



**A Guide for  
Parents of Birth to  
PreKindergarten Children**

*At Fort Osage we  
believe that every  
child deserves to  
believe they can*



*achieve and be successful in school.  
Preparation for school begins before  
your child is born and continues  
throughout their life. We are  
committed to being here for you  
every step of the way. As your child  
grows and develops here are things*



*you can monitor  
at home to stay  
on the path  
to achievement.*

## We BELIEVE...

- Each student can be **successful** in school and **in life**
- Teachers **make the difference**
- Technology **opens** doors and **creates opportunities**
- Learning is **best** when it is **personalized** for **each student**
- Clear, challenging standards **improve** student **learning**
- Parents and the community are **critical** to our **success**



## To ACHIEVE...

- Students' **ownership** of their **own learning**
- **Success** on **standards** at every level
- **Readiness** for **college** and **career**
- A **stronger** **community** and a **better** world

## We BELIEVE Technology...

- Gives students **opportunities** to learn **anytime** and **anywhere**
- **Improves** student **achievement**
- **Prepares** students for their futures
- Allows students to **learn** and **demonstrate** what they learn in **different** ways
- Provides for **enrichment** and **creativity**
- **Opens** classrooms to the **world**
- **Levels** the **playing field** for students from **all backgrounds**
- Should be **in the hands** of every 7-12 student
- Should be **readily available** to all preK-6 students



## We BELIEVE Standards...

- **Clarify learning goals** for students and families
- Make students **competitive** across the **nation** and **world**
- **Help** teachers and students **work together** to **reach goals**
- Can be met by all students, but **not always at the same time**
- Are better when they are **shared** across **multiple states**
- Can be **assessed** in a **variety** of ways



# YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

## Birth to 3 Months

- Likes to look at contrasts, like black and white pictures
- Loves to look at your face
- Visually follows people or things, which is called tracking
- Recognizes parents, familiar people and pets
- Shows a startle reflex to sudden noises or bright lights
- Makes simple sounds like 'eh' when awake
- Likes to hear his parents' voice
- Listens and turns to the directions of sounds around him
- Recognizes caregiver's voice and starts to be excited when he hears someone he knows

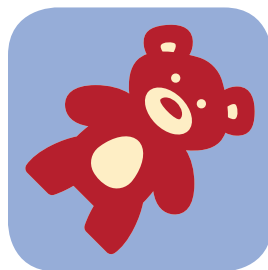
## 3-6 Months

- Likes to look at objects from different angles and is beginning to tell what is near and far
- Has the brain skills he needs to start learning words and language
- Responds to sounds around him, especially his name
- Can see objects clearly 4 feet away
- Has the same color vision as adults



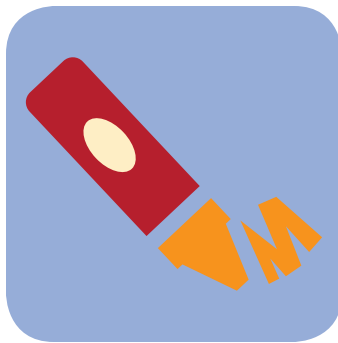
## 6-12 Months

- Can focus clearly up to 11 feet away and vision is becoming near normal
- Imitates expressions
- Likes to watch falling objects and see where they land
- Enjoys games of hide and seek and finding hidden objects
- Is connecting words with objects and pictures
- Has made 'auditory maps' in his brain that store all the sounds of his native language
- Uses repeated sounds like 'ma ma ma' or 'ba ba ba'



## 12-24 Months

- Uses his ears, eyes and movement to learn about his surroundings
- Can imitate simple words and sounds
- Can understand and answer simple questions, either with sounds or gestures



## Age 2-3

### Language and Reading

- Attends to stories
- Answers yes/no questions
- Understands who questions
- Understands where questions



### Social and Physical

- Joins in play with other children
- States gender
- States age
- Eats independently with little assistance
- Shows hand preference
- Builds a tower with blocks
- Balances on one foot for 2 seconds

### Early Math

- Learning shapes
- Sorts objects
- Counts to 3
- Puts together a puzzle



## Age 4-5

### Language and Reading

- Pretends to read easy books
- Identifies some alphabet letters
- Takes turns in conversation
- Identifies rhyming words
- Follows specific directions



### Social and Physical

- States name
- States birth date
- Initiates conversation with familiar adults
- Uses toilet with no assistance
- Draws a person with body parts
- Cuts straight, curved lines, and simple shapes
- Copies first name
- Throws and catches a ball
- Jumps off the ground and lands on both feet



### Early Math

- Recognizes patterns
- Creates patterns
- Counts to 20

## Did You Know?

80% of what a baby learns begins with what he is able to see. All babies should have an eye exam around 6 months of age. This will help spot problems that could lead to permanent changes in how a baby's brain interprets what he sees.

To find a professional optometrist who offers this free screening in your area, contact InfantSEE at (888) 396-EYES (3937) or go online at ► <http://infantsee.org>.



