

THE STEPNEY KINDERGARTEN HANDBOOK

WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED?

1. An appropriately sized backpack to fit a folder (we will provide one for each child to use through the year), their snacks, and a lunch box.
2. Two nutritional snacks and lunch.
 - *Your child will have the opportunity to purchase lunch at school beginning in October.*
3. A GOOD NIGHT'S REST!

WHAT YOUR CHILD DOES **NOT** NEED

1. Crayons, markers, notebooks, or paper.
 - *We will send home a supply request with your child when school begins.*
2. TOYS.
3. Money, unless they will be purchasing milk, lunch, or if it's requested for a specific purpose.

WHAT TO WEAR

Kindergarten is a very active place and comfortable clothing is important. We will also be involved in “messy” projects and centers on occasion, so it’s best NOT to wear your prettiest dress or dress shirt to school.

The temperature in our building can vary, so layers work well also.

We never know when we might get outside for a motor break, so comfortable shoes are a MUST and gym sneakers should *always* be worn on gym days.

If the weather gets rainy, coats with hoods work much better for the children than do umbrellas which can be cumbersome and messy when storing.

PLEASE LABEL ALL OUTERWEAR. Mittens, hats, and jackets frequently get misplaced and labels help us return them to the rightful owner.

SNACKS

Along with a daily lunch period, the students will be given opportunity to enjoy a brief sanctum twice per day. We encourage you to keep thshese snacks small and healthy.

The children will be quite active throughout the day and will need their energy.

Here are some recommendations:

Diced or cut up fruit

Yogurt with fruit

Diced or cut up vegetables

Muffins

Cheese and crackers

Bagel with butter or cream cheese

Things to try to avoid:

Go-gurts

Fruit by the Foot

Overly-processed snacks

SNACK AND LUNCHTIME HINTS

1. With many little hands to help, it is difficult for us to cut or peel fruit. Please make all preparations at home when possible.
2. Your child is more likely to eat the snack or lunch they bring if the help in choosing and preparing it.
3. We often have children who have food allergies or sensitivities. For this reason, we do not allow children to share snacks or lunches.
4. Choose containers that are easy for your child to open and close by themselves. This helps build independence in self help skills.
5. Please make sure all thermoses and water bottles are securely closed. More than one backpack full of papers and clothes has been ruined by a leaking water bottle or thermos.
6. Please provide all appropriate utensils for your child to eat their snack or lunch with. This will save time for everyone.

LIBRARY

All children will go to the library once a week. During this time our librarian will read a story to the children and they may look at and check out their own books.

The children will be allowed to take their books home. It is very important that you help your child to remember which day he or she is going to the library so that your child returns their book on time. We ask that the children return their books at least a day before their scheduled library day.

COMPUTER

All children will receive the opportunity to work in the computer lab.

In addition, they will have many opportunities to work on the computers located within their regular classrooms. Other technology that they will have access to are iPads and our classroom SMARTBoards.

BIRTHDAYS

Your child's birthday is a very special occasion and we would like to celebrate this day along with your child.

Due to food allergies, we ask that you celebrate your child's birthday at school without food. There are many ways to do this. You or a family member can come to school to be a guest reader, donate a book in your child's name to the class or school library, or perhaps a class gift.

Please schedule the celebration with your child's teacher by sending a note in advance. We are unable to distribute party invitations in school. At the beginning of the year, we will create a birthday list with the help of the PTO. You may use any of the addresses provided on the list. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

DISMISSAL AND PICK-UP PROCEDURES

For the safety of all children, they will be sent home on their regular scheduled bus each day unless other arrangements are made.

Please send in a note with your child if they will be picked up from school. Be sure to include the child's name, room number, and who will be picking them up.

If they are to be picked up by anyone else beside their parent, that person must be on the approved pick up list and present photo identification upon pick-up of the child.

If for any reason a planned pick-up changes, please contact the office as soon as possible so that the teacher can be informed of the change.

WAYS THAT PARENTS CAN ENCOURAGE LANGUAGE AND READING DEVELOPMENT

1. Take your child to the library weekly.
2. Read to your child daily . Reading to your child will help develop his/her comprehension and vocabulary skills.
3. Keep good reading material in almost every room of the house and in the car.
4. Monitor and limit your child's television viewing and the time they spend on electronics.
5. Subscribe to a child's magazine.
6. When you child; earns a special reward, share an extra story at bedtime or choose a new book at the bookstore.
7. Be a role model. Let your child see you reading often.

8. Encourage reading related activities. Make up stories for your child and ask them to make up one of their own.
9. Encourage reading all day: signs, menus, product labels, whatever you see!
10. Place alphabet letter magnets on the refrigerator. Your child can find letters he/she knows, place the letters in order, and spell names and words that they can read.

BOOK CLUBS

Developing good reading habits early in a child's life is a big step toward creating a love for learning.

Purchasing quality books can be expensive. For this reason, we encourage you to consider our library system or purchasing books through our book clubs.

These book clubs provide a huge selection of age appropriate books at very reasonable prices. They are also a great source for gifts.

Here's how it works:

1. We will send home fliers each month.
2. Make your selection and either return your slip to school by the return date, or order online. Directions can be found on the website. The ordering code will be sent home with the first fliers.
3. If you are sending in your order, please send in the correct change or a check made out to the book club.
4. It takes approximately two weeks to receive the orders. Your patience is appreciated.

WHAT CAN I DO AS A PARENT?

1. Be proud of ALL of your child's accomplishments. Always encourage your child to do his/her best.
2. Read to your child every day! They may request the same book time and again... that's OK!
3. Check your child's backpack every day.
4. Show interest in your child's work and activities. Ask specific questions about school, not just "How was your day?"
5. Offer to volunteer in or out of the classroom.
6. Attend all conferences. Contact your child's teacher with any questions or concerns. Your child's teacher will let you know the preferred method of contact (email, note, or phone call).