

# Miss Bird's Kindergarten ABCs

## A

Attendance - Attendance is very important! A successful school experience is the responsibility of the children, the parents, and the school. Your child's progress, both academically and socially, is influenced to a great extent by daily participation. Regular attendance without tardiness is a key.

Absence - If your child is sick please remember to write a note and send to school the day your child returns.

Arrival - Students are allowed into the building at 7:45 for breakfast (supervision available for those to eating at school), and come to the classroom at 8:00. Students are considered tardy if they are not in the room by 8:10.

## B

Backpack - Have your child bring his/her backpack every day and please check it every night. Students will be given a B.E.E folder. This is my number one way to communicate with you. Please have your child remove the notes and papers each day from the B.E.E folder to share with you.

Behavior Management - We emphasize good choices vs. bad choices, and aim to make every child responsible for himself or herself. Good choices are rewarded with smiley faces, high-fives, extra privileges, stickers, and occasional trips to the "treasure box". Poor choices may result in a time-out, loss of privileges, notes home, and in extreme cases, a visit with the principal. Again, our goal is to make our children independent and responsible for themselves! See Parent Handbook for more information.

Birthdays - Birthdays are special occasions for young children. All that I ask is a week notice if you are planning on sending in a snack for your child's birthday. Summer birthdays will be celebrated on a special day.

Breakfast- Please remember to have your child eat breakfast. If you do not have time, please make arrangements for your child to eat at school.

## C

Conferences - Parent-teacher conferences will be held throughout the year. If you would like to schedule a conference at any other time, simply let me know and I will do my best to set up a time that works for both of us.

Communication - Communication is important. Feel free to contact me whenever you have a question or concern. You can reach me by phone (70) 966-3167 at home, (570) 966-8320 at school or email [abird@mifflinburg.org](mailto:abird@mifflinburg.org).

Clothes - Please send your child to school in clothes appropriate for learning and playing. Do not send your child so dressed up that you might be concerned about him/her getting dirty. Becoming involved in kindergarten activities often means that the students (and adults!) will get a little messy. You may choose to send an additional set of clothing to school in case of an accident.

## D

Discipline - Our classroom is a small community where teamwork and good relationships are expected. We will spend time learning class procedures and practicing them. Each student is expected to act within our standards of behavior. To establish good order and help the children learn self-control, they will be guided to respect themselves and their companions through specific directions, positive reinforcement, suggested new activities and responsible actions.

Dismissal- Kindergarten students are dismissed at 3:05. Bus riders will be taken to the front of the school to load onto the buses and car riders will go to the traffic circle. Please discuss with your child the vehicle's color and what it looks like so the child knows. Pull up to the designated circle when told to. No child will be allowed to leave until their teacher sees who is picking them up. Your child will not be released to any person other than a parent or guardian, unless otherwise noted. If your student is getting home a different way than usual, you MUST send a note to let us know.

## E

Email – Please feel free to email me throughout the year. If you need to contact me after school hours, email will be the best way to reach me. I will check it several times a day. My email is [abird@mifflinburg.org](mailto:abird@mifflinburg.org).

Free choice centers - is a time for your child to experience opportunities for “free play and discovery.” Free Choice centers will take place every day after the student completes assigned centers. Students will self-select an area in which to work (play). Children learn through play and this is an important time, integral to the growth and development of your child.

Field trips- We generally plan two field trips per year that are both fun and educational for our students. You will be notified beforehand, and are asked to return the permission slip promptly.

Footwear - Footwear is a safety concern in kindergarten. Please have your child wear shoes that are appropriate for running and active movement. Cowboy boots, dress shoes, some sandals, flip flops, etc. are not safe for school activities.

Fire drills - Fire drills are held on a monthly basis throughout the year. All students will participate and are expected to walk quickly and quietly to their designated exit. We will practice and become familiar with procedures before our first scheduled drill.

## G

Gym – Please make sure your child wears appropriate clothing and shoes on the days that they will have P.E.

