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# Humann Elementary School

6720 Rockwood Lane • Lincoln, NE 68516 • (402) 436-1145

March 7, 2018

Dear Parents of Incoming Kindergartners,

We are looking forward to your son or daughter beginning their first year of school as a member of our Humann School community. Our mission at Humann Elementary School is promoting passion for learning, caring for others, and skills for our future. The important work we do each day is guided by our core values:

- We believe in success for every child
- We work to build and maintain a safe and welcoming environment
- We believe in creating memorable experiences by making learning fun
- We emphasize active participation and have high expectations for learning
- We help students make choices, set goals, and reflect on their work and behavior
- We recognize and appreciate cultural differences and commonalities
- We work to establish partnerships with families and community members

We would like to invite you and your child to Kindergarten Orientation on Thursday, May 10 from 5:00 PM -6:00 PM. We will be meeting in our multipurpose room.

You will have an opportunity to meet our kindergarten teachers, and your child will visit one of our kindergarten classrooms. While your child is visiting one of the classrooms, I will meet with parents to share important information about kindergarten and our school. We are looking forward to meeting you and your child.

We offer parents the opportunity to tell us about unique needs of your child or to share with us hopes you have for your child's school experience before we start organizing for the coming year. Please fill out the yellow sheet included with your registration materials.

I look forward to meeting you and your child and having you join our school community!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Gena Licata, Principal

# 10 Kindergarten Readiness Skills Your Child Needs

What do teachers really want your child to know on the first day of kindergarten? Kindergarten is changing and parents are feeling pressure to prepare their children for their first school experience. But while some may fret that reading and doing addition are prerequisites for kindergarten these days, your child likely possesses many of the skills she needs to be successful as she begins school.

“Some of the things I would like my kids to know coming into kindergarten are their letters and some sounds, recognition of numbers 1-10, be able to write and recognize their name and be able to cut with scissors,” says kindergarten teacher Nicole Barton. “It is also important for them to be able to follow directions and to have the ability to express their feelings.”

Here are the 10 kindergarten readiness skills to focus on as you work with your child. Don't be concerned if she does not have them all down before the first day of kindergarten, as she will continue to work on them throughout the year. Try a few activities listed for the skills your child might need to work on a bit more before she starts school.



## 1. Writing

- Help your child practice writing letters, especially the letters in her name.
- Teach your child how to write her name with an uppercase first letter and the remaining letters in lowercase.
- Write in shaving cream in the bathtub, salt or sugar in a cake pan or in finger paint to make practicing more fun and multisensory.

## 2. Letter Recognition

- Play games to help your child recognize some letters of the alphabet.
- Play hide and seek with refrigerator magnets.
- Rather than drilling your child with flashcards, use them to play a game of alphabet go fish.

## 3. Beginning Sounds

- Make your child aware of the sound that each letter makes.
- Find items around the house that begin with the same sound and identify the letter that makes each sound.
- Overemphasize the first sound in words to help your child hear the individual sounds in words.

## 4. Number Recognition and Counting

- Count throughout the day (for example, the crackers she is eating for snack or the socks in that you take out of the dryer).
- Point out numbers you see in your environment and have your child name them (for example, the numbers found on food boxes or street signs).

## 5. Shapes and Colors

- If your child is having trouble recognizing certain colors, you might add a little food coloring to cookie dough, milk or vanilla pudding to emphasize those colors.
- Help your child recognize more difficult shapes such as diamonds and rectangles by showing her how to draw them on paper and cut them out.
- Play games in which your child finds objects of particular colors and shapes around the house or in the neighborhood as you drive.

## **6. Fine Mot or Skills**

- Give your child several different writing options (colored pencils, crayons or markers) to help keep her interested in writing and drawing.
- Playing with play dough is a fun way to strengthen the muscles of the hand that will be used for writing.

## **7. Cutting**

- Purchase a good pair of child-safe scissors and let your child practice.
- Give her old magazines or newspapers to cut up, or allow her to make a collage of the things she likes by cutting them from magazines and gluing them to a piece of paper.
- Cutting play dough is also fun for children.

## **8. Reading Readiness**

- Run your finger under the words as you read to your child to help her learn that words go from left to right and top to bottom.
- Play games with rhyming words to help your child hear similar sounds in words. For example, as you are going up the stairs, name one word that rhymes with cat for each step as you go up.

## **9. Attention and Following Direct ions**

- Read lots of stories with your child and work up to reading longer chapter books, one chapter each night or as long as she remains interested and focused.
- Give your child two and three step directions. For example: "put on your pajamas, brush your teeth and pick a book to read."
- Play Simon Says with two or three step directions. For example: "Simon Says jump up and down and shout hooray."

