

► PHYSICAL AND MOTOR DEVELOPMENT

- Explore and experiment with a variety of tools (scissors, crayons, pencils, brushes...)
- Develop small muscle control and coordination
- Develop large muscle control, coordination, body strength, balance, flexibility and stamina
- Begin to understand the importance of healthy lifestyle choices (sleep, nutrition, physical activity, limited screen time) to promote personal health and physical fitness
- Demonstrate increasing independence with basic self-care skills

► SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Begin to name, understand and respond to the emotions of self and others
- Begin to show self-regulation to handle emotions appropriately
- Accept limits and tolerate redirection
- Use words to resolve conflict and get needs met
- Interact easily with familiar adults and peers
- Begin to participate successfully as a member of a group
- Takes pride in own abilities
- Demonstrate confidence and self-direction
- Sustain interaction by cooperating, helping, sharing and expressing interest



MINNETONKA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INSPIRING IN EVERYONE
A PASSION TO EXCEL

Preschool

One Year Before Kindergarten

Essential Learnings

2011-2012



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PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Minnetonka School District has identified what a student is expected to know and be able to do in each subject area within the curriculum. Listed inside are the expectations, called “essential learnings,” for students. The curriculum is designed to help each student accomplish these essential learnings.

▶ APPROACHES TO LEARNING

- ▶ Show curiosity in discovering and learning new things
- ▶ Demonstrate risk taking skills by trying new things
- ▶ Approach tasks and experiences with flexibility, imagination, and inventiveness
- ▶ Persist in completing a task
- ▶ Reflects and interprets everyday experiences and applies this knowledge to new situations

▶ MATHEMATICAL AND LOGICAL THINKING

- ▶ Counts in sequences
- ▶ Understand one to one correspondence between objects and numbers
- ▶ Recognize, duplicate and extend simple patterns
- ▶ Identify and name common shapes
- ▶ Name numerals

▶ SCIENTIFIC THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING

- ▶ Ask questions and seek answers through active exploration
- ▶ Use tools to investigate the environment
- ▶ Make comparisons between objects that have been collected or observed
- ▶ Make predictions about objects and natural events

▶ SOCIAL SYSTEMS UNDERSTANDING

- ▶ Appreciate similarities and differences between self and others
- ▶ Begin to understand various family roles, jobs, rules, and relationships
- ▶ Share responsibility in taking care of their environment
- ▶ Begin to understand the responsibilities associated with the use of technology
- ▶ Participate in activities to help others in the community

▶ LANGUAGE/LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ Guess what will happen next in a story using pictures as a guide
- ▶ Retell information from stories
- ▶ Recognize and name some letter sounds
- ▶ Begin to copy or write own name
- ▶ Expand appreciation of books and literature

▶ CREATIVITY AND THE ARTS

- ▶ Use a variety of media and materials for exploration and creative expression
- ▶ Participate in art and music experiences
- ▶ Share experiences, ideas and thoughts about art and creative expression

Essential Learnings are available on the web at

www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us

Our District Website is a great place to learn more about your student's curriculum. Essential Learnings are listed by grade level.

Support your child's learning by:

- ▶ Bringing your child to preschool on-time every day.
- ▶ Seeing that your child comes to school rested, fed and ready to learn.
- ▶ Monitoring and limiting your child's screen time.
- ▶ Taking an interest in what your child is learning.
- ▶ Reading to your child 30 minutes a day.
- ▶ Reading information in your child's backpack each day.

