



WITH the release of our *Classical Kindergarten Curriculum*, we have been getting questions about how to know if your child is ready for kindergarten and how best to prepare your child for kindergarten. In response to those questions, we have compiled the following list based on suggestions from Mary Lynn Ross, Admissions Director, and Tessa Tiemann, Curriculum Coordinator, at Highlands Latin School. We hope this is helpful to you as you prepare to embark on the exciting journey of helping your child to the best education possible!

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN:

1. Strengthening hand muscles is important for fine motor skills used in writing. Activities that strengthen hand muscles are:
 - kneading play dough and bread dough
 - stringing beads
 - pushing sand
 - lacing
 - exercise pincher grip by playing with legos, cars, doll clothes, etc.

(Good exercise for working on fine motor skills, letter recognition, and sound distinguishing: glue blue beads on a B)
2. If child struggles with holding a pencil and writing, begin teaching letters by having child draw with finger in shaving cream, sand, flour, or sugar. Child is able to concentrate on letter formation without frustration of writing with a pencil. Encourage proper pencil grip if child is writing.
3. If child isn't progressing, stop and back up. If writing is the hold-up, put the book away and work on letter/sound recognition orally.
4. Skills needed before child begins kindergarten work:
 - Can child distinguish beginning sounds in words?
 - Does child recognize sounds using letter flashcards?
 - Can child recognize letters out of order?
 - Does child know numbers from 1-10 (out of order)?
 - Can child count objects (one to one correspondence)?
 - Can child follow basic directions (under, around, above, etc.)? Ex. Drawing a circle around a square, a line under a circle, a square over a circle ...
 - Can child recognize rhyming words? Ex. What rhymes with cat, sat, mat? fat or cow?
 - Is child beginning to write letters and numbers?
 - Does child demonstrate the ability to listen to instructions or a story?
 - Does child exhibit self-control and a cooperative nature?