## **10. Social Skills**

- Give your children opportunities to interact with other children in preschool, church or social groups or play dates.
- Teach your child how to express her feelings if she doesn't like something.
- Role-play different situations she might experience on the playground or at school. Help her find solutions for typical problems she might encounter.

Chances are you're already practicing many of these skills your child will need for kindergarten. Remember to keep it fun and don't make it stressful for you or your child. With just a little fun practice, your child will be prepared for her elementary school debut!

# Welcome to Humann Elementary School

## Information About Your Child Entering Kindergarten

The information you provide on this form will help us better understand some of the things that make your child special and unique. It will also help us in preparing for class placements for next fall. Please take some time to answer the questions below and bring this form with you on the **Thursday, May 10** visitation day.

Student's Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Siblings \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

1. Has your child attended pre-school? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How does your child feel about starting school?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What are some things your child enjoys doing?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Is there another person who cares for your child on a regular basis?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What are your child's strengths? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Please describe some characteristics of a teacher that you feel would be important for your child. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Please check any of the following items which describe your child in order for us to better understand his/her personality.

- |                   |                      |                 |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| _____ Bold        | _____ Self-Conscious | _____ Creative  |
| _____ Friendly    | _____ Carefree       | _____ Confident |
| _____ Quiet       | _____ Outgoing       | _____ Restless  |
| _____ Responsible | _____ Distractible   | _____ Focused   |
| _____ Courteous   | _____ Shy            | _____ Moody     |
| _____ Worries     | _____ Day dreams     | _____ Selfish   |
| _____ Aggressive  | _____ Enthusiastic   | _____ Motivated |

8. Does your child have any health concerns or allergies?

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9. Please share any specific needs you feel your child may have.

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## Daycare List

More daycares can be found by using the Nebraska Resource & Referral System website at <https://nrrs.ne.gov/usersearch/>.

Family Service  
(402) 441-7949  
Humann Elementary

Knowledge Beginnings  
(402) 423-1188  
6700 S 32nd St

Academic Advantage  
(402) 420-5440  
6021 S 56th St

Little Kingdom  
(402) 423-8600  
5100 Old Cheney Rd

Ivy League  
(402) 423-1919  
5225 S 16th St

Williamsburg Village  
(402) 423-5437  
3301 Orwell St

Kindercare  
(402) 489-9075  
5601 Pioneers Blvd

Zac's Place  
(402) 421-7788  
4849 Old Cheney Rd



## Humann Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization

Welcome to Humann Elementary School! As your 2017-18 PTO President, I'd like to tell you about how to get involved at our school and what the Humann PTO is about.

The PTO is made up of parents, teachers, and administrators who volunteer their time for our children and their educational experiences. Our goal is to promote open communication and understanding between the school and parents, and to enhance and maximize the education of every child, helping them achieve their highest potential.

We support many programs with our time, organization and fundraising such as: field trips, class parties, grade-level development, keepsakes of your students' work, teacher appreciation, classroom improvements and much more! Some fundraisers include Box Tops for Education, Family Fun Night, Scholastic Book Fair, Spring Fling, Yankee Candle, and partnerships with local businesses.

Volunteering can feel daunting. Many of our volunteers do work full-time. So here are the straight answers to questions you may have:

### **"How much time are we talking about?"**

ANY time that ANYONE is willing to offer is valuable! Whatever your time and talents, we have a place for you! Each person gives what they are willing to give and we have or can create opportunities to fit.

### **"Isn't the PTO for those who stay at home?"**

Dual working households and fulltime workers continues to grow and be the norm. However, our children's education continues to need parents involvement. Our PTO is diverse- men and women of varying educational and employment backgrounds. We come together with one goal, to create an excellent educational experience for our children. We strive to create an atmosphere where both teachers and administrators can do their best work and so can our children.

### **"Why do I need to be involved in the PTO? What good does it do?"**

There have been more than 500 independent studies about parent involvement. When parents get involved in their children's education, grades go up, test scores go up, children become more likely to pass and to attend better schools after high school, they have fewer discipline problems, and they're less likely to use drugs and alcohol. Overall, involvement with the PTO keeps you in the "know" about what's going on with the school and allows you close contact with your children's educators.

You're invited to join our Facebook group: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/HumannPTO>. This is a great way to help you stay connected! Click "Join Group" under the banner on the right.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions!

Nikki Gatewood

2017-2018 PTO President

Humann Elementary

(402) 730-2834

nikkialesio@gmail.com