



GHCA Kindergarten: A Special Experience!

Kindergarten: What is it?

The word “Kindergarten” literally means “children’s garden.” This brings to mind an educational environment rich with things to see and do: a “Super Learning Room” for five-year-olds with many kinds of toys, blocks, books and useful learning tools not found in the typical home. More important than the “things” is a warm, loving, mature Christian teacher who can make interesting things happen all day long—someone who encourages the child to try new things and someone who sets necessary limits and lets the child know in a firm and loving way when he or she has exceeded those limits.

Kindergarten: Goals

Play is natural to all children. Our kindergarten seeks to accommodate children’s desires and abilities in play while nurturing their desire to learn how to do productive work. They come to school knowing that work is an adult skill and that growing up means learning to work. They want to learn to work so they can grow up. And, above all, they come, expecting to learn to read.

Early reading: Our Trademark

Perhaps the single most distinguishing feature of our kindergarten is our strong emphasis upon teaching our children to read in kindergarten. While we do not pressure children whose maturation level indicates non-readiness, most students will be reading by Christmas, and we will endeavor to have every child reading by the year’s end at the latest. The time at which a child begins to read depends upon several key factors:

1. The amount of instruction provided in the home by parents or older children. This instruction could include memorizing the alphabet, associating letter names with specific written letters, writing the letters, counting to ten or beyond, coloring with crayons, etc.
2. Interest in reading created by parents who read to the child at home.
3. Experience at Sunday school and/or preschool.

Kindergarten Goals: A Basic List

By the time a child completes our kindergarten it is expected that, with parent encouragement and help at home, he or she will be able to:

- ◆ Recognize the name, sound, and picture of long and short vowels and consonants
- ◆ Read sounds of blends, one and two vowel words, and consonant blend words
- ◆ Read sentences and stories with one and two vowel words, consonant blends, and “special sounds” words from NINE SMALL BOOKS
- ◆ Write letters, blends, words and sentences
- ◆ Write first and last name
- ◆ Recite several Scripture verses
- ◆ Read, count and write numerals 1 to 100
- ◆ Count by 2s, 5s, and 10s to 100
- ◆ Act out addition and subtraction stories
- ◆ Identify and count pennies, dimes, and nickels
- ◆ Identify and extend patterns

The child will also have gained knowledge and skills in all the other traditional, social, emotional, physical, spiritual, and academic values expected of a quality Christian kindergarten.