



DEVELOPMENTAL KINDERGARTEN (DK)

A bridge between preschool and kindergarten



- Designed for students who would benefit from a bridge between preschool and kindergarten.
- Must be age 5 by Sept. 15 to enroll.
- Provides children, especially those with late spring and summer birthdays, a little more time to develop academically, socially, and/or emotionally.
- Allows an extra year before the student begins full-day kindergarten.

- Builds social and academic skills for success in all-day kindergarten.
- Half-day (morning or afternoon) program based on the Iowa Core Kindergarten Standards. Includes focused instruction in literacy and numeracy with a strong emphasis on self-regulation and social engagement.
- Children who attend DK will go on to kindergarten the following year. DK students are reported to the Iowa Department of Education as kindergarten students to receive state funding.

Developmental Kindergarten	Kindergarten
How to identify and count numbers to 10	How to identify and count numbers to 20
Letters and sounds (Currently knows very few)	How to use letters and sounds to read simple words (currently knows many letters and sounds)
How to grip a pencil, form letters, and write name	How to use some letters to write simple words (cat, in, up)
How to listen and follow simple directions and accept redirections from adults	How to sustain a given task independently and carry out 2-3 directions
How to initiate and sustain play with others	How to take turns with others and handle disagreements
How to manage feelings and wait for preferred items or tasks	How to handle strong emotions with limited support and wait for longer periods of time
How to follow school and classroom routines	How to manage rules, routines, and transitions between activities with limited support

Is your child a good fit for DK?

This table shows whether DK might be appropriate for your child, based on what your child is ready to learn.

We encourage conversations with your child's preschool teacher. Ultimately, the decision for your child to attend DK is up to your family.

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About the Program

A half-day program where you are able to request a preference for a morning or afternoon class.

Morning: 8:40 - 11:30 a.m.

Afternoon: 12:45 - 3:35 p.m.

- Final placements made by school staff. Preferences honored in the order received.
- Approximately 20 students in each DK class.
- Follows same calendar as elementary schools.
- Transportation provided to and from DK for students who meet Johnston Community School District guidelines.
- Kindergarten the following year at your home school based on residence and JCSD school boundary map.



Difference from Kindergarten

- Kindergarten standards, assessment and reporting activities applied just like other kindergarten classrooms.
- DK teacher able to slow pace of instruction to meet needs of students.
- Students introduced to kindergarten math and literacy standards at slower pace and half-day program. Not expected to meet all kindergarten standards by end of school year.
- Students considered kindergarten students by State of Iowa and required to participate in statewide kindergarten assessments.
- Only PE and Library in DK related arts schedule due to half-day program. Kindergarten includes PE, Art, Music, Library and Guidance.



Why can't my child complete another year of preschool instead?

The Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program is only available to children who are not kindergarten age-eligible. The school district does not receive state funding for kindergarten age-eligible students to attend preschool.

How to enroll

Complete online registration at johnstoncsd.org/school-registration. Select DK as the grade level and indicate your preference for morning or afternoon. The district has a limited number of DK seats. Once seats are full, students will be placed on a waiting list and further communication will come from district staff.