**Ojibwa Indian School**

**Kindergarten Guidelines and Requirements**

**Kindergarten Not Mandatory in the North Dakota**

In North Dakota, children are not required by law to attend kindergarten. However, all districts must offer at minimum a half-day program to their residents.

**Current Age Requirements**

Young students must have turned 5 before August 1 of that same school year in order to be eligible to attend kindergarten. In North Dakota, the compulsory school age is 7 years old.

**Early Entry Rules**

To qualify for early entry into a North Dakota kindergarten, a student must be age 5 by December 1 and either enrolled previously in an approved kindergarten and have passed a district-approved developmental and readiness screening.

**Required Immunizations and Available Exemptions**

In order to attend school in North Dakota, students must have proof of all required immunizations (or a valid exemption as discussed below). Required immunizations include DTaP, polio, MMR, hepatitis B, and varicella. **Pre-Entrance Testing/Screening Requirements are an option and is being researched to determine the best approach in educating our students.**

**Early Learning Guidelines**

Ojibwa will follow the ND guidelines for early learning. North Dakota has Early Learning state standards in place intended to prepare children ages 3 to 5 for kindergarten. These guidelines address all core subjects, as well as approaches to learning, expressive arts and creative thinking, health and physical development, and social and emotional development.

**What is Kindergarten Ready?**

Self-Care Skills

* Uses the bathroom and washes up independently
* Does basic self-dressing (may still need help with buttons, zippers and shoelaces)
* Knows and can say full name and age

Social/Emotional:

* follow routines
* play cooperatively with others
* verbally expresses feelings and emotions
* participates in activities
* pay attention to a story or activity for ten minutes

Motor Skills:

* Identifies body parts; such as head, toe, elbow, knee, etc.
* Write name
* Draw vertical and horizontal lines
* cut paper with scissors
* hold a pencil using tripod grip
* copy letters, shapes
* follow basic safety rules; no running from the classroom, stay in group, etc.

Language and Reading

* State full name and can recognize and tries to write own name
* Know some letters and sounds of the alphabet
* listen and talk about stories
* understand we read books from left to right, top to bottom
* notice words that rhyme
* don’t use “baby talk” when speaking
* Can be understood by others most of the time
* Uses words to express needs and wants

Math (Beginning of Kindergarten)

* Count to 20
* recognize and name numbers 1-10
* write most numbers 1-10
* see “how many” up to 5
* identify shapes such as circle, square, rectangle, and triangle
* sort by shape and color, like and unlike