

## What Does a Great Kindergarten Program Look Like? Parent Guide #8

**Kindergarten continues the learning that begins at birth. Kindergartners need to have materials that are fun and exciting.**

This may be the first time your child goes to school.

### ***Some things to look for in a kindergarten program:***

- Children have a program that is appropriate. This means teaching and materials make sense for the age and needs of all children.
- The number of children to adults is small. This allows the adults to know a child's abilities and needs.
- Children and parents feel welcomed into the class.
- Children have a class program that supports the needs and abilities for all children.
- Children learn in both large and small groups.
- Children make choices and decisions. Children are supported to start activities.
- Children have both quiet and active times in the program.
- Children have plenty of supplies and materials. There are enough available for the number of children in the class.
- The teacher smiles and is friendly to all the children and parents. The room feels safe, warm and caring. The whole school feels cheerful and safe.
- The teacher talks with children using a soft or comfortable voice. When the teacher talks to a child she/he gets down to his/her eye level.
- The teacher respects the differences among families and supports the sharing of family cultures.
- The teacher supports parent engagement in the class and parents' engagement with their own children's learning.
- Sometimes children listen to the teacher's lessons. Other times the children select where and how they want to spend their learning time.
- The teacher shares with parents what is happening at school. The teacher and family work together to solve problems.
- The room is clean, orderly and welcoming.
- The teacher manages regular childhood behaviors, like sharing and taking turns, so children feel safe and included.
- The adults in the school have helped children practice safety drills. Adults and children know what to do in case of an emergency.