

Welcome Kindergarten Wolfhounds!

Together As One: Serving God, Our School and Our Community

2022-2023



Mrs. Stuart - mrs.stuart@stbrigid-school.org
Mrs. Gray -paraprofessional

Mrs. Hare - mrs.hare@stbrigid-school.org
Mrs. Dinehart - paraprofessional

Miss Katona - ms.katona@stbrigid-school.org
Mrs. Sudduth - paraprofessional

Mrs. Grundei - mrs.grundei@stbrigid-school.org
Instruction Support Teacher

Mrs. Rozanski - mrs.rozanski@stbrigid-school.org
Intervention Specialist





The ABC's of Kindergarten!

A Attendance: School begins at 8:00. Students can be dropped off beginning at 7:45. Please see the school handbook and Wolfhound Wednesday for current arrival procedures. Being frequently late or absent can cause children to miss important learning opportunities.

Please do keep your child home if he/she is sick or contagious. If your child will be absent or tardy, please call the office before 8:30 in the morning, or email the office at attendance@stbrigid-school.org. Please refer to the school handbook for information regarding when your child may return to school after absences due to illness.

Assessment is a natural, ongoing and important part of learning. By questioning and talking to children, listening to the language they use and observing their behavior, adults gain information about children's levels of skill and understanding.

We will be observing, keeping notes, and using checklists to record our observations about your child's learning. We are looking not only at the product but also at the skills and strategies your child uses. Your child will be demonstrating his/her learning in appropriate, practical, authentic ways in an encouraging and supportive environment. Through observation of your child in multiple learning situations, we can build a more complete assessment of his/her learning.

Your kindergarten child will also learn to self-assess. He/she will understand how to use a rubric or checklist to be sure he/she has completed his/her work to the best of his/her ability.

A report card will be sent electronically to parents quarterly. Our report card is based on the Diocesan kindergarten standards. A quarterly discipleship rubric will also be sent with the report card.

We also utilize formal assessments including STAR (Early Literacy) to monitor progress throughout the year.

B Birthdays! We love birthdays! Your child can look forward to hearing birthday wishes during morning announcements and receiving his or her birthday pencil from Ms. O'Reilly. Your child will enjoy a special treat at lunch as he or she celebrates with friends. (Please do not send special birthday treats to school.). Your child may also dress down on his/her birthday to celebrate.

Backpacks: Your child should bring his/her backpack to school every day. Your child's backpack should be large enough to hold a 2-pocket folder easily. Please be sure to clearly label the backpack with your child's name and afternoon transportation information on the tag provided at WOW day.

It is much easier for your child if the backpack only contains things that are needed for school. Making a plan for backpack organization with your child is helpful and reassuring. For example, decide with your child where to keep the blue take-home folder, lunchbox, snack, chapstick, and extra clothes (sweater, underpants...) and hats/gloves.

C Communication: We encourage you to call or email us with questions and/or concerns. We will be happy to talk with you at any time throughout the year. E-mail addresses are listed on the front of this handout.

A school handbook can be found on the school website. This handbook contains information (dress code, attendance policy, tardy...) that applies to all of the children in the school. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the information in this handbook.

We encourage you to send most communication electronically through email in advance. Your child will bring home a blue take-home folder with kindergarten information and papers each day. Please empty this folder daily.

Use the blue take-home folder to send written messages and transportation changes to your child's teacher as needed. The transportation change form can be found on the school website. If there is a last minute change, please notify the office rather than sending the teacher an email. We may not see it during the school day (7:30-3:15).

It is important that all written communication is placed in the blue take-home folder as we cannot check the entire backpack daily.

Wolfhound Wednesday, a school newsletter, is sent via email each Wednesday. Please be sure to read this carefully each week. Please also see our Kindergarten Communication Plan attached to this packet.

Photo newsletters will also be posted monthly (beginning in September) on the school website. These photos will show what we have been doing in the classroom and around the school so you can see our learning in action!