## H

Homework– A Monthly homework calendar will be given to your child at the beginning of every month. Please complete the required pages and RETURN it. Homelink math sheets will also be sent home after students have completed a designated math activity. Please return it after completion.

Hands-on-learning - I feel that the best way to help children learn is to make learning fun. Important concepts can be learned by doing meaningful hands-on activities. There are times when seat-work is required and necessary, but for the most part, our classroom will be an active learning environment.

Health - Please let me know of special circumstances which may affect your child. These could include medication that may make him sleepy, a death in the family, etc. Please let me know of any allergies your child may have, especially food allergies. We sometimes cook or do food activities to complement lessons in kindergarten and it would be helpful to know when I plan our recipes.

HSA - Your support of school activities makes your child feel important and sends the message that you value school. HSA is a vital part of the Mifflinburg community. Volunteer! We need you! There will also be a variety of ways for parents to help out our classroom learning, in and out of the school. We hope you can come and join in the fun with all of our special activities and celebrations throughout the school year!

## I

Illness- The question of when to keep your child home from school is often a difficult one, especially when decisions must be made first thing in the morning. It is important, however, to keep your child home if he/she is ill. This helps to make them more comfortable and prevents others from becoming ill. Children function more effectively in the classroom when they are healthy. If your child has a fever, he or she will be sent home. If your child has had a fever, he/she must be fever-free for 24 hrs before returning to school.

Independence - Independence is a goal for students because it builds self-esteem and self-confidence. Kindergarteners are very capable of doing many things on their own and I encourage them to do as much as they can for themselves in the classroom. Please work on the following skills at home with your child: packing and unpacking backpack, tying shoes, buttoning and snapping pants, etc.

## J

Join – Don't forget to join Mifflinburg Elementary HSA! You won't believe the terrific things they do for our school and everyone in it!

Journals - Writing takes place every day in kindergarten. We keep a journal in our cubbies to use during writing time and also when we have extra time or feel inspired to write. It is a good idea to keep a spiral notebook at home for your child to write in and illustrate as well.

## K

Kindness- Students in our classroom are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our class as well as others with kindness and respect. Bothering others, bullying and interrupting learning will not be permitted.

## L

Library – Students will be checking out a library book beginning in the fall. We will visit the library each cycle and students who have returned their book will be allowed to choose another book to take home. Any books that are damaged or lost must be paid for in full by the end of the school year.

Literacy Workstations - During literacy centers, children practice reading and writing skills while the teacher works with individual children or small guided reading groups. The center activities are designed to strengthen letter/sound knowledge, listening skills, oral language expression, rhyme, letter formation and cooperation.

Lunch – We will eat lunch from 11:00-11:50 everyday. Your child may bring a lunch from home or purchase one from the cafeteria. When your child buys breakfast or lunch in the cafeteria, money will be deducted from their account. You may pay by send money in a labeled envelope or baggy in your child's B.E.E folder in the money pouch. Please remember to include student's name, amount, and teacher.

## M

Money - Anytime you are sending money to school, please put it in an envelope and label it with your child's name, my name, the amount, and the reason (lunch money, PTA, book order, etc). Place the envelope inside the pocket in your child's B.E.E Folder so that we will always know where to find it!

## N

Nurse – We are lucky to have a great nurse at Mifflinburg Elementary. She will tend to minor scratches and scrapes, as well as sudden illnesses. For more serious injuries, she will contact you. Please be sure to send in any change of contact numbers in case she needs to get in touch with you.

## O

Open Communication - Please let me know if you have ANY concerns or questions regarding your child throughout the year. I feel that it is our job to work together as partners to help your child have a successful first year.

## P

Parent involvement - Your support of school activities makes your child feel important and sends the message that you value school! We are always happy to have your help for special activities in the classroom. I will try to let you know at least a week ahead of time if I need help. Requests for help will be published in our monthly newsletters. I hope that you can come and join in the fun!

Parties – We will have three main parties each year. The room parents usually organize these events and coordinate volunteers and donations. All are welcome to participate in the festivities!

