

Dear
Future
First
Grade
D.C.
Parents,



A common question we are often asked is: "What should my child know when she/he comes to first grade at Divine Child?" The following information should help since our first graders come from as many as 18 different kindergartens! Each kindergarten has a different academic program. Therefore, we have compiled a list of our expectations to assist you in preparing for D.C. schooling.

Sincerely,
First Grade Teachers

1. We expect the first graders to know their first and last names. They should also be able to spell them and be able to print them properly, using the capital and lower case letters.
2. The children should know the alphabet and the sounds of the consonants. They should be able to recognize randomly the capital and lower case letters. For example you would point to the letters in no specific order getting the response: "upper case M", "upper case T", "lower case f", etc. The children should be able to print the capital or lower case of any letter you dictate.
3. The children should be able to count and print the numbers from 1-10. They should be able to count groups that contain up to 10 objects. The children should be able to give the number that comes before or after a given number from 1-10.
4. Incoming first graders should have cutting and gluing skills. They should be able to cut using a line for guidance. Your First Graders should practice opening and closing a glue bottle. Also, they should practice gluing using little drops of glue around the edges of the paper. A helpful practice is cutting pictures from magazines or coloring books and gluing them onto other paper.

Reading is the key to all academic success.

Statistics show that children who are read to learn to read quicker and have a better comprehension of the printed word than children whose parents do not read to them. As a parent you can assure your child success if you read to your child everyday. Read "chapter" books that they cannot read themselves.



"Reading books aloud to your children stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It helps them to develop language and listening skills and prepares them to understand the written word. When the rhythm and melody of language become a part of a child's life, learning to read will be as natural as learning to walk and talk" (www.readingrockets.com).

We would like to give you a list of 40 sight words to review with your child during the summer. Many of the children probably learned them in Kindergarten and, therefore, will find the list easy; others will have difficulty. Remember, we all learn at our own speed.

It would be a good idea to make flash cards using these words. Keep the flashcards in a shoe box or other container. Have your child decorate the box to make it personal. Assign a special place for the box and drill the words often. Your child will have an easier time adjusting to first grade if she/he knows these Kindergarten words.

We would like to thank you in advance for helping your child to succeed in first grade. May God's grace guide you.

The Sight Word List:

a	and	are	am	come	do	for
from	go	have	he	here	I	is
like	little	me	my	of	said	see
she	that	the	they	to	look	was
we	what	where	with	you	red	blue
one	two	three	four	five	green	yellow