

Tip Sheet for Kindergarten Parents

Reading

- Read, read, read!!! Read to your children.
- As a parent, you are their first teacher. Be a good role model by being enthusiastic about reading. They will follow your example. When you read to your children, connect what you read with real life situations. For example, if you read a book about children in school, ask your child to compare what happens in the book with what happens in school.
- Get a library card (it's free!) at your local public library. **The Allentown public library is located at 1210 West Hamilton Street in Allentown.**
- Choose books for your children that address their interests. If they like sports, choose books about sports to get them enthusiastic about reading. Also, when choosing a book, choose books that are in the child's reading level. We do not want to frustrate them.
- When reading with your child, point to the words in the book. Model reading top to bottom and left to right. Talk about the parts of a book: front cover, back cover, title page, author and illustrator.
- Have your child look at the front cover and predict what the story will be about.
- Play the trace a letter game: Have your child use a finger to trace a letter while saying the letter's name. Tell him/her the sound of that letter and give a word example.
- Pick a letter of the day and see how many things you can find in your home that begin with that letter!

Writing

- Teach your child how to hold a pencil properly.
- Help your child form the letters of the alphabet. A good idea is to use a dry-erase board and markers. It is easy to write and erase.
- If your child has difficulty holding a pencil at first, you may take a plate or tray and pour sugar in it. Have your child form the letters by writing on the sugar!
- You may also get tracing paper and have your child trace letters.
- Make it meaningful. When beginning to write words, teach your child to write his/her name first. Then they can learn to write their siblings' names and so on.
- Work on letters and letter sounds before writing words. Explain that we can put the things we think and say in writing.

Websites for Children and Parents

www.kindersite.org

www.pbskids.org

www.bestedsites.com

Also... Emergency Clothes – School will most likely ask you to provide them with a change of clothing, in case of an accident. This is for spills as well as bathroom accidents.

Clothing

If you need help with clothing for your family, go to Central School. They have a family center that provides clothing.

Insurance

CHIP insurance is financed by the State of Pennsylvania and the federal government. You may ask at the school office for an application, call 1-800-KIDS-101 or go to www.chipcoverspakids.com.

Immunizations are given by:

Allentown Health Bureau
245 N. 6th St.
Thursday mornings, 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
(610) 437-7754 for an appointment

After School Programs

The Caring Place – (610) 433-5683
Casa Guadalupe – (61) 435-9902
CADA – (610) 437-0801 ext. 305
St. Luke's Neighborhood Center – (610) 434-5799

Free English Classes for Parents

The Literacy Center of the Lehigh Valley
801 Hamilton St. Suite 201
Allentown (610) 435-0680

Lehigh Carbon Community College
The Donley Center
718 Hamilton St.
Allentown (610) 799-1957

Pennsylvania Career Link of the Lehigh Valley
1601 Union Blvd.
Allentown (610) 437-5627, ext. 313

HAO
462 Walnut St.
Allentown (610) 435-5334

www.usalearns.org