

**Buckalew
Elementary
Kindergarten**

2022-2023



Dear Kindergarten Parent,

Welcome to Kindergarten at Buckalew Elementary! We welcome you into a partnership between home and school that facilitates school success for all children. Our Kindergarten curriculum addresses the intellectual, social, emotional and physical growth of your child. Kindergarten is designed to promote and enhance your child's growth and development.

Language and literacy are the cornerstones of our Kindergarten curriculum. Phonemic awareness, language experience, written expression, listening, and reading comprehension are all an integral part of our approach. Included in this packet, you will find suggestions for things you can do at home to help your child feel prepared for Kindergarten.

The school day is from 8:00am-3:10pm. Attendance does count, even in Kindergarten. Please do not schedule a vacation when school is in session. Every day is packed with learning, which cannot be reproduced at home. On days when your child is ill, please call the attendance line at 281-465-3410.

Our placement committee spends a tremendous amount of time carefully placing each and every child. Much thought goes into this extensive process. Our committee works hard to balance both individual needs and class dynamics. If you feel strongly, or have concerns regarding your child's placement next school year, it is Buckalew's policy that your child's needs be expressed in writing. We are not able to honor specific teacher placement requests. Sibling requests will be considered, but are not guaranteed as class composition is top priority. If you feel strongly regarding your child's needs, we ask that you submit in writing any considerations or concerns using this [Kindergarten Placement Considerations Form](#) no later than July 29, 2022.

We invite you to our "Meet the Teacher" event on Monday, August 8th at 4:00pm. On this important date, you will find out who your child's teacher is, meet your child's teacher, learn beginning of the year information and be able to tour the campus. Please have your child bring all of their school supplies. If you would like to order school supplies, please click to order [Buckalew School Supplies Online](#) by June 12th. Our school ID is BUC015. This is a special time for you and your child to meet their teacher and become familiar with the school and classroom.

We look forward to getting to know you and your child. Together we can provide your child with a school experience that is positive and successful.

Sincerely,

Jill Price
Principal

9 Skills to Get Your Child Ready for Kindergarten

1. SING THE ABC'S.
 2. WRITE HIS/HER FIRST AND LAST NAME.
 3. IDENTIFY ALL 26 LETTERS {CAPITAL/LOWERCASE}
 4. WRITE ALL 26 LETTERS {CAPITAL/LOWERCASE}
 5. KNOW ALL 26 LETTER SOUNDS.
 6. COUNT FROM 0 - 20.
 7. IDENTIFY NUMBERS 0 - 20.
 8. WRITE NUMBERS 0 - 20.
 9. BASIC SIGHT WORDS.
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1. Sing the ABC's.

This might seem like a no-brainer, but you would be *shocked* at the number of students who enter Kindergarten without being able to recite the alphabet! If you don't know how to *sing* the ABC song, how on earth could you be expected to *write* them? Sing the ABC song with your children throughout the day. Sing it as you change your baby's diaper, or give your kids a bath, or set the table for a meal, or when you're driving in the car... It takes less than a minute to sing and there are plenty of minutes in a day where you can sneak them in!

***Hint:** Be sure to sing clearly and slowly through the "L, M, N, O" portion of the song. When we sing it quickly, it sounds like one long letter – and your child will learn it that way

2. Write his/her first and last name.

Start by concentrating on the first name. Be sure to encourage proper grip on the pencil or crayon! Say each letter as you write. Don't worry about writing on lined paper or making each letter perfect – it's not developmentally possible at three or four years old! Help your child learn how to write first and last name and worry about making it look nice a little later.

3. Identify all 26 letters – capital and lowercase.

This is a skill that would be great for your child to know when entering Kindergarten, by the truth is: it might be too much to know by September. I would expect most children to know by January though. Start with the first letter of your child's first name. Whenever you see his/her name in print, point out the first letter and say its name. Pick random letters as you encounter them: on a cereal box or license plate, in a book, on a toy... Be creative.

***Hint:** Capital letters are easier!

4. Write all 26 letters – capital and lowercase.

A great way to practice writing the letters is by tracing them. Write the letters on a piece of paper with plenty of space around each one. Have your child trace the letters with a pencil, crayon, or marker. After your child can trace them, see if he/she can do it without the tracing as a guide. Again, start with capital letters. There are even fonts available for download that print letters (and numbers!) with dashed lines for tracing!

***Hint:** Use unorthodox materials to learn how to write! Finger paint the letters, laminate a piece of paper and give your child a dry-erase marker, write in the sand at the beach or in a sandbox, make a letter with cheerios or veggies during meals...

5. Know all 26 letter sounds.

This is obviously dependent on actually *knowing* the letters first! Be sure to build up to letter sounds once your child can identify each letter. This is a crucial skill as your child learns to read and must "sound out" a word.

***Hint:** Want a great educational video to help? Try [Leapfrog's The Letter Factory](#). It's one of my favorites!

6. Count from 0 – 20.

This is another skill that is essential! Be sure your child knows *at least* 0 – 10 before starting Kindergarten. Just like with the ABC's, you can count anytime! Spend a minute here or there counting, point out *how many* of something there are ("Wow! There are **two** doggies walking outside!") and eventually start asking your child to identify how many there are ("Look at the doggies outside! Sam, *how many* doggies are there?")

***Hint:** Many kids get confused after 10 so be patient! Always correct your child's mistakes calmly and then move on!

7. Identify numbers 0 – 20.

As your child is learning the numbers, be sure to point them out when you see them in day-to-day life. Point to and identify numbers in a recipe, on a sign, in a book, at the store, or write them yourself.

8. Write numbers 0 – 20.

Again, start by tracing! It's fun and it will help your child learn how to correctly form each letter. Don't stress that each number is perfect – there is plenty of time to help them write on the lines later. Developmentally, it just isn't possible yet!

9. Basic sight words.

Sight words are a great way to give a child a "head start" in reading. These words occur often in beginner reader books. Knowing these words will eliminate the need to "sound out" every. single. word. Help your child identify (and eventually spell) the following words: a, at, am, and, can, I, like, me, my, no, said, see, the, to. Add to this list as your child masters the words.

***Hint:** HeidiSongs makes GREAT videos that incorporate song and movement to help your child learn sight words. We started each day in my classroom with a word or two from a video to reinforce what

Kindergarten Sight Words

I in yes on see

my am it the to

and no like an at

can you go a did

me do is are up

this look for was we

he of saw went so