## Q

Questions – Since so many of you are new to Mifflinburg Elementary this year, there may still be many unanswered questions. Please feel free to call me at school or write me a note or email.

Quality work - Your child might come home talking about Quality work. I expect the children to always do their best. If they tried their hardest and it is their best, then it is quality work!

## R

Report Cards – Report cards will be sent home four times a year at the end of every nine weeks grading cycle. Please work on any still-developing or not developed skills with your child at home. I will request a conference if needed to discuss the report card.

Read - Read to your child everyday and he/she will soon be reading to you!

Recess-The children will be going out for recess everyday unless it is raining or extremely cold. Please keep this in mind when helping your child to select clothing for the day. We are fortunate to have a variety of playground equipment, including several pieces for climbing. Please keep this in mind when selecting shoes.

Room Parent - The room parents' job is to be available for any number of things: to help coordinate parties and activities; to seek volunteers for field trips and events; and to help with fundraisers for field trip transportation. Being a room parent is a great way to be involved in your child's school life.

## S

Snack Apple- Please look for our snack apple note asking for you to donate a snack for our class to eat. Please remember to send in a healthy, nutritional snack!

Snow- In case of inclement weather, please listen to local radio and television stations as well as look for Mifflinburg Area School District's global calling system to be calling your telling you delays or cancellation.

Snow gear- Your child may wear snow boots and other snow gear to school. All that I ask is that your child comes prepared to change into sneakers and try to dress themselves. Please remember to send your child with hat, gloves, and a coat that zippers.

Student Handbook – Please read the student handbook. It contains very important information concerning school and district policies.

Student work – Student work will be sent home every day.

Supplies – You will be notified when any items need to be replaced throughout the year via our class website and newsletter. Also, please bring any supplies from our Class Wish List.

## T

Transportation - If your child has any changes in his/her transportation I would like you to let me know in writing. Do not rely on your child to tell me this information, because children often become confused and relay messages incorrectly. If no written note is received, your child will be sent home by his/her usual method of transportation.

Tardies – Students are tardy if they are not in their classroom by 8:10 AM. If your child is late, please enter through the office so all the necessary information may be addressed. Please remember that a lot goes on during those first twenty minutes of school and it is a distraction if your child is continuously tardy.

Technology – Please make sure your child is able to use your home computer to practice skills on educational websites that can be found on our class website, if one is available. Your child will also be practicing math and reading skills on [www.studyisland.com](http://www.studyisland.com).

Toys - Bringing toys to school is discouraged because they distract the children from learning. If they are brought, I will keep them until a parent can pick the toy up.

## U

Understanding – Thank you for understanding that your child is our first priority and we will do our very best to answer all communication, comments, and questions promptly.

Unique - Each child in our class is unique and wonderful. In kindergarten we learn about how we are unique and special, and we celebrate our differences and similarities. We also learn about the different cultures within our class.

## V

Visitors – Mifflinburg Elementary has a policy that ALL GUESTS (including familiar faces) are required to check in at the school office. We welcome and encourage family involvement. It is important to remember that while this may seem inconvenient to frequent visitors, it is the goal and responsibility of the school to create a safe learning environment.

Volunteers – Please notify me if you are interested in volunteering.

## W

Website - Check in regularly to find information about curriculum, special events and school news. I will be featuring photos of our weekly activities-it the next best thing to being in our classroom each day!

Wish list – The Class Wish List contains materials that we will use throughout the year. It is not required that you donate items or your time, but I would gladly appreciate anything that you could help with, or any donation you would like to make. See in Parent handbook for more information.

## X

X-tra Special – There will be plenty of opportunities for your child to make extra special memories of their first year in school.

## Y

You - Please remember that YOU are your child's first and most important teacher. No one can influence your child's life in the way that you can!

## Z

Zzzzzzz - Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a bedtime is a wonderful gift you can give your child. It will help him/her to be alert and ready to learn each day!

Zoom - Sit back and watch your child's development take off! You will be amazed and surprised at the changes in your child this year!