D Dismissal: Our current dismissal policy has been described in detail in the Wolfhound Wednesday and can be found in the handbook. Please familiarize yourself with this plan as we strive to ensure safety during dismissal. If you have any changes to your child's dismissal plan, please notify the teacher with a written note in the blue folder, or email the attendance office.

Discipline: Our classrooms are communities in which the children learn to work together and practice Catholic values. To ensure each child has the maximum opportunity to learn, all children are expected to follow the classroom rules and put forth their best effort throughout the day. We emphasize The Golden Rule, problem solving, responsibility for actions, discipleship, and making good choices. Our goal is to provide a safe, positive classroom atmosphere.

Kindergarten Classroom Rules

Be kind.

Be respectful.

Be responsible.

Be ready to learn.

Follow The Golden Rule.

If a child is having difficulty following the rules, we will help redirect his/her behavior through eye contact, quiet reminders, modeling, and visual prompts. If a child is having significant difficulties, additional plans may be appropriate. Parents would be contacted to discuss options to best help the child.

E Email: Please be sure you are receiving emails from your kindergarten teacher and the Wolfhound Wednesday from the office. If there is a problem, please let us know immediately. These emails are important for successful communication.

F Food: We will be eating our lunch in the cafeteria at 10:15. Your child can buy lunch or pack lunch. The menu can be found on the school website. Packed lunches to be eaten in the cafeteria may contain nuts. Please discuss this choice with your child to be sure he or she will eat the lunch provided. Children are happier and more successful when they are not hungry.

Your child should bring a water bottle each day and a healthy snack to eat in the afternoon. Please be sure your child can manage the snack and lunch items independently (peeling, opening containers...). Please pack your child's lunch and snack in separate containers. It is helpful to put your child's snack in a specific place in the backpack.

G Gym: Kindergarten specials schedules will be sent to you by your teacher each quarter. Please have your child wear gym shoes to school on scheduled gym days. Your child may wear his or her regular school uniform or the gym wind suit on gym days (Girls should wear shorts under the jumper.).

H Homework:

Reading daily with your child is very important to build word recognition, comprehension, and vocabulary. We encourage you to read the attached handout demonstrating the impact of reading consistently with your child.

Practicing skills individually at home can also be very beneficial. We encourage parents to practice red words and math facts consistently at home.

I Independence: Your child can learn to do many tasks independently with your guidance and support. Please help your child with skills needed to open lunch containers, clean up spills, button, zip, tie shoes, manage bathroom needs, and put on coats independently.

J Jesus: Your child will be developing a relationship with Jesus during our time together in kindergarten. Please talk about Jesus with your child and support this at home. Many students enjoy creating a special place or prayer table in their room as they learn about our Catholic faith.

K Kindness! Spread it everywhere. Do it. Be it. Set an example. We are a school family. Everyone at St. Brigid wants the best for your child, and we are all here to support not only your child but your family as well. Please reach out if you need anything!

L Learning: Kindergarten students learn by doing. We get messy. We make mistakes. We will try again. Encourage a growth mindset! Maybe your child can't do something YET, but as we always say in kindergarten ... "The more we practice the better we get!"

M Mission Statement of St. Brigid of Kildare Elementary School:
The St. Brigid of Kildare School community provides Catholic faith formation and strong academic foundations to develop lifelong learners, compassionate leaders, and dedicated disciples of Christ.

Mass: School Masses are usually Thursday mornings at 9:00. You are welcome to attend, watch, and pray with our school. We also plan to attend Mass as a class. Your teacher will let you know when the kindergarten classes will be attending Mass.

N Noteworthy Dates!

The **Barn Bash** is planned for Friday, October 21st from 6:00-8:15 at Leed's Farm. This is a great opportunity to meet other St. Brigid families, meet your child's new kindergarten friends, and have a wonderful time with your family.

O Oops: Please do not allow your child to bring toys/objects from home. The toys will likely get lost or broken. Toys in backpacks are also very distracting. At times, there may be special days to bring items to school. You will be notified of these days through an email.

P Play: Kindergarten children learn through play. We will play a lot! We will learn a lot! We encourage you to examine how much time your child spends on electronics. Increasing traditional play time and reducing tech time will greatly benefit your child.

