



Welcome to Kindergarten!



Dear Parents,

Routines and behaviors that promote learning are essential for your child's transition into kindergarten. You can help your child get a head start with some important skills that foster independence and responsibility. The following skills are examples of activities that you should practice with your child at home so they can do them on their own when they arrive in Kindergarten:

SELF-HELP/INDEPENDENCE

- **Put on, take off, and hang up outerwear.**
(jackets, sweatshirts, coats)
- **Use the bathroom independently.**
(use toilet paper independently, pull pants up and down)
- **Open and close lunch/snack bags and backpacks.**
(practice a zipper and snap closure and choose supplies that they can use on their own)
- **Eating lunch/snack appropriately.**
(remain seated while eating, practice using utensils and eat safely in a reasonable time frame)

RESPONSIBILITY

- **Speak respectfully to adults and peers.**
(say please, thank you and excuse me)
- **Clean up independently.**
(put things away after playing with/using them)
- **Follow directions the first time.**
(practice doing things with 2-3 steps and positively reinforce after complete)
- **Use materials respectfully, responsibly and safely.**
(use materials as intended)

SOCIAL SKILLS/PLAY

- **Practice taking turns, listening, and speaking.**
(look at and not interrupt others while they are speaking)
- **Use an appropriate tone of voice and kind and polite words.**
(use a kind speaking level voice)
- **Encourage your child to be flexible and share.**
(take turns and share during games, share toys and be patient)
- **Model and practice coping strategies to deal with disappointment and changes in routines.**
(stop & think, take a deep breath, verbalize "it's OK if things are different than you thought they would be".)

Consistency between home and school will set your child up for success in kindergarten at Coman Hill. See you in September!

The Kindergarten Team

Please visit our district website www.byramhills.org to learn more about Byram Hills!