

# ABOUT TBLA

Thea Bowman Leadership Academy (TBLA) is a tuition-free public school located in Gary, Indiana. Our academy focuses on providing an outstanding educational experience for grades K-12 on two beautiful campuses. TBLA was established by the Drexel Foundation for Educational Excellence in 2003, K-6. In 2004, 7th grade was added. Each year, the next grade level was added until we reached the 12th grade. In 2007, the junior and high school campus was built.

TBLA prides itself in engaging scholars in rigorous & robust curricula and instruction. Our elementary school (K-7) is working to become a world-class model for high performance urban schools preparing all students for academic success and leadership roles in a global society.

We offer:

- Leadership Training
- Annual Parent Summit
- Parent University
- Afterschool Tutoring
- Intervention/Enrichment Block
- After School Activities

## 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 Thea Bowman Leadership Academy Elementary. 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,

*Marisa Simmons*

Marisa Simmons,  
Principal, TBLA



THEA BOWMAN LEADERSHIP  
ACADEMY ELEMENTARY



## Learn Today Lead Tommorrow at Thea Bowman Leadership Academy!



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[www.TheaBowmanAcademy.org](http://www.TheaBowmanAcademy.org)



Thea Bowman Leadership Academy ES  
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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.

