



# Woodmen-Roberts Elementary School

8365 Orchard Path Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80919

Phone (719)234-5300 Fax (719) 234-5399

<http://www.asd20.org/wre>



*Jennifer Sterk, Principal*

*Keisha Hill, Asst. Principal*

May 9, 2016

Dear Woodmen-Roberts' Kindergarten Parents,

There is a wonderful sense of home when you walk through the front doors of Woodmen-Roberts Elementary School. We deeply believe that your child will find our school to be a warm and friendly place. We are very proud to be a part of the Wildcat family. Once you have opened those doors you are a member of our family too.

The first day of school will mark one of the most important milestones in your child's life. We understand that you and your child may meet this day with excitement or apprehension (or a little of both!) It will be our pleasure and privilege to watch your child's personality and learning abilities blossom and unfold day by day. Be assured that we take a personal interest in the development and care of every child in our school as if they were our very own. We will do our best to make this school year an enjoyable time for your child, but also a time filled with *real* learning. The skills practiced daily in kindergarten are the building blocks for your child's future success in school and in life.

Kindergarten is a new and exciting time for you and your child. It's a time of change... new beginnings, new friends, new challenges and exciting discoveries! I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for allowing Woodmen-Roberts to be a part of your child's life during this precious time of growth and discovery!

We look forward to a very successful year at Woodmen-Roberts Elementary.

Warmly,

Jennifer Sterk, Principal

Keisha Hill, Assistant Principal

# Kindergarten

## All I Ever Really Needed To Know I Learned In Kindergarten

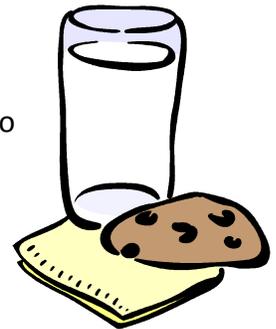
Most of what I really need to know how to live, and what to do, and how to be, I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sandbox at nursery school.

These are things I learned:

- ☺ Share everything.
- ☺ Play fair.
- ☺ Don't hit people.
- ☺ Put things back where you found them
- ☺ Clean up your own mess.
- ☺ Don't take things that are not yours.
- ☺ Take a nap every afternoon.
- ☺ Say you are sorry, when you hurt someone.
- ☺ Wash your hands before you eat.
- ☺ Flush.
- ☺ Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.
- ☺ Live a balanced life.
- ☺ Learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work some every day some.
- ☺ When you go into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands and stick together.
- ☺ Be aware of wonder
- ☺ Remember the little seed in the plastic cup. The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.



Think of what a better world it would be if we all – the whole world – had cookies and milk about 3 o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankets for a nap. Of if we had a basic policy in our nation and other nations to always put things back where we found then and cleaned up our own messes. And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands an stick together.



- Robert Fulghum





## **For the health of your child...**

Your child will be more alert and happy in school if you help him or her get a good start.

Your child should:

- ☺ Get plenty of sleep. Ten to twelve hours is recommended.
- ☺ Have a good healthy diet, including a good breakfast. Get up in plenty of time for school, so he or she does not have to hurry.



If your child is ill:

- ☺ Keep the child home from school
- ☺ Be alert to such symptoms as upset stomach, runny nose, fever and sore throat.
- ☺ Check with your doctor for diagnosis, treatment, and the proper time for returning to school.

**Please report any absence from school.**

**Call the school (719) 234-5300 or report the absence using the school website [www.asd20.org/wre](http://www.asd20.org/wre) explaining the reason for any absence.**

If your child becomes ill at school:

- ☺ The child will be sent to the school office. You will be called if there is an illness or injury that requires treatment or if we feel your child should go home.



# Kindergarten

## Expectations . . .

Throughout the kindergarten year, your child will be exposed to many learning experiences that will develop skills in many areas. Full day kindergarteners will be able to go deeper into these disciplines.

