Dear Pre-K Families,

It’s a great time to start thinking about your child’s transition to Kindergarten.

In the following months, we’ll be providing information on how to register for MNPS’ kindergarten program and prepare your child for Kindergarten.

Warm Wishes, MNPS Pre-K Team

Family Activity Corner

It’s the winter season and a good time to stay warm by visiting your local library with your child. We recommend reading White Snow Bright Snow by Alvin Tresselt.

After reading the book, talk about all the things the children do when it begins to snow in the story. Then, talk about all the things adults do to get ready for the snow.

Activity Idea: "Shaving Cream Snow" - Place shaving cream on a surface and have your child practice writing their name or letters with their finger in the shaving cream “snow”. It’s also a great opportunity to practice writing their numbers. Make sure to cover the surface with plastic wrap or aluminum foil or use a plate for this activity for easy clean-up.

Get Ready for Kindergarten Tip

It’s time to bundle up for the winter. Next time have your child begin to dress themselves. It gives your child a sense of maturity and helps to build confidence.

When it’s time to get dressed either set the clothes out for your child to dress themselves or provide options that they can choose from.

Another great opportunity is at night. Have your child select their pajamas as part of their bedtime routine and let your child practice dressing on their own.

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For More Activities & Information Visit: www.iTrails.org

This product was provided to you by a Preschool Development Grant (PDG-E), an activity supported by Metro-Nashville Public Schools and funded with federal funds.
More Important Information

Parent Spotlight
Kindergarten registration will begin in a few months. Now, is a good time to start talking to your child about kindergarten. Here are some ways you can bring up kindergarten with your child.

- Begin talking about kindergarten and discuss who they will meet (teachers, principal, students, etc.)
- Start reading books about kindergarten to prepare your child. For example:
  Look Out Kindergarten Here I Come by Nancy Carlson  
  Little Spider at Sunny Patch School by David Kirk  
  Chu’s First Day of School by Neil Gaiman
- Focus on 15-20 minutes of at home activities with your child. For activity ideas visit: www.iTrails.org/iTrails-kindergarten-readiness-calendar

Understanding Self-Regulation
You may have heard the word “self-regulation,” and how it’s important for their child’s development. Self-regulation comes from a set of teachable skills for managing emotions, thoughts and behaviors.

Developing your child’s self-regulation will help your child succeed in school. Through self-regulation children can share their ideas and feelings, learn to manage their emotions and behaviors and learn to solve problems.

Here are some ways to help support your child’s development of self-regulation:

- Ask your child how they feel and talk to them about their feelings. This will help them learn to identify and manage their feelings.
- Talk about appropriate ways to express feelings, like saying “I’m angry” or taking deep breaths to calm down when upset.
- Provide your child with 2-3 choices when possible, like picking out clothes or snacks. This supports their independence and problem solving skills.
- Ask your child to repeat instructions to help them focus and know what you expect.
- Establish consistent routines, which provide your child a sense of security from knowing what comes next.
- Read with your child, and ask questions. This improves your child’s memory and ability to express their ideas and emotions.

Pre-K Family Support Corner
The winter season can trigger the common cold season. Here are tips to practice with your child to stay healthy during the season:

- Hand-washing is key. Encourage your child to create a healthy habit of washing their hands with soap and water after using the restroom, blowing their nose and before meals.
- Keep coughs under cover. Remind your child to cover their mouth and nose when they cough or sneeze.
- Rest is important. Getting a good night’s sleep supports good health.
- Dress for the weather. It’s important for children to dress warmly and keep their coat, hat and gloves on when they’re outside.