

## PORTAGE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

### Benchmarks for Kindergarten

The Kindergarten Benchmark pamphlet is designed to assist parents by outlining key learning skills found in each identified curriculum. Students are expected to be proficient in these identified skills at the end of the school year. Although each child's development varies, these are the skills the school district has identified as essential, in order to be adequately prepared for advancement to the next grade level.

In the Portage School District, teachers strive to individualize the curriculum as much as possible to meet the needs of all children. Your child's age, abilities, personality, interests and learning style are considered when planning meaningful learning experiences.

Reading is an essential element of the Kindergarten program. The Portage district prides itself on a well-balanced reading program that is inclusive of phonemic development, sound and symbol connections, letter identification, visual thinking, oral fluency, vocabulary development and comprehension, so that all students gain the important skills needed to become able readers.

The Everyday Math Program gives children instruction that promotes the ability to solve problems and that builds mathematics from situations generated within the context of everyday experience. The role of each student is redirected from passive recipient to active participant, from listener to investigator and from follower to intrepid explorer.

All core curriculums are aligned to the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. Science and Social Studies are integrated into the Treasures Reading Program and not taught as discrete subjects at the Kindergarten grade level.

Support for learning can be enhanced in partnership with parents engaging their child in creative play with numbers and letters, by helping them see different connections/patterns between objects and situations and by reading to them on a daily basis.