

ABOUT HIAT



THE HIGHER INSTITUTE
OF ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

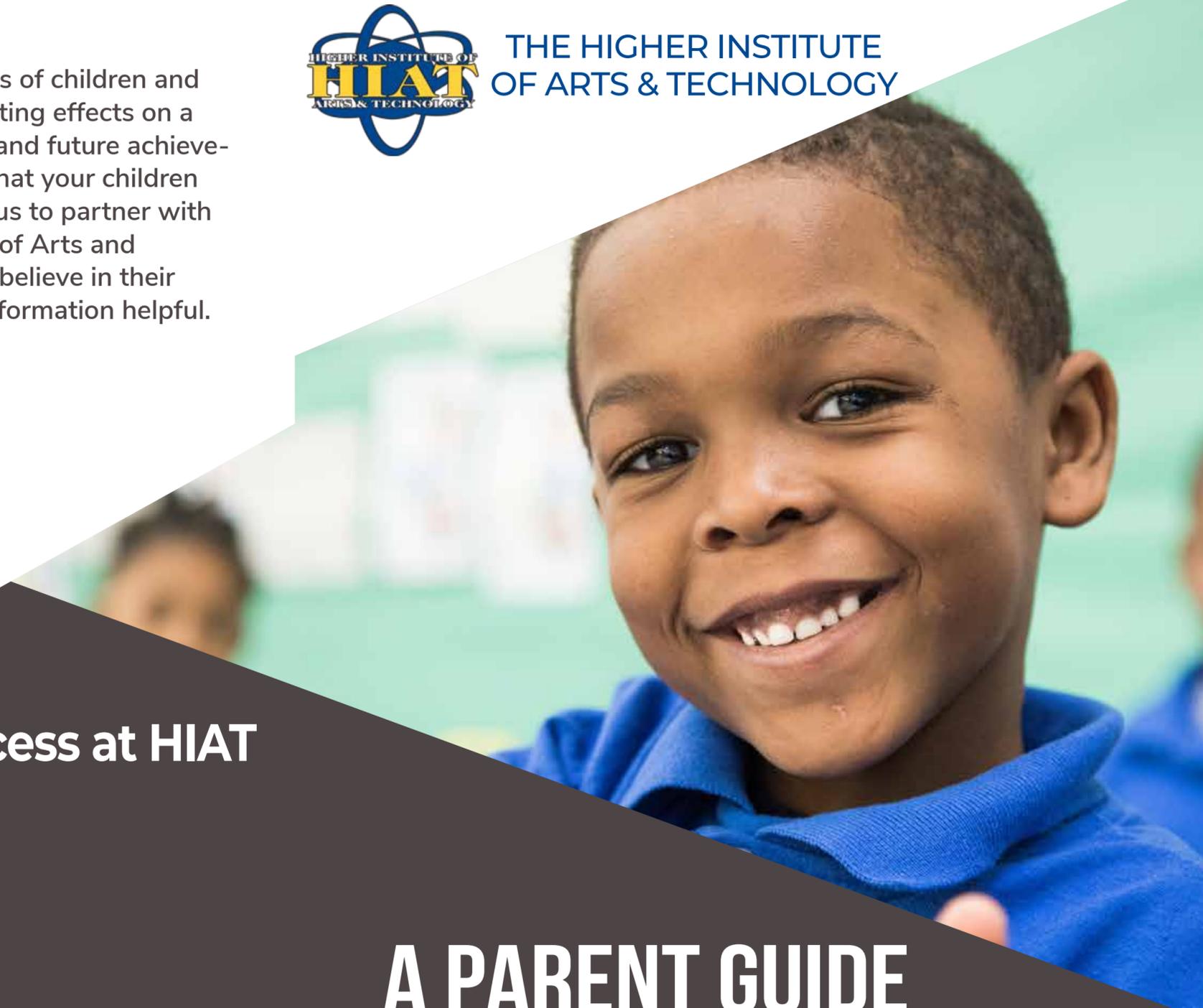
Dear Parents,

Kindergarten is a major turning point in the lives of children and parents alike. Early school experiences have lasting effects on a child's attitude about school, their self-esteem and future achievements. Fortunately, the best person to ensure that your children arrive at school ready to succeed is you! Allow us to partner with you on this new journey at the Higher Institute of Arts and Technology. We truly love our scholars and we believe in their ability to achieve. We hope that you find this information helpful. We look forward to welcoming you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Coni Taslim

**Dr. Coni Taslim,
Principal, HIAT**



The Higher Institute of Arts and Technology (HIAT) is Merrillville's first and only charter school.

We work to provide students grades K-8 with an outstanding educational experience in the arts, humanities, and sciences. At HIAT, each student is loved and encouraged to reach their maximum potential, and all of our students are scholars. We utilize a strong researched-based educational curriculum that connects our scholars with the arts, computer technology and STEM while also working to equip them with the skills they need to not only master their academics but to also demonstrate strong character, as exhibited by honesty, service to others, a superior work ethic, and a strong vision for and belief in their futures.

Building the Road to Success at HIAT

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A PARENT GUIDE TO KINDERGARTEN READINESS





WAYS TO PREPARE

Children learn many new skills during the kindergarten experience. Below is a list of activities and tactics that you and your child can work on together to better prepare them for when they start school.

- + Say body parts
- + Learn names of immediate family
- + Say phone number & address
- + Visit public places like parks & libraries
- + Initiate frequent social interaction
- + Teach acceptable ways to disagree
- + Play that teaches hand-eye coordination
- + Encourage work values (effort, persistence, initiative)
- + Recognize basic shapes
- + Count from 0-10
- + Say (not sing) the ABC's
- + Talk positively about school
- + Encourage physical activity everyday
- + Establish reasonable limits on behavior
- + Read to them & discuss the story
- + Encourage social values (helpfulness, cooperation, sharing)

ESSENTIAL SKILLS CHECKLISTS

Intellectual: Does your child...

- Hold a book upright and turn pages left to right?
- Tell and retell familiar stories?
- Recognize at least ten letters of the alphabet?
- Know colors, shapes, and sizes?

Social: Can your child...

- Listen to an adult & follow simple instructions?
- Sit for short periods of time?
- Play with other children without hitting or biting?
- Cooperate with other children?

Personal: Without help, can your child...

- Tie their own shoes?
- Snap, button, zip, & buckle?
- Recognize their own possessions?
- Eat with silverware unassisted?
- Wash their hands?
- Blow their nose & cover a sneeze?

Health: Has your child...

- Had all required immunizations?
- Had a recent health check-up?
- Eat at regular times daily?
- Learned to run, skip, jump, climb?

READING

Prior to kindergarten, children typically learn the concepts of reading through games and activities. Many of these skills are learned through modeling.

MATH

The development of number concepts— classifying, ordering, counting and time and space relationships – is directly related to children’s ability to perform mathematical tasks throughout their school years and the rest of their life.

SCIENCE

As children mature, they become more curious about their environment and begin to interact with their surroundings. This is the best time to introduce them to science. Rich sensory experiences (seeing, tasting, touching, hearing, and smelling) can help children become even more observant about the world around them.

- Recognize spaces between words
- Identify the different types of punctuation
- Recognize upper and lower case letters
- Observe page numbers
- Compare sizes: big, little, middle
- Observe position in space: up/down, under/over, in/out, beside/between
- Observe what is happening
- Predict what might happen
- Try to make sense of observations

THE BASICS

Set your child up for academic growth and success before they start kindergarten by discussing and reviewing the basic principles of reading, math and science listed above.

