

## ▶ PHYSICAL AND MOTOR DEVELOPMENT

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- ▶ Demonstrates gross-motor skills and coordination skills
- ▶ Demonstrates fine motor strength and coordination

## ▶ SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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- ▶ Manages feelings
- ▶ Follows limits and expectations
- ▶ Takes care of own needs appropriately
- ▶ Forms relationships with adults
- ▶ Responds to emotional cues
- ▶ Interacts with peers
  - Begins to makes friends
  - Solves social problems
  - Attends and engages



MINNETONKA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INSPIRING IN EVERYONE  
A PASSION TO EXCEL

**Preschool**

Two Years Before Kindergarten

# Essential Learnings

## 2011-2012



MINNETONKA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Minnetonka School District has identified what a student is expected to know and be able to do in each subject area within the curriculum. Listed inside are the expectations, called “essential learnings,” for students. The curriculum is designed to help each student accomplish these essential learnings.

## ▶ APPROACHES TO LEARNING

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- ▶ Persists in completing a task
- ▶ Solves problems
- ▶ Shows curiosity and motivation
- ▶ Shows flexibility and inventiveness in thinking
- ▶ Tries new things
- ▶ Explores and discovers

## ▶ MATHEMATICAL AND LOGICAL THINKING

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- ▶ Counts in sequence
- ▶ Counts objects
- ▶ Copies simple patterns
- ▶ Identifies basic shapes: circle, square, and triangle
  - Recognizes and recalls
  - Makes connections
  - Uses classification skills
  - Thinks symbolically
  - Engages in dramatic play

## ▶ SCIENTIFIC THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING

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- ▶ Uses Scientific Inquiry Skills
- ▶ Demonstrates knowledge of characteristics of living things
- ▶ Demonstrates knowledge of physical properties of objects
- ▶ Demonstrates knowledge of earth's environment
- ▶ Uses tools and other technology to perform tasks

## ▶ SOCIAL SYSTEMS UNDERSTANDING

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- ▶ Demonstrates knowledge about self
- ▶ Shows basic understanding of people and how they live
- ▶ Explores change related to familiar people or places

## ▶ LANGUAGE/LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

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- ▶ Follows simple directions
- ▶ Describes and tells the use of many items
- ▶ Is understood by most people
- ▶ Uses language to express thoughts and needs
- ▶ Uses appropriate conversational skills
- ▶ Notices and discriminates rhyme
- ▶ Identifies and names some letters in own name
- ▶ Identifies the sounds of a few letters
- ▶ Orients and turns pages of book correctly
- ▶ Understands that text is meaningful and can be read
- ▶ Retells some events from a familiar story with pictures or props
- ▶ Writes to show meaning

## ▶ CREATIVITY AND THE ARTS

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- ▶ Explores the visual arts
- ▶ Explores musical concepts and expression
- ▶ Explores dance and movement concepts
- ▶ Explores drama through actions and language

Essential Learnings are available on the web at

[www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us](http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us)

Our District Website is a great place to learn more about your student's curriculum. Essential Learnings are listed by grade level.

## Support your child's learning by:

- ▶ Bringing your child to preschool on-time every day.
- ▶ Seeing that your child comes to school rested, fed and ready to learn.
- ▶ Monitoring and limiting your child's screen time.
- ▶ Taking an interest in what your child is learning.
- ▶ Reading to your child 30 minutes a day.
- ▶ Reading information in your child's backpack each day.