A newborn's hearing is the most developed of all the senses. Research demonstrates a baby could hear your heartbeat, your voice, and even your choice of music before birth! As your baby's hearing matures, you can help his language and listening skills. Missouri State Law requires hearing screening for newborns. The **American Academy of Pediatrics** says hearing loss is one of the most frequent occurring birth defects in infants. If not detected and treated early, hearing loss can impede speech, language, and cognitive development.

## Read, Read, Read

The best time to start reading to your child is BEFORE birth. Really!

He will not understand the story, look at pictures or turn pages, but he loves to hear your voice. He will begin to feel good about reading.



When you read to your child, you are helping develop language skills by:

- Recognizing that pictures and words go together
- Learning new words
- Getting a feel for the flow of language



*We are  
here to help  
your child  
Believe and  
Achieve.*

Reading aloud helps your child understand his world. He develops his thinking skills by learning about objects, routines, people and places.

**Reading improves your child's memory and expands his imagination.**

Whenever you read with your child, you build attachment. Your child likes to spend time with you, he likes to hear your voice and he likes to learn from you.

## Start young

Your baby may not understand the words you read, but hearing your voice is comforting. Your baby will grow up thinking of reading as something he likes to do with you.



## Read every day

Set aside time for books. Reading before bed can help your child relax. Reading after a nap can help your child wake up. Make 20 minutes your goal, and remember it can be spread out over the whole day.

## Set up a book-friendly home

Keep books in your home-your own or from the library-and use them often! As your child gets older, let him play with books even when you are not reading together. Give him supplies so he can "write" his own books.

# PARENTS AS TEACHERS

PAT is a district-sponsored early childhood program that treats the parents as first teachers and gives them the tools to do the job effectively.



## A weekly playgroup

Offered in the Fort Osage School District, parents, grandparents, and/or caregivers are invited to attend for an opportunity to share ideas and make new friends. Tuesday or Wednesday (when school is in session) 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Indian Trails Elementary, 24300 E. Bundschu Rd., Independence, MO 64056.

## Developmental Screening

Screening provides for periodic monitoring of your child's development in understanding and use of language, vision, hearing, fine and gross motor development, and health and physical development. Screenings highlight the strengths and abilities of your child and usually reassure parents that their children are meeting developmental milestones within expected age ranges. If delays are identified that may affect future learning, parents can be referred to resources that will provide the help your child needs. Screenings are offered through the Parents as Teachers office by calling 816-650-7655.



You can follow us on our Social Media Channels or on our website at [www.fortosage.net](http://www.fortosage.net) for more activities and suggestions to help your child.

## Kindergarten Readiness

It began with talking, playing, and reading, and now it is time for your child to start kindergarten. Here is a snapshot of the many important skills your child should have when he starts kindergarten.

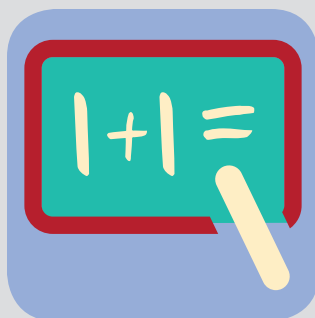
- Writes his or her own name and other meaningful words
- Begins to show interest in print rather than just picture books
- Knows letters and letter sounds
- Can recognize beginning sounds
- Answers who, what, when, where and how questions
- Retells stories
- Shows interest in spelling and writing words
- Recites alphabet song and rhymes simple words
- Counts to 20 and recognizes numerals to 10
- Understands directions
- Uses descriptive words
- Recognizes and names common shapes, colors, and body parts
- Can use school supplies
- Draws simple shapes
- Can dress and undress
- Jumps, hops, gallops
- Shares and plays with others



## Kindergarten Enrollment - What you need to know

- Enrollment takes place in April each year
- You enroll at your home school based on your address in the district
- State law requires that children be 5 years of age by July 31 to enroll
- Items required to enroll include
  - Proof of age (birth certificate)
  - Immunization records
  - Proof of residency (2 utility bills)
  - Completed enrollment packet





## Additional Resources

We are committed to helping your child succeed and achieve to their highest potential. We have other resources available on our Facebook page, our Pinterest accounts, and our school websites.



### Find us on:

- ▶ <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fort-Osage-School-District/26208454196>
- ▶ <http://pinterest.com/fortosageschool/boards>
- ▶ <http://www.fortosage.net>

### Follow us on:

- ▶ [twitter@fortosageschool](https://twitter.com/fortosageschool)



## CONTACT US

### Mailing address for all schools:

2101 N. Twyman Road, Independence, MO 64058

**Parents as Teachers Program ..... (816) 650-7655**

**Fort Osage Early Childhood Center ..... (816) 650-7480**

18109 E. 12th Street North, Independence, MO 64058

**Blue Hills Elementary School ..... (816) 650-7440**

1911 N. Blue Mills Road, Independence, MO 64058

**Buckner Elementary School ..... (816) 650-7300**

013 S. Sibley Street, Buckner, MO 64016

**Cler-Mont Elementary School ..... (816) 650-7350**

19009 Susquehanna Ridge, Independence, MO 64056

**Elm Grove Elementary School ..... (816) 650-7400**

18000 E. Kentucky Road, Independence, MO 64058

**Indian Trails Elementary School..... (816) 650-7645**

24300 E. Bundschu, Independence, MO 64056