Q Questions: In addition to academics, all students are learning to make friends and be friends. At times, there may be arguments, tattles, or hurt feelings. We step in when needed, and encourage students to solve these issues with as much independence as possible. Learning problem solving skills is an important part of kindergarten. If you have any questions about academic or social issues, please ask us.

R Recess: We will go outside for recess two times a day for about 20 minutes at a time (weather permitting). Please make sure your child is properly dressed for the weather. Keeping a sweater, gloves, and a hat in your child's backpack is very helpful especially as the seasons are changing. Please be sure to **label** all of your child's belongings with his/her name.

S Specials: During the school year, your child will participate in art, music, physical education, and Spanish class. Your child will have several, but not all, of these special classes each quarter. The schedule for specials classes will be shared with you by your child's teacher each quarter.

T Technology: We use iPads and Chromebooks in our classrooms.

U Uniforms: Please look in the handbook on the St. Brigid website for a complete dress code and dress down day guidelines. (Boys do not need a belt in kindergarten.) Please label everything!

V Volunteers: We love volunteers. Watch for volunteer opportunities throughout the year at St. Brigid! You must complete Protecting God's Children and be fingerprinted before volunteering or chaperoning. Please look on www.virtus.org for class times and sites. Information about Protecting God's Children is attached to this packet. Be sure to watch the Wolfhound Wednesday for opportunities to be involved in our school. We look forward to seeing parent volunteers in the school.

W Water: We have a sink for refilling water bottles. Students should bring a child-sized water bottle to keep in the classroom. The bottle must seal completely and may only hold water.

X eXtra TLC: Events that happen at home can impact your child's day. Knowing what is happening in your child's family life will allow us to understand and support your child more effectively in the classroom. Please let us know if something happens at home that may affect your child. We are a team!

Y **You!** We both have the same interest – your child. Thank you in advance for all of your help and support this year!

Z **zzzzzz:** Kindergarten children need about 9 to 11 hours of sleep a night. Not getting enough sleep can impact your child's day. Your child will be tired after school, especially for the first few weeks, while he/she gets used to the school day. You are encouraged to plan a schedule that works best for your child and your family.

Kindergarten Curriculum

Religion

Trinity - God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit
Bible stories from The Old Testament
Creation Story
God's gifts to us
Saints
Angels
The Christmas Story
The life of Jesus
Bible Stories from the New Testament
Jesus as our friend
Living our lives as disciples/What would Jesus do?
Sin
The Stations of the Cross/Holy Week
Easter
Forgiveness
Divine Mercy
Pentecost
Mary, rosary
Heaven
Our strengths: Gifts from God
Prayer
Our Catholic faith/The Church
Clergy
Caring for others near and far
Catholic Social Teaching
Christian Meditation
Lectio Divina
Examen
Intercessory prayer - intentions
An introduction to Salvation History
An introduction to Catholic Social Teaching

Math

Identifying/Writing numerals
Counting/Comparing quantities
Building number sense
Understanding teen numbers - beginning of place value
Counting to 100
Composing/decomposing numbers
Ways to make 10
Addition/Subtraction within 10
Fact fluency within 5
2-D and 3-D shapes
Measurement
Problem solving

ELA

Fiction/nonfiction read alouds
Comprehension
Skills and strategies - predicting, retelling, connections, compare/contrast
Plot, characters, setting, problem/solution
Decoding, phonics, word work
Spelling patterns
Sight words/red words
Shared reading - reading together as a group
Child reads at his/her own level with teacher support individually and in small groups
Independent reading - pictures/words
Guided writing - modeled writing with the class
Independent writing - writing workshop
Handwriting - Handwriting Without Tears - formation, sizing, spacing
Phonemic Awareness
Journals
Vocabulary
Fluency

Social Studies

Time, personal history
Heritage, traditions, faith, religious celebrations
Symbols of our country
Maps and models
Individuals/group responsibility
Rules
Wants and needs
Goods and services

Science

Weather changes, seasons - air, temperature...
Moon, sun, stars
Living things - animals, plants, life cycles
Properties of objects
Noticing and sorting
Sound
Exploring God's world/Investigations

Health

Healthy food
Sleep/exercise/healthy habits
Safety
Respect for others
Respect for self
Feelings - self and others

Social/Emotional

Identifying strengths, gifts, talents
Independence/Asking for help
Self-regulation
Setting goals - Growth Mindset
Empathy
Participation/Positive citizenship
The Golden Rule
Respect
Responsibility
Social cues
Personal space

Communication

Friendship skills - sharing, including others, initiating...

