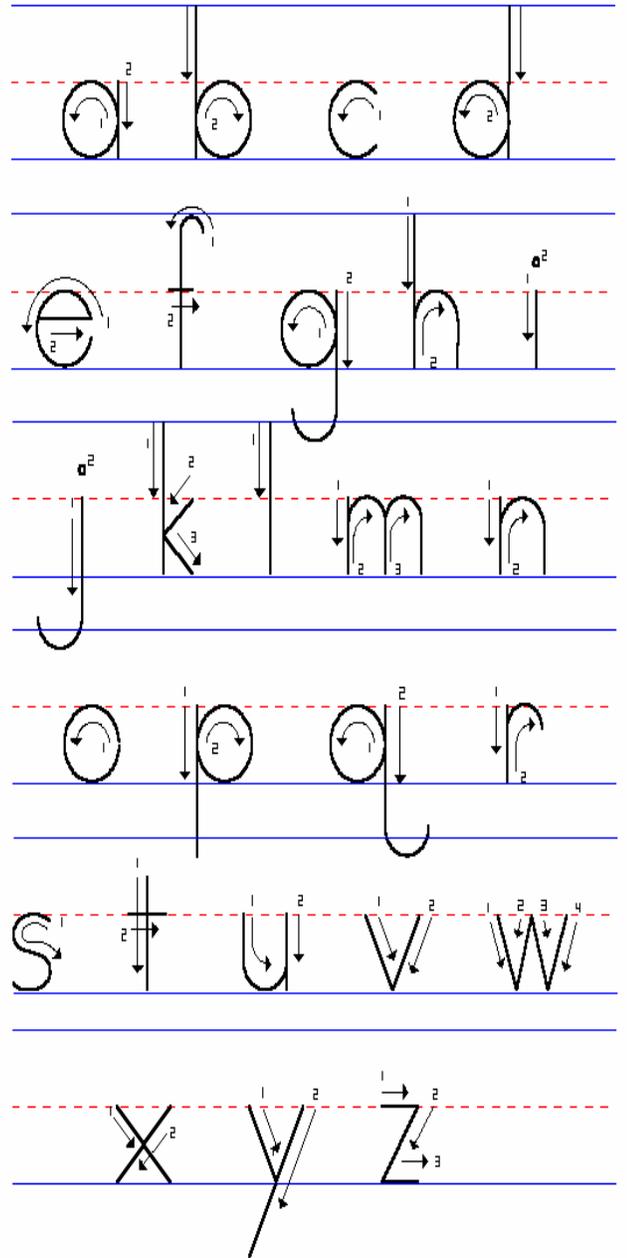
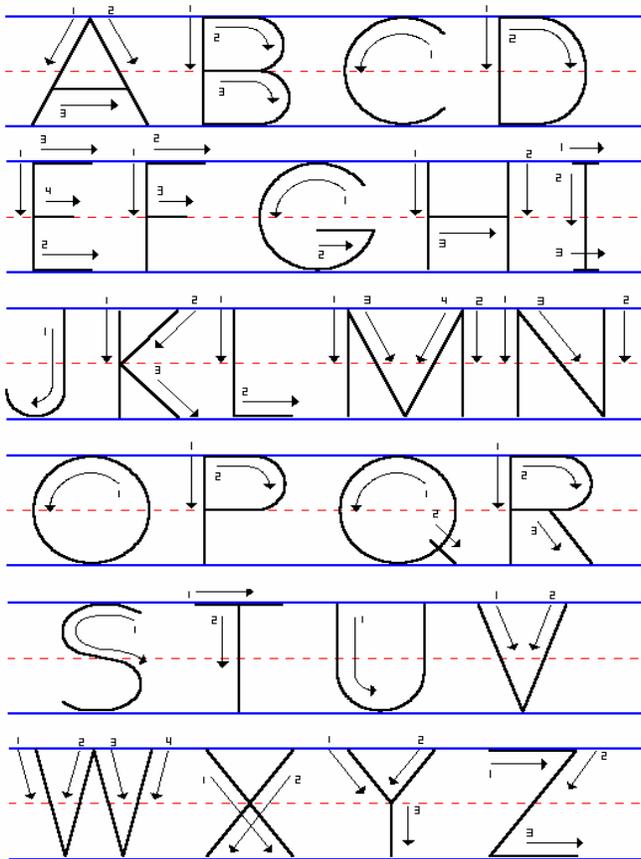
1 package of Pink Pearl erasers
Sandwich AND Gallon sized Ziploc bags - zipper type
1 Roll of Scotch Tape
1 package of small white Paper plates—not foam

Girls:

1 Roll of Masking Tape
Colored highlighter pens
Quart AND Gallon sized Ziploc bags - zipper type
1 box of #2 yellow pencils w/erasers
1 package of large white Paper plates—not foam

Kindergarten Handwriting

Correctly forming letters is an important skill for children to master. It helps improve their handwriting, build their small motor skills, and assists them in learning cursive in later years. The following is a guide for you to use when working with your child at home.



Number Formation Poem

Start at the top and around we go!
That's the way to make a zero.

Straight line down & you're done.
Making a number one is fun!

To make a two, go around and back on a
railroad track.

Around a tree and around a tree.
That's the way to make a three.

Down and over and down some more.
That's the way to make a four!

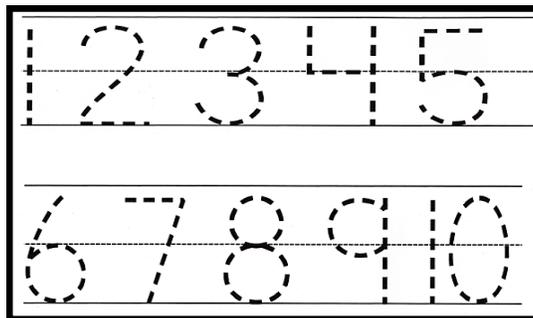
Fat, old five goes down and around.
Put a hat on top.

For six, roll a hoop and make a loop.

Across the sky and down from heaven.
That's the way to make a seven.

For eight, make an "S" but do not wait.
Go back up and close the gate.

A hoop and a line makes a nine.
That's how you make a nine.



HEMBREE SPRINGS
SCHOOL SONG

“Hembree Dreams”

Here at Hembree Springs Elementary,
with our blue and gold wings we fly.
We’re the Hawks you know,
and we know the way to go.
Reaching for our dreams way up high.

Big, big dreams.Lots of big dreams.
Things I wanna do someday.
Big, big dreams.Lots of big dreams.
Big dreams are okay.

You might think school is really boring.
Just let us tell you that’s not true.
Working together to learn and grow.
Using knowledge as we go.
Reaching for our dreams way up high.

Big, big dreams.Lots of big dreams.
Things I wanna do someday.
Big, big dreams.Lots of big dreams.
Big dreams are okay.

Hembree Springs Elementary Unity Poem

I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there.
The clay they used was a young child's mind
And they fashioned it with care.
One was a teacher, the tools he used
Were books and music and art.
The other was a parent with guiding hand and a
Gentle loving heart.
Day after day, the teacher toiled with touch
That was deft and sure.
While the parent labored by his side
And polished and smoothed it o'er.
And when at last their task was done,
They were proud of what they had wrought
For the things they had molded into the child
Could never be sold or bought.
And each agree they would have failed
If each had worked alone.
For behind the parent stood the school
And behind the teacher, the home.

Author Unknown

Revised 4/30/20