

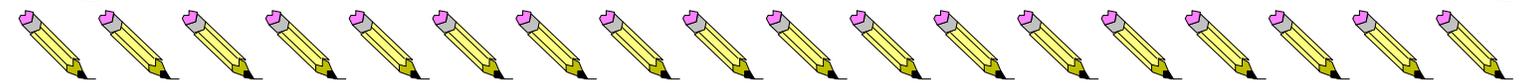
Kindergarten Homework Activities

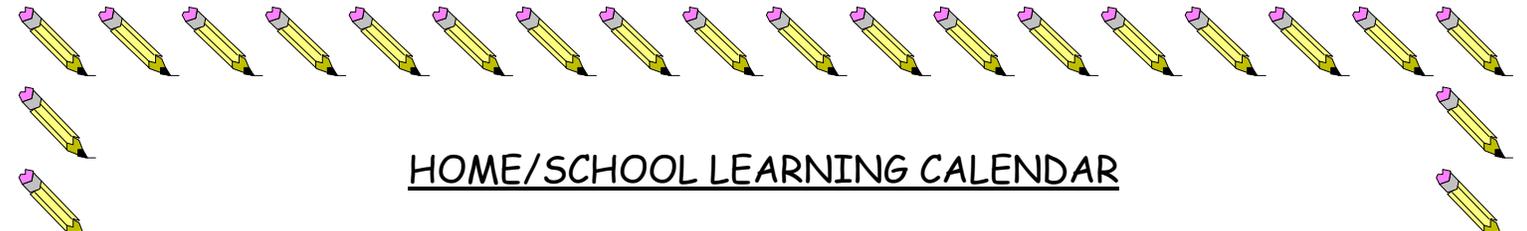
Most children enter Kindergarten eager and ready to learn. Your child will become a better learner when you are his/her partner in education. Research has consistently highlighted the importance of parental involvement to children's success in school.

Kindergarten homework is designed to foster a home/school connection with learning skills and themes and to establish a foundation for good work habits. Structured activities give parents the opportunity to help their child develop skills and learning dispositions (behaviors and attitudes). Children enter kindergarten with different abilities and experiences. All kindergarten homework has an element of flexibility so that parents may modify the task to fit the needs of the child.

SCHOOL ENTRY SKILLS

To help young children feel confident and competent, we encourage their independence in self-help skills and in making choices. Parents can help new kindergarteners by working on these areas at home:

- 1.) **Dressing Skills** - Help your child learn to manipulate clothing INDEPENDENTLY. Allow your child to wear velcro or slip -on tennis shoes to school until he or she can tie shoes without help. (Teach your child in small steps how to tie a shoe that is not on a foot!)
 - 2.) **Personal Data** - Help your child learn PERSONAL DATA - full name, parents' names, address, phone number, and birthday. Work on one item at a time in a consistent time or place (eg. in the car or at meal times).
 - 3.) **School Safety Rules** - Please review your drop-off and pick-up routine. Remind your child to WAIT on the KINDERGARTEN WALL and to GO BACK to the TEACHER if the pick-up person does not arrive. Review playground safety and stranger safety.
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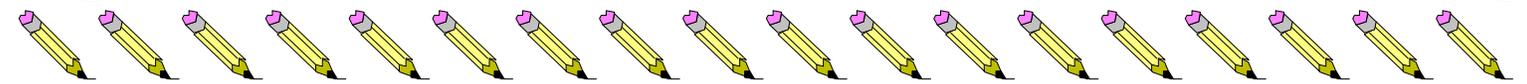