Problem solving, solving problems in multiple ways

Paying attention/Ready to learn

Opinions/reasons/listening to the opinions of others

Flexible vs. "stuck" thinking

Making choices/decisions

Change/transitions

Kindergarten Communication Plan

<p style="text-align: center;">DAILY</p> <p>Blue take home folder</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WEEKLY</p> <p>Weekly updates via email from the teacher Wolfhound Wednesday online from the office</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">MONTHLY</p> <p>Photo Newsletters (link in the Wolfhound Wednesday)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HALFWAY THROUGH THE QUARTER</p> <p>Interim Reports: If a teacher needs to report an issue with academic progress or behavior between report cards, the parent/guardian will receive either an interim email or phone call.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">QUARTERLY</p> <p>Report Cards Quarterly homework sheets in the blue folder</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THREE TIMES PER SCHOOL YEAR</p> <p>Student-led conferences are held in the fall, winter, and spring. Students discuss their learning with their parents. Students and parents/guardians then set goals for academic performance going forward.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ON DEMAND</p> <p>Teachers are always available to answer questions or to discuss concerns. Please contact us via voice message or email and we will return your call or email within 24 hours. We are always happy to talk with parents.</p> <p>Please contact us at:</p> <p>mrs.stuart@stbrigid-school.org mrs.hare@stbrigid-school.org ms.katona@stbrigid-school.org mrs.grundei@stbrigid-school.org</p>	

“Good two-way communication between families and schools is necessary for your student’s success. Research shows that the more parents and teachers share relevant information with each other about a student, the better equipped both will be to help that student achieve academically.”

Kindergarten Mass Schedule 2022-2023

Aug. 26 Opening School Mass

Sept. 8

Oct. 13

Nov. 1 All Saints Day

Nov. 17

Dec. 8 Feast of the Immaculate

Conception/notice Advent wreath

Dec. 20 Advent Prayer Service/view creche
inside and outside

(January/week 1-Visit church to view creche
again)

Jan. 12

Feb. 1 Patronal Mass/St. Brigid

Feb 22 Ash Wednesday/season of Lent

March 9

March 30

Stations of the Cross TBD

April 13 (See church for Easter season)

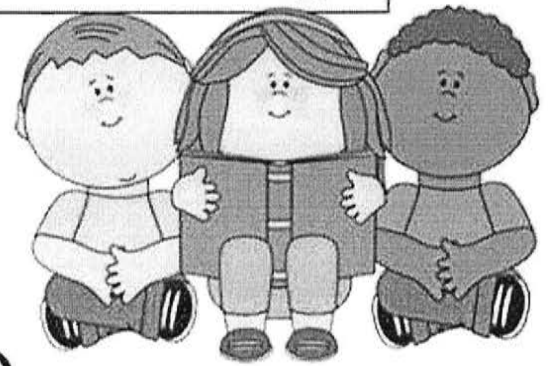
May 4

May 18 Ascension

June 2 Leadership Mass



Remember to read for
20 minutes each day!



If you read...

