

KINDERGARTEN BENCHMARKS

Kindergarten students must be age five before September 1.

Kindergarten at Renbrook is a transition year between our play-based Preschool and Junior Kindergarten programs in the Beginning School and Grade 1 in the Lower School. In Kindergarten, students expand their knowledge of phonics and reading, build foundations in mathematics, develop their voice in writing, and engage in hands-on, inquiry-based learning in science, social studies, and STEM. We nurture students' language, social-emotional, and cognitive skills to provide them with the tools they need for ongoing success as they grow older. In addition, Renbrook's Kindergarten students play, hike, enjoy relationships with buddy students in the Upper School, and participate in several special subject classes. Like all Renbrook students, they have opportunities to make their own choices in their learning, spend time outdoors, and flourish as young leaders as they learn who they are and what makes them special both as individuals and in classroom and school communities.

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

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL

- Controls strong emotions, applies basic rules across settings and takes responsibility for own well-being
- Engages with trusted adults, interacts cooperatively in a group of children and makes friends
- Cooperates and shares ideas and materials in socially acceptable ways and resolves social problems through negotiation and compromise

PHYSICAL

- Coordinates increasingly complex movements in structured and unstructured play
- Demonstrates how to balance on different body parts while making different poses
- Manipulates, throws, receives, and controls balls or similar objects
- Uses correct finger grip and precise hand movements when writing, drawing, and cutting

LANGUAGE

- Understands and responds appropriately to complex statements, questions, vocabulary, stories, and multistep directions
- Is clearly heard and understood; utilizes and pronounces new, complex words correctly
- Engages in complex, lengthy conversations with others while using acceptable language and basic social rules



COGNITIVE

- Sustains attention to long-term tasks, plans and completes self-initiated task, and thinks problems through
- Uses a variety of resources to gain knowledge, participates in research projects, and completes tasks in creative way
- Uses strategies to remember information and makes connections to new learning experiences
- Sorts objects by multiple characteristics; can switch and explain sorting rules
- Plans and negotiates complex play that extends over several days; joins in detailed conversation about roles and actions

LITERACY

- Generates a group of rhyming words when given a word
- Understands units of sound, decodes, reads CVC words, and recognizes some sight (trick) words
- Identifies and names all upper- and lower-case letters
- Produces short and long vowel sounds and the most frequent sounds for each consonant
- Uses various types of books
- Knows features of a book and print (e.g. tracking print word for word, matching written with spoken word, going line by line)
- Engages in teacher-led reading activities using emergent reader books and other simple texts (describes relationships, makes inferences, and draws conclusions)
- Retells stories and recounts informational texts with many details about characters, events, ideas and story lines
- Reads and comprehends emergent reader texts using strategies to demonstrate an understanding of text (e.g. sounds out words, determines patterns in text, uses known words)
- Produces very simple compositions using writing, drawing and dictation
- Prints all upper- and lower-case letters; writes most consonants and short vowel sounds; uses basic capitalization; writes simple words phonetically

MATHEMATICS

- Counts by 1s and 10s to 100, counts 30 objects, and tells what number comes before and after a number (to 20)
- Makes and describes sets of 11-20 objects; describes the parts
- Identifies numerals to 20; represents how many by writing the numeral
- Solves addition and subtraction problems using a variety of strategies; knows number facts to 10
- Uses and makes simple sketches, models, and pictorial maps
- Recognizes and describes two- and three-dimensional shapes that have been moved, broken apart, or combined
- Uses measurement tools accurately
- Creates and describes simple graphs
- Recognizes, creates, and explains complex repeating patterns

