

## **JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN BENCHMARKS**

*Junior Kindergarten students must be age four before September 1.*

Junior Kindergarten at Renbrook is a structured, play-based program designed to prepare our students for a rigorous Kindergarten program. In JK, our students explore the world around them with a theme-based and inquiry-driven curriculum that is responsive to students' individual interests. Students' early literacy and mathematics skills are introduced and encouraged. Along with letters and numbers, our students' language, social-emotional, and cognitive skills are developed to provide them with the tools necessary to meet growing academic challenges in the future. In addition, Renbrook Junior Kindergarten students participate in several special subject classes, spend time outdoors, enjoy relationships with buddy students in the Lower School, and learn about themselves and their important impact on their communities.

The Junior Kindergarten Benchmarks below provide a framework for understanding a child's progression in development at Renbrook.

### **SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL**

- Delays gratification
- Manages classroom rules, routines, and transitions
- Takes responsibility for own well-being
- Engages with trusted adults
- Identifies emotions and their causes
- Engages in positive small group interactions and establishes a special friendship
- Takes turns and shares materials while solving social problems in and out of the classroom

### **PHYSICAL**

- Coordinates increasingly complex movements
- Sustains balance during complex movement experiences
- Manipulates balls or similar objects with a full range of motion
- Uses correct finger grip and precise hand movements when writing, drawing, and cutting but may hold the writing instrument too close to one end

### **LANGUAGE**

- Responds appropriately to specific vocabulary, statements, questions, stories, and multistep directions
- Explains familiar items and tells stories about other times and places in complete, easily-understood sentences
- Engages in conversations of at least three exchanges using acceptable language and basic social rules

## COGNITIVE

- Shows eagerness to learn, sustains attention to tasks, and ignores most distractions
- Able to solve problems efficiently to complete a variety of challenging tasks
- Recalls, reflects on, and evaluates detailed experiences in the correct order
- Relates stories or experiences to own life
- Sorts objects by one characteristic, then resorts using a different characteristic and indicates the reason
- Able to represent objects or ideas as drawings, constructions, or dramatizations
- Interacts with two or more peers in pretend play

## LITERACY

- Decides whether two words rhyme
- Matches beginning sounds of some words
- Shows awareness of separate syllables in words
- Recognizes up to ten letters, especially in own name; knows 10-20 letter sounds
- Knows features of a book and print (e.g. author, illustrator, title, word, spaces, punctuation)
- Identifies and communicates events and problems in a story; retells a story or recounts information
- Practices pretend reading using language that closely matches the text on each page and uses reading intonation
- Writes first name
- Uses drawing, dictation, and invented spelling to convey a message

## MATHEMATICS

- Verbally counts to 20
- Accurately counts 10-20 objects, and understands that the last number represents the total
- Makes and describes sets of 6-10 objects; compares quantities
- Identifies numerals to 10 by name; connects each to counted objects
- Uses positional words to indicate location, direction, and distance
- Recognizes and describes basic two- and three-dimensional shapes
- Uses multiples of the same unit to measure; compares quantities using numbers
- Creates simple repeating patterns

