

What to Expect in the Kindergarten Program

Arlington Public Schools (APS) offers a high quality, developmentally appropriate kindergarten program. This full-day program is designed to meet the emotional, social, physical, and academic needs of children and is based on the Virginia State Standards, APS curriculum, and APS Best Practices. The following describes what parents and the community may expect from the APS Kindergarten Program.



Teachers and Students

- Classrooms with a certified teacher and paraprofessional who receive on-going professional development
- Positive, language rich interactions among the children and staff
- Experiences that support the development of community within the classroom

Classroom Curriculum

- A balance of whole group, small group, and individual lessons and activities designed to meet the interests and needs of the children
- Instruction in emergent literacy (concept of print, phonology, letters-sounds), mathematics, social studies, science, and health
- Instruction in music, physical education, art, and library from a specialist
- Experiences, materials, conversation, and activities that support language and vocabulary development
- Experiences for children to discover how mathematical concepts relate to other concepts (measuring and weighing)
- Opportunities for children to work with letters, songs, rhymes, and stories
- Opportunities for shared, guided, and independent reading and writing
- Teachers read aloud from a variety of texts on a daily basis
- Opportunities for children to count, classify, sequence, sort, match, and experiment
- Opportunities to answer open-ended questions and extend thinking
- Experiences that develop sensory and motor skills (fine and gross)
- Recess

Communication

- Consistent communication between the school, the classroom, and the home

Classroom Environment

- Print rich, well equipped classrooms designed to support inquiry and investigation
- Respect for the culture, language, ethnicity, family, and ability of every child
- Safe environment