



PHALEN LEADERSHIP
ACADEMIES



A PARENT GUIDE TO KINDERGARTEN READINESS

ABOUT PLA

Phalen Leadership Academies INDY (PLA), is a nonprofit network of high-quality, A-rated, tuition-free public schools. We help young scholars excel in academics and grow as well-rounded individuals ready to take on leadership roles in school in their communities, and in the world.

Our scholars experience effective learning with high-quality teachers in small class sizes. We teach standards-based reading and math curriculum while integrating technology to help our scholars prepare for their futures. Our scholars also complete service-based projects and learn character development designed to inspire strong community and world leaders.

Our ultimate goal is that our scholars master key academic skills, and demonstrate strong character as exhibited by honesty, service to others, a superior work ethic, and a strong vision for and belief in their futures.





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...

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hold a book upright and turn pages left to right? | <input type="checkbox"/> Recognize at least ten letters of the alphabet? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tell and retell familiar stories? | <input type="checkbox"/> Know colors, shapes, and sizes? |

Social: Can your child...

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Listen to an adult & follow simple instructions? | <input type="checkbox"/> Play with other children without hitting or biting? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sit for short periods of time? | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperate with other children? |

Personal: Without help, can your child...

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tie their own shoes? | <input type="checkbox"/> Eat with silverware unassisted? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snap, button, zip, & buckle? | <input type="checkbox"/> Wash their hands? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recognize their own possessions? | <input type="checkbox"/> Blow their nose & cover a sneeze? |

Health: Has your child...

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Had all required immunizations? | <input type="checkbox"/> Eat at regular times daily? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Had a recent health check-up? | <input type="checkbox"/> 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.



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 Phalen Leadership Academies. We truly love our scholars and we believe in their ability to achieve. We hope that you find this information helpful and that you will locate the PLA school nearest you. We look forward to welcoming you!

Sincerely,

Earl Martin Phalen

Earl Martin Phalen, Founder & CEO
Phalen Leadership Academies

Don't delay. Join PLA today!



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