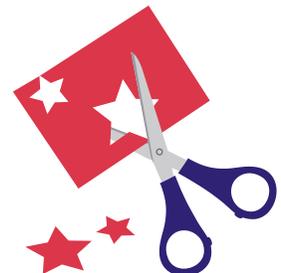
### Social

- ☺ Develop positive self-esteem
- ☺ Learn to work and play with others
- ☺ Learn to work independently
- ☺ Learn to follow directions and rules
- ☺ Learn manners and demonstrate courtesy and consideration to others



### Physical

- ☺ Learn to use classroom equipment and supplies (scissors, pencils, crayons, & manipulatives)
- ☺ Develop large motor skills concerning body movement and coordination by running, skipping and rhythmical activities
- ☺ Develop small motor skills by using playdough, tracing activities, cutting, and tactile experiences



# Kindergarten

## Expectations . . .

### Math

☺ Involvement in:

Counting

Sorting

Classifying

Patterning

Estimating

☺ Comparison of:

Sizes

Shapes

Amounts

Time

### Science/ Social Studies

☺ Involvement in understanding of:

Environment

Past/Present/Future

Senses

Patterns

Weather

Health

Personal Awareness

Transportation

Shelters

Signs/Symbols



### Academics

☺ Involvement in reading readiness through:

Read Alouds

Shared Readings

Writing

Speaking and Listening Activities

Phonemic and Phonics Learning Experiences

Story Element

Independent Reading



# Kindergarten

## Expectations . . .

### Language Art

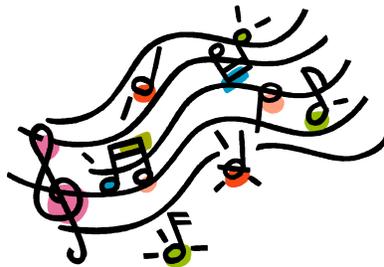
- ☺ Involvement in oral language through:
- Speaking in complete sentences before a group
  - Increasing vocabulary
  - Use of creative dramatics, puppetry, chart stories, & taped stories
  - Class discussions; small and large groups

### Computers

- ☺ Involvement in computer literacy through:
- Experiences with computer components
  - Experiences with basic keyboarding
  - Experiences with language arts and math software



### Music



- ☺ Involvement in:
- Rhythm
  - Songs
  - Use of instruction
  - Chants

### Art

- ☺ Involvement in use of assorted materials and techniques:
- Supplies include: paints, clay, papers, chalk, and many varieties of equipment



# PARENT INVOLVEMENT . . .

**Parents are encouraged to contribute time and support to the kindergarten program in both the classroom and at home.**

Suggestions for involvement include:

☺ Take time to talk

- Encourage discussion and questioning
- Help your child to be aware of sounds
- Use the five senses to stimulate conversation

(How does the tree sound, feel, smell, taste, look?)



☺ Take time to listen

- Encourage storytelling and retelling
- Develop positive ways to react when the child is talking

☺ Read to your children

- Stories, poems, and literature books read daily will help in the most positive ways
- Encourage your child to tell stories about a trip or experience

☺ Sequence activities

- “what comes next” – developed through cooking and following a recipe

☺ Limited television, gaming, computers

- Set limits and check for age appropriate programs
- Encourage family discussion about what your child is seeing, hearing, and doing

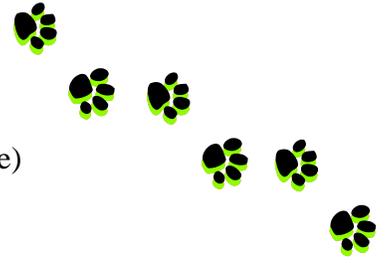
☺ Large motor activities

- Encourage running, climbing, skipping, hopping, bending, and jumping
- Use playground and parks facilities
- Encourage children to use balls, bubbles, beanbags; and have children bounce, kick, throw, catch, and balance
- Supervise construction from wood using hammer, nails, screwdriver, saw, and wood pieces.



☺ Small motor activities

- Encourage child to dress himself
- Use scissors to cut
- Water and sand play (pour, mold, and measure)
- Art activities
  - ✓ Tearing, drawing, and folding paper
  - ✓ Painting, coloring
  - ✓ Clay and playdough



☺ Be involved in their world

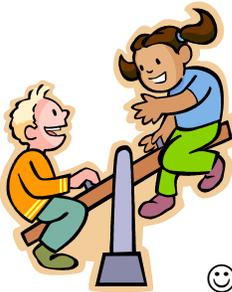
- Point out uses of clocks and the calendar
- Measure and weigh objects
- Notice seasonal changes (trees, birds, weather)
- All things can be turned into educational experiences

☺ Acquire the library habit

- Visit the library regularly
- Check out books to share
- Read about subjects in which your child is interested

☺ Visit school

- Get involved with your child's education
- Encourage discussion at home about school – ask questions such as: “What was the best part of your day?”
- Participate in the class – consult your child's teacher for ways to become involved



☺ Encourage play

- Play is children's work – allow and encourage activities such as dress-up, puppetry, play store, and free play
- Give children opportunities to make choices

☺ Enjoy your children!

