

Earl D. Taft Elementary School

Dear First Graders and Families,

The first grade teachers would like to welcome you to the first grade! We have compiled some suggestions to help you prepare for the first grade.

- **Read to your child as much as possible.** This is one of the most beneficial activities you can do with your child. Reading helps your child learn new vocabulary and develop better language and listening skills. Use the library. Make reading a part of your daily life. (Read books, cereal boxes, signs – everything!)
- **Suggestions for questioning when reading:** **Recognition and Recall** - What were the children's names? What did they do? **Demonstration of Skill** – Could you show how the bunny hopped? How did the little red hen plant the wheat? **Comprehension and Analysis** – Why did the three little pigs leave home? Why did the youngest pig choose straw to build his house? **Synthesis** – What would have happened if the acorn had not fallen on Henny Penny's head? **Opinion** – How do you suppose the bears knew Goldilocks was in their house? **Attitudes and Values** - Have you ever broken someone else's toy? How did you feel?
- **Teach your child nursery rhymes and songs.**
- **Practice identifying and writing the alphabet** (capital and lower case letters – see attached).
- **Review letter sounds.** What do you hear at the beginning of (word)? What do you hear at the end of the word?
- **Practice identifying and writing numbers to 100.**
- **Count items using one-to-one correspondence to 100.**
- **Work on listening skills.** Practice giving a direction once and having your child follow it.
- **Play games with your child.** Use puppets or play “pretend”. Children enjoy these activities and they help them to follow directions, to take turns, to communicate with others, and to develop creativity.
- **Encourage play with play-doh, clay, legos, as well as tracing and cutting to strengthen fine motor skills.**
- **Give your child a chore or a job to do at home.** It could be set the table or feed the pet. It should become a regular part of your child's routine. This will help teach your child responsibility.
- **Make sure your child can tie shoes and zipper/button coats.**

Please note that first grade students each have their own locker to keep belongings such as coats and backpacks. These lockers are only 12 inches wide so please keep that in mind if purchasing a new backpack. It is difficult to fit backpacks with wheels into these lockers.

This summer your child will receive a PIN number which will be used when making a purchase in the cafeteria. Please have your child practice his/her PIN number on the attached keypad. The PIN is followed by pressing the green button labeled ENTER (which is green). We say “Green for go!”

Your child will need the following supplies at the beginning of and throughout the school year:

1. Glue sticks
2. Pencils
3. Erasers
4. Crayons
5. Tissues

In closing, we hope that this letter will be helpful in preparing your child for the first grade.

Sincerely,

The First Grade Teachers