

# What is the difference between Developmental Kindergarten and Kindergarten?



Welcome to the exciting journey of education at Portland Public Schools! At the Round-Up your child will meet with our staff who will conduct an observation and academic assessment. Upon completion of those evaluations our staff will meet with you to discuss the results; these items will allow the staff to make an informed decision about the placement that will best fit your child according to their individual academic, social, and emotional needs. Please take a moment to read the information below regarding the similarities and differences in the Oakwood Elementary Developmental Kindergarten and Kindergarten programs.

## Developmental Kindergarten

Our Developmental Kindergarten program allows students to develop the requisite skills needed for success in Kindergarten. The goal of the Developmental Kindergarten program is to provide a year during which your child can learn and grow in a carefully planned environment: A framework that allows your child to work on their academic, social, emotional, and physical skills. The lessons conducted are self-directed, hands on, and open-ended learning experiences. Placement in this program can occur for a variety of reasons. This is a decision reached by the parents and educators, that the child can benefit from additional time building the skills that will help make them a proficient student. The Developmental Kindergarten program participates in the full day schedule which includes lunch, specials classes (art, physical education, music, computers, and library), recess, and school events (celebratory days, assemblies, school wide engagement) and follows a unified academic core program.

## Kindergarten

The Kindergarten program is designed to meet the needs of children who have demonstrated and expressed an interest in academic tasks that include greater stamina and rigor than Developmental Kindergarten. Generally students placed in Kindergarten classrooms have had previous school experience, are eager to learn, participate in the learning process, listen attentively, and are able to work independently. Kindergarteners are able to accept responsibility for themselves and their materials, express themselves using words, and are willing to try new things. A child ready for Kindergarten should additionally demonstrate the ability to work and play cooperatively with others.

Throughout the year Kindergarten students will be expected to master letter identification, both upper and lower, letter sounds, early phonics skills, and will be reading texts prior to the end of the year. Students will be expected to count to 100, write and represent objects to 20, and solve addition and subtraction within 10.

Prior to the Round Up, feel free use the provided Kindergarten Readiness Checklist to help gauge where your child would best fit at Oakwood Elementary. A student does not need mastery of all skills to be qualified for Kindergarten, but rather this should be a reflection for you of what would make your child's first year a success, and build confidence in their abilities for their academic career.

### **Kindergarten Readiness Checklist**

- Can your child write their name?
- Does your child know their colors?
- Does your child know all of their letters?
- Does your child know all of their letter sounds?
- Does your child listen to a story and tell what it is about?
- Does your child draw a picture and tell a story to match?
- Does your child rhyme (hear a rhyme and supply a rhyme)?
- Does your child identify the beginning sound of a word?
- Does your child segment words?
- Does your child identify complex shapes?
- Does your child complete a complex pattern?
- Does your child write their numbers (1-10)?
- Does your child count and tell how many?
- Does your child count orally to twenty?
- Does your child identify personal information: birthdate, address, phone number?
- Does your child follow multi-step directions with ease?