1

minute per day

5

minutes per day

20

minutes per day

8,000

words per year

282,000

words per year

1,800,000

words per year

42

hours by 6th grade

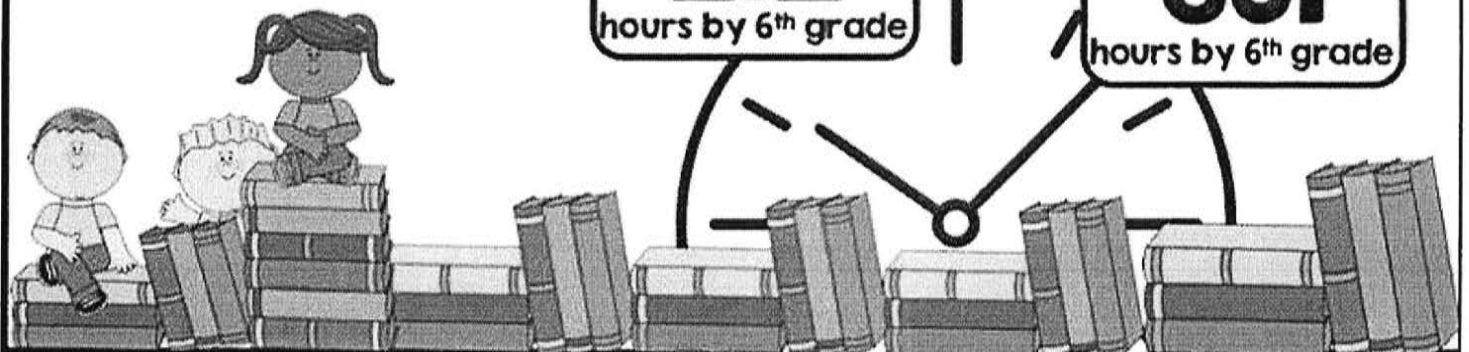
212

hours by 6th grade

851

hours by 6th grade

and you'll have read for..



A large graphic of a pencil, oriented horizontally. The pencil is white with a black outline. The eraser is on the left, and the lead tip is on the right. The text "Promoting Pencil Grasp at Home" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font across the middle of the pencil's body.

Promoting Pencil Grasp at Home

Parents,

Establishing an appropriate pencil grasp for students in kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade is imperative for their growth as an individual and as a student. Appropriate fine-motor integration skills improve automaticity and fluency of handwriting and self-help skills. Improvement of writing skills reduces stress in the classroom and improves a child's ability to focus on learning! Listed below are ways you can help your child increase fine motor coordination at home.

Ways to Improve Fine Motor Control at home:

- **Table games (tic-tac-toe, dominoes, and card games)**
- **Bake together (measuring, stirring, and spooning cookie dough promotes good hand-eye coordination)**
- **Building with Legos**
- **-Jigsaw Puzzles**
- **Play-doh or clay**
- **Dressing themselves (buttoning, zipping, shoe tying)**
- **Opening containers and packages**
- **Packing up bags and lunch boxes**
- **Decrease electronic usage**
- **Shredding/Tearing paper- have kids tear up bills or personal documents**
- **Unloading dish washers**
- **Filling up pet's food and water bowls**
- **Carryover dishes and setting the table (bilateral hand use)**
- **Monkey bars- increase hand strength**

Numeral Formation Songs

These are the songs we sing as we practice forming our numerals correctly.

Practicing this skill with your child can build their confidence and fluency as they work toward mastering this important standard.

(sing to "Skip to My Lou" tune)

- 1 Start at the top
 Big line down (3x)
 That's how we make a 1

- 2 Big curve - little line (3x)
 That's how we make a 2

- 3 Little curve, little curve (3x)
 That's how we make a 3

- 4 Down, over...big line down (3x)
 That's how we make a 4

- 5 Down, around
 Put on a hat (little line) (3x)
 That's how we make a 5

- 6 Big curve, curl it up (3x)
 That's how we make a 6

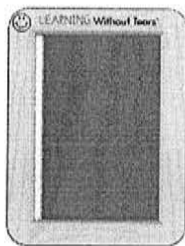
- 7 Little line over, diagonal down (3x)
 That's how we make a 7

- 8 Make an S, close it up (3x)
 That's how we make an 8

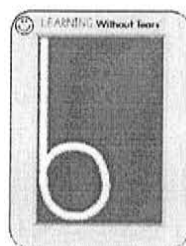
- 9 Magic c, close it up, pull down (3x)
 That's how we make a 9



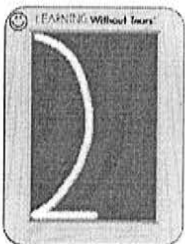
Number Stories



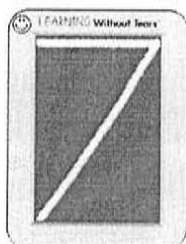
- 1 starts in the Starting Corner.
- 1 makes a Big Line down.
- 1 stops in the corner.



