


# KINDERGARTEN...A JOURNEY TO REMEMBER

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# AGENDA

- PHILOSOPHY, MISSION, VISION
- A TYPICAL KINDERGARTEN DAY
- CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, ASSESSMENT
- PROGRAM MATERIALS AND METHODS
- THE SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUR CHILD
- WAYS TO NURTURE AND SUPPORT LEARNING
- ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND WRAP-UP

# HOW DO CHILDREN LEARN BEST? OUR BELIEFS...

Environments need to be:

- Warm
- Secure and safe
- Inviting
- Engaging
- Responsive

Learning needs to be:

- Active and experiential
- Flexibly collaborative and individual
- Constructive
- Developmentally appropriate yet challenging

# A TYPICAL KINDERGARTEN DAY

- Entry
- Morning Meeting and So Much More
- Literacy (Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking)
- Snack and Recess
- Math
- Lunch and Recess
- Science, Social Studies, Health, Library, Computer Lab/Technology
- Specialists: Art/Music/Physical Education
- Free Choice! (blocks, art, writing center, dramatic play, listening center, music, computers, science and math investigations)

# ACADEMIC GOALS: WHAT IS A BENCHMARK?

A benchmark is an observable, and measurable skill or behavior that is focused on at a particular grade level.

*John Kendall and Robert Marzano*



# BENCHMARK INFORMATION


- [www.melrosepublicschools.com](http://www.melrosepublicschools.com)
- Click on the curriculum link on the left
- ELA/Reading
- Math
- Science and Technology/Engineering
- History and Social Science
- Instructional Technology
- Information Fluency

# DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION...

## WHAT IS IT?

- Carol Tomlinson, Author
- Adapting instruction to meet the needs of students who have different:
  - Ability levels
  - Interests
  - Learning styles

# WHAT AND HOW DO TEACHERS ADAPT?

- The content they are teaching
  - The pacing they use to teach it
  - The approaches to learning that they offer students
  - The ways they give students to express what they've learned
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# BENEFITS OF DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

Good DI enables teachers to:

- Target particular learning needs
- Provide interest-based explorations
- Match instruction to student learning styles
- Have students share skills and interests
- Balance whole and small group instruction

# ASSESSMENT: MONITORING STUDENT PROGRESS

- DIBELS (Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Literacy Skills)
- Harcourt Math Lesson, Unit, and Theme Tests
- Running Records
- Portfolio Assessments
- Performance Assessments
- Traditional Tests and Quizzes
- Answering Open Response and Open-Ended Questions

# METHODS AND MATERIALS

Some but not all include....

- Harcourt StoryTown-Reading/Language Arts
- Harcourt Math
- Handwriting Without Tears
- Scott Foresman Science
- Harcourt Brace Social Studies
- The Great Body Shop Health
- Second-Step Violence Prevention
- Plus LOTS of manipulatives and teacher-made materials

# WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN

- Make sure your child knows how he/she will get to and from school each day.
- Reassure your child that you can always be reached by phone if there was an emergency.
- Answer all of your child's questions about school honestly. If you don't know an answer, say, "I don't know. Let's find out!"
- Treat going to Kindergarten as a normal occurrence. Don't be overly anxious or build it up as a huge event.
- Tell your child that lots of children will be looking for new friends.
- Read stories about school and kindergarten. (See Appendix A)

Suggestions from: *How to Prepare Your Child for Kindergarten*  
*by Karnofsky and Weiss*

# REMEMBER...

- *“Childhood should be a journey not a race.”*

*Author unknown*

- *“Everything I ever really needed to know, I learned in Kindergarten.”*

*Robert Fulghum*

*Thank-you for coming!*



## APPENDIX A: SUGGESTED BOOKS FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN

- *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn
- *Froggy Goes to School* by Jonathan London
- *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!* by Nancy Carlson
- *I'll Always Come Back* by Steve Metzger
- *Who Will Go to Kindergarten Today?* by K. Ruhmann
- *Will I Have a Friend?* by Miriam Cohen
- *The Night Before Kindergarten* by Natasha Wing
- *I Need a Lunchbox* by Jeannette Caines
- *Morris Goes to School* by B. Wiseman
- *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten* by J. Slate
- *Kindergarten Kids* by Ellen Senisi
- *Wemberly Worried* by Kevin Henkes