



# Have A Soon-To-Be Kindergartner? It's Time To Think About Enrollment!

**Kindergarten.** *Up until this point, milestones have been measured in first steps, first words, first haircuts, and birthday candles leading up to the first day of school.*

The Kindergarten milestone represents the first year in school, possibly the first time your child will be away from you for a length of time, and deciding where you want your child to go to school is a major milestone for you as a parent. While there are many fine public schools in Forsyth County, if you have been thinking that a private, Christian school education may be a better option for your child, the following gives you some things to consider.

Ben Montgomery is the Kindergarten teacher at St. John's Lutheran School in Winston-Salem, and he offered some perspective on what an ideal classroom may look like for a Kindergartner.

"Parents should expect reassurance that their child is receiving the love and care that they need. If a child is not comfortable in his or her environment, their full learning potential will be difficult to reach," Ben said. *"The relationship between kids and their first teacher must be positive and trusting in order to unlock the child's capabilities."*

Parents should also expect their Kindergarten child to develop social skills and manners, and have an understanding about conflict and resolution, like using helpful words instead of physical contact. This is in addition to the many basic skills a child first learns in Kindergarten, like using scissors, counting, paying attention, learning shapes and letters, recognizing sight words, holding a pencil the right way, and so on.

"No two students are alike, so I often teach concepts in several different ways. Some kids learn better by seeing, some by listening, and some by doing, but whatever it is that I'm teaching, it has to be fun," Ben said. "I believe learning happens best through play. *Play allows kids to show interest, to apply their knowledge to real world problems, to use their imagination, to express their personalities, and to improve social skills while having fun.*"

For many Kindergarten students, this is their first opportunity to join, create and develop peer groups. Valuable learning experiences are often by-products of this social skill development process.

"Cooperation between student peers is needed in the classroom because every child can contribute to a group activity or discussion. This interaction can nurture skills like leadership, creativity, being supportive, or even offering an opposing view," Ben said.

As winter begins to thaw into spring, the transition of the seasons brings the first step of a transition for many soon-to-be Kindergarten students. To schedule a tour of St. John's Lutheran School and meet Ben Montgomery, contact the school office by calling 336-725-1651. The school is conveniently located at 2415 Silas Creek Parkway in Winston-Salem. Visit [StJohnsFalcons.org](http://StJohnsFalcons.org).



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