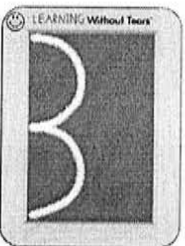
- 6 starts in the Starting Corner.
- 6 is a baby bear.
- 6 goes down to curl up in the corner.
- 6 is hibernating.



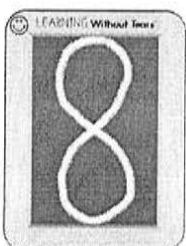
- 2 starts in the Starting Corner.
- 2 makes a Big Curve.
- 2 stops in the corner.
- 2 walks away on the bottom.



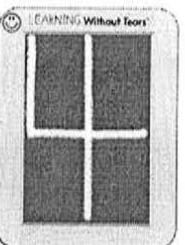
- 7 starts in the Starting Corner.
- 7 makes a Little Line across the top.
- 7 says, "I better slide down."



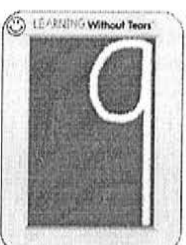
- 3 starts in the Starting Corner.
- 3 makes a Little Curve to the middle.
- 3 makes another Little Curve to the bottom corner.



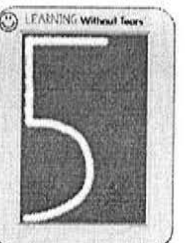
- 8 is different.
- 8 doesn't like corners.
- 8 starts at the top center.
- 8 begins with S and then goes home.



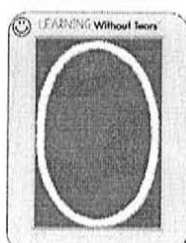
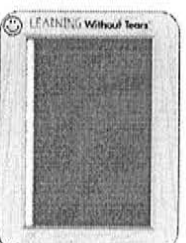
- 4 starts in the Starting Corner.
- 4 makes a Little Line down to the middle.
- 4 walks across the dark night.
- 4 jumps to the top and says, "I did it." (Big Line down)



- 9 is so special.
- 9 has its own corner.
- 9 makes a Little Curve and goes up to the corner.
- 9 makes a Big Line down.



- 5 starts in the Starting Corner.
- 5 makes a Little Line down to the middle. It starts to rain.
- 5 makes a Little Curve around.
- 5 puts a Little Line on top to stop the rain.



- 10 uses two places.
- 1 comes first.
- 0 is next.
- 0 starts at the top center.
- 10 is finished.