- You are the child's first and most important teacher. Encourage them to grow and develop into happy individuals.

**BE POSITIVE!!**



# Helpful hints...



## Something of Your Own

Each child needs something of his own, a place and a time that belongs to the child. The place may be his room or a tiny box to keep things in, or anything else...as long as you and your child both know that it belongs to the child. In this place, your child can keep his collection of pretty stones, seashells, and all the things that are important to the child.

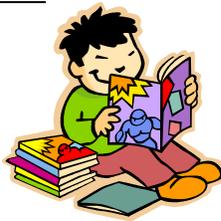
At a very early age, it is important that the child be provided his own working space, a place to color, look at books, and keep supplies, books and work completed at school. Make certain the area is quiet, comfortable, and well-lighted. If the child does not have a desk, a night stand or a dresser top can serve as his special space.

It is important for you to take a few minutes each day to review what the child did at school. Be sure to read all the information that you receive from your child's school.

## The World of Books

You can teach your child to like and respect books...not to be afraid of them. You can read to him, show him pictures in books, and explain how books will help him learn. Some of the books could include:

- The Little Engine That Could
- The Goat in the Rug
- What's in Fox's Sack?
- Mushroom in the Rain
- Wolf's Chicken Stew
- Tacky the Penguin
- Timothy Goes to School
- The Napping House
- Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears
- Strega Nona
- The Monkey and the Crocodile
- Little Red Hen
- Cat in the Hat
- Are You My Mother?
- Count and See
- Is it Red, Is it Yellow, Is it Blue?
- Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes
- Gingerbread Man
- If You Give a Mouse a Cookie
- Over, Under & Through
- Push Pull, Empty Full
- Three Little Pigs
- Tale of Peter Rabbit
- Three Bears
- Goodnight Moon



A library card and special programs are available for you and your child at your public library.

When your child can print his first name, he is eligible to receive a library card from the public library. It is necessary for the parent to have a valid library card to accompany the child to apply for the card.



# Creative Corner...



- ☺ Help your child cut out pictures of things he or she likes best from magazines, greeting cards, coloring books or newspapers. Paste the pictures on index cards – only one on each card. Print the name of the “thing” on the card. Look at the pictures – all the animals in one pile, food in another, things that have wheels in another, etc.
- ☺ Write, glue, or tape a numeral (1-5) on each compartment of a muffin tin or egg carton. Give your child a “bunch” of buttons, stones, dried beans, candy, etc., to count. Help him or her try to figure out how many objects go into each compartment. When your child can count more than five objects, change the numerals to 1-10.
- ☺ Ask your child to sort buttons which you have collected, according to color into a muffin tin or egg carton. All blues go together, all whites go together. etc. Other possible objects for sorting are marbles, candy, beads, or colored cereals. Your child can also sort objects by size. All large buttons together; all small buttons together.
- ☺ Make two motions, such as clapping hands twice, or patting your stomach and then patting your head. Then ask your child to do exactly what you did. Start with simple motions – for a change let your child be the leader and you follow.
- ☺ Show your child a picture in a magazine for 30 seconds. Remove the picture and ask your child to tell you what they remember about the picture.
- ☺ Give 2 or 3 instructions and check to see if your child can remember and do them in order. The instructions should be simple ones like touch your nose, jump up, and get the book. Take turns and let the whole family join the fun!
- ☺ Go on an indoor or outdoor shape walk. Hunt for objects that are round, square, rectangle, triangle or even a diamond.
- ☺ For a variation, take an alphabet walk, a number walk, color walk, or a sound walk.
- ☺ Recite nursery rhymes and poems with your child. The rhythm and sounds of words can give special pleasure to young children.

Help your child use crayons, paper, and other materials correctly. Learning to hold and use scissors safely and correctly is very important!

**Finger-paint Recipe:**  
Mix 2 Tbsp. of flour and 3 Tbsp. of water. Mix to a smooth paste. Add powdered tempera paints, powdered fruit drink mix, or food coloring.

### **Playdough Recipe:**

4 cups flour, 1 cup salt, 4 Tbsp. oil. Add water until right consistency. Add food coloring or water for colored playdough.



### **Salt Paint Recipe:**

Mix ½ cup liquid starch, 2 cups of salt, ½ cup water, dry tempera paint or food coloring.

This is interesting textured paint to be used on cardboard or heavy paper. It sparkles in the sunlight after dries.