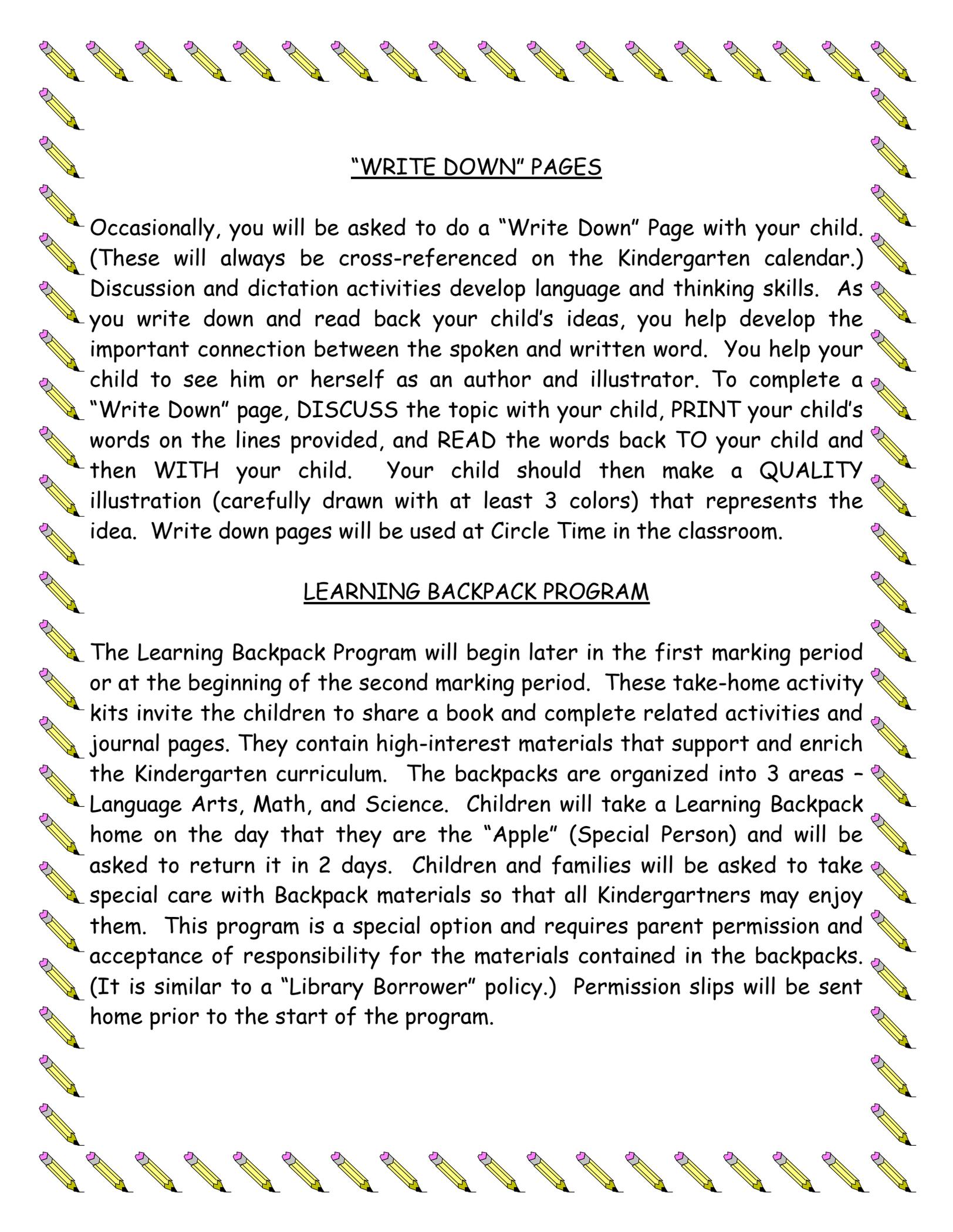
HOME/SCHOOL LEARNING CALENDAR

A Home/School Learning calendar will be sent home each month. It will note units of study, special events, "All Class" Show and Tell days, letters of the week, and suggested support and enrichment activities that correspond with our learning goals. The monthly calendars provide real-life activity ideas for you to do with your child that will help make our classroom work more meaningful.

LETTER HOMEWORK

Most Kindergartners need extra help in developing sound/symbol correspondence for letters. The Kindergarten Letter Homework is designed to develop phonetic skills. Each letter week, a Letter Person sheet will come home in the "Monday Folder". The **student** should print his/her name on the back of this sheet. The **student** should CUT OUT and GLUE ON at least 3 pictures that begin with the letter of the week. The parent or student should LABEL the picture. The paper should be returned in the folder on TUESDAY. These letter pages will be used at our Opening Circle. It is IMPORTANT that students find and CUT OUT (NOT DRAW) the pictures so that they have many opportunities to compare beginning sounds, and so that they have practice cutting and gluing. Parents may "frame" the task to fit the child's ability or frustration level or to engage the child's interest. For example, to simplify a task, you may cut out 3 magazine pages with the appropriate item and have the child find the item on the page that starts with the letter sound. The parent can write the word to label the picture, and the child can trace over or copy the word. More advanced students may find more than 3 pictures, label independently, or write a sentence with the word. The Letter Homework Days are noted on the calendar so that parents may pace this task - for example, find and cut out pictures over the weekend, glue and label pictures on Monday. If you lose the Homework Sheet, extra copies are available in the Homework Tray by the classroom door. You may also just use a plain sheet of "printer" paper.





"WRITE DOWN" PAGES

Occasionally, you will be asked to do a "Write Down" Page with your child. (These will always be cross-referenced on the Kindergarten calendar.) Discussion and dictation activities develop language and thinking skills. As you write down and read back your child's ideas, you help develop the important connection between the spoken and written word. You help your child to see him or herself as an author and illustrator. To complete a "Write Down" page, DISCUSS the topic with your child, PRINT your child's words on the lines provided, and READ the words back TO your child and then WITH your child. Your child should then make a QUALITY illustration (carefully drawn with at least 3 colors) that represents the idea. Write down pages will be used at Circle Time in the classroom.

LEARNING BACKPACK PROGRAM

The Learning Backpack Program will begin later in the first marking period or at the beginning of the second marking period. These take-home activity kits invite the children to share a book and complete related activities and journal pages. They contain high-interest materials that support and enrich the Kindergarten curriculum. The backpacks are organized into 3 areas - Language Arts, Math, and Science. Children will take a Learning Backpack home on the day that they are the "Apple" (Special Person) and will be asked to return it in 2 days. Children and families will be asked to take special care with Backpack materials so that all Kindergartners may enjoy them. This program is a special option and requires parent permission and acceptance of responsibility for the materials contained in the backpacks. (It is similar to a "Library Borrower" policy.) Permission slips will be sent home prior to the start of the program.