Capital Letter Formation Chart

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

I

J

K

L

M

N

O

P

Q

R

S

T

U

V

W

X

Y

Z

Big Line
Big Line
Little Line

Big Line
Little Curve
Little Curve

Big Curve

Big Line
Big Curve

Big Line
Little Line
Little Line
Little Line

Big Line
Little Line
Little Line

Big Curve
Little Line
Little Line

Big Line
Big Line
Little Line

Big Line
Little Line
Little Line

Big Line
Turn
Little Line

Big Line
Little Line
Little Line

Big Line
Little Line

Big Line
Big Line
Big Line
Big Line

Big Line
Big Line
Big Line

Big Curve
Big Curve

Big Line
Little Curve

Big Curve
Big Curve
Little Line

Big Line
Little Curve
Little Line

Little Curve
Little Curve

Big Line
Little Line

Big Line
Turn
Big Line

Big Line
Big Line

Big Line
Big Line
Big Line
Big Line

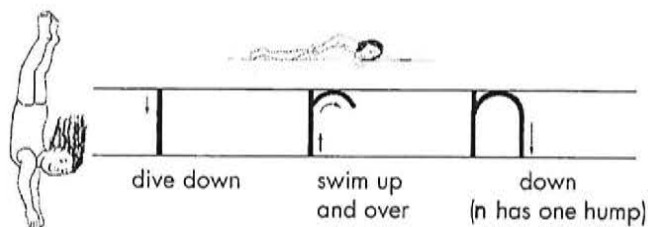
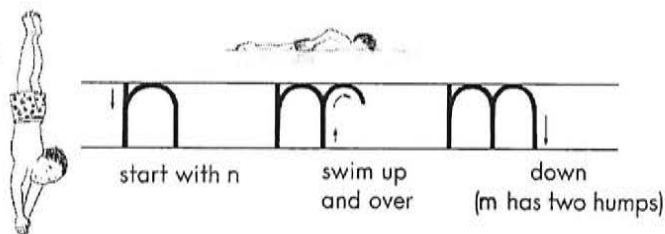
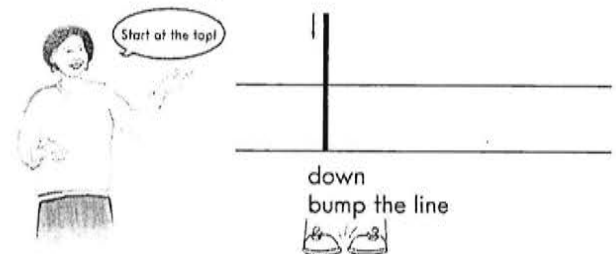
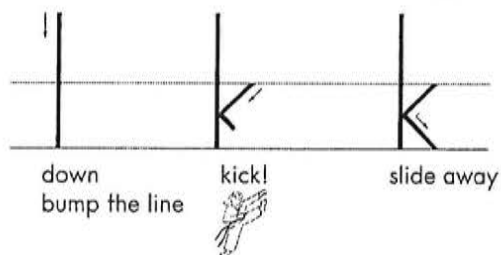
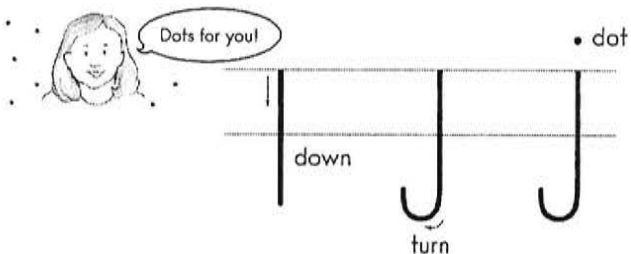
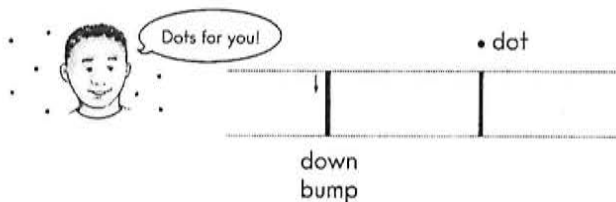
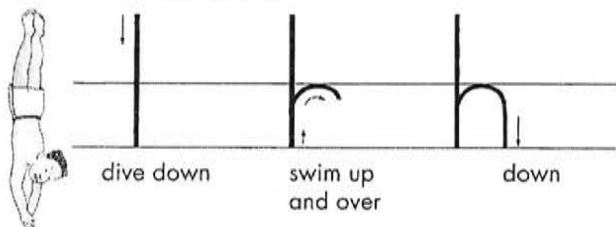
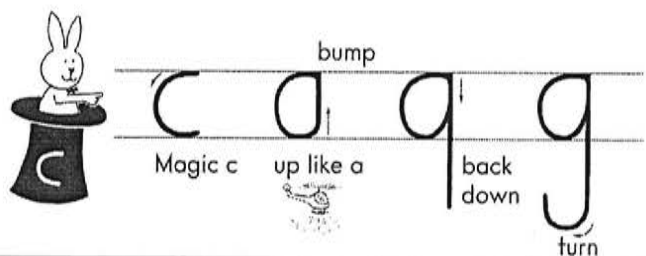
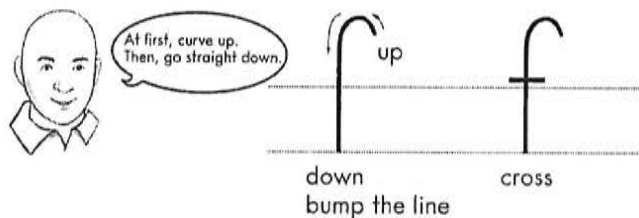
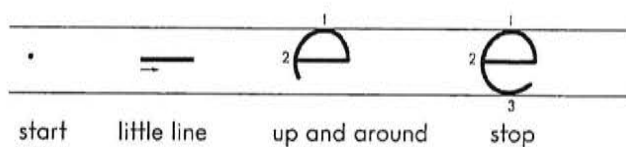
