



We are thankful that you have selected Archway Classical Academy North Phoenix as your school of choice and are excited to partner with you in your child's education for many years to come.

Please look over the “**Skills to Practice Before Kindergarten**” checklist below. We encourage you to take the time between now and the end of July to ensure your child is ready for Kindergarten. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Erin Rushing, our Kindergarten Faculty Lead, at erushing@archwaynorthphoenix.org, or Ms. Bethany Hunter, our Dean of Academics, at bhunter@archwaynorthphoenix.org.

Academic Skills

- Recognize all 26 uppercase and lowercase letters
- Write first name with uppercase and lowercase letters
- Produce most sounds for 26 letters of the alphabet (short vowel sounds)
- Identify beginning sounds for words (cat begins with /c/)
- Hold pencil with a sustainable and comfortable grip
- Recognize basic shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle)
- Count aloud by 1's to 20
- Recognize numbers to 20
- Write numbers to 20
- Count with one-to-one correspondence
- Hold scissors correctly and cut a straight and curved line

Daily Life Skills

Ability to:

- Show control in play*
- Get through the day without a nap*
- Tie shoes (velcro recommended)*
- Use the bathroom independently*
- Focus for 20 minutes on non-technology activities
- Button, zip and snap independently
- Follow multiple-step directions
- Respond appropriately to redirection
- Express feelings appropriately
- Persevere - try tasks without giving up easily
- Listen without interrupting and wait their turn to speak

*Indicates that this skill is very important to success in Kindergarten.

What to Expect in Kindergarten

Kindergarten is a major transition in your child's life. While at school, they will be learning new routines and have many expectations put on them. Think of it as starting a new job. As you know, the first few weeks are stressful and tiring. However, the more you feel prepared, the less stressed you are. This is the

same with your child – the more they feel prepared, the more confident they will be. It is very important to work with your child on the above skills so they will be ready and prepared.

As a grade level team, we will expect your child to sit and listen attentively as well as follow along to instruction. Your student will be expected to read at an Upper – Emergent reading stage by the end of Kindergarten. Coming into Kindergarten with a good foundation on letter name and sound knowledge is crucial in helping them meet their reading goal.

Expect to have your child come home with daily homework in [Spalding](#). Spalding is our reading and writing curriculum. It focuses on letter sounds with explicit handwriting instruction. Your child will be expected to write frequently, so having their fine motor skills developed to be able to handle this task is very important.

Throughout the day, students will also be expected to speak in group discussions. Your child’s teachers will be supportive of you and your child.

Recommended Reading List

We encourage you to read to your child daily. As you read, stop and ask questions about the story to check for comprehension. We suggest having your child read books that they are interested in and can comprehend. Also, make sure that the book your child is reading is at a suitable reading level. You can do this by using the “Five-Finger Rule.” For every word they miss, hold up a finger. Two fingers indicate that the book is at a reasonably challenging level. More than two fingers indicate that it may be too challenging for your child to read and comprehend.

We recommend the following books, and books like these:

Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey

One Morning in Maine by Robert McCloskey

Lentil by Robert McCloskey

Stone Soup by Marcia Brown

The Story of Ferdinand by Munro Leaf

Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmens

Katy No-Pocket by Emmy Payne

For full-day Kindergarten families only: Scholars who participate in the full-day Kindergarten program receive additional instruction in the sciences, history, the arts, and enrichment in math and reading. The full-day Kindergarten program is ten months long with convenient monthly payments of \$375. At your convenience, you [may now prepay](#) for your scholar’s August tuition.

Helpful Links

[Family Resources](#) Page

Archway Classical Academy North Phoenix [Facebook](#)

Athenaeum [After-School Program](#)

Athenaeum [Summer Camp](#)