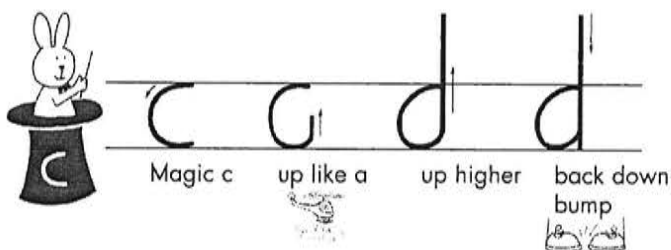
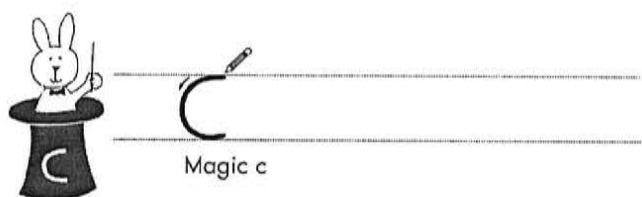
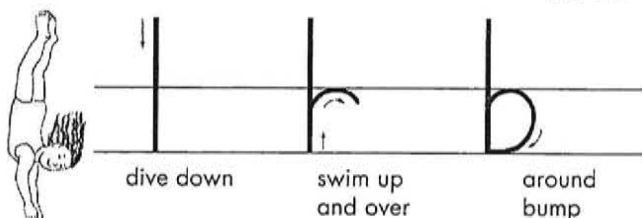
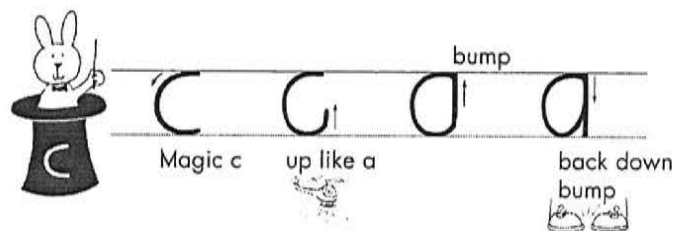
Big Line
Big Line

Little Line
Big Line

Little Line
Big Line
Little Line



Lowercase Formation Chart





Lowercase Formation Chart



Magic c keep on going stop



bump
down, travel, up back down bump



dive down swim up and over around bump



slide down slide up



bump
Magic c up like a back down U turn



slide down and up slide down and up



dive down swim up and over



slide down slide down



little Magic c little Magic c turn down curve around



slide down slide down



Start at the top!
down bump the line
cross
Directions for crossing t:
Left-handed Right-handed

go across slide down



go across

Kindergarten Daily Schedule

7:45-8:00 Arrival
8:00-8:20 School Prayer/Family Meeting
8:20-9:00 ELA
9:00-9:45 Math
9:45-10:05 Recess
10:05-10:10 Transition/Bathroom
10:10-10:45 Lunch
10:50-12:20 Centers
12:20-1:10 Specials Classes - Music/PE/Art/Library/Spanish
1:10-2:40
Recess
Bathroom/Snack
Religion
Writing Workshop
(times and order may vary by classroom)

**This is an approximate schedule.
It will often vary to meet the needs of the children.