

# *Jump Start to Kindergarten Q and A*

Hello families! We are very excited to have you in our program. We look forward to getting to know you and your child over the course of the coming year. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Before the school year starts, we'd like to cover a few questions that you may have.

***Q: How will I know what's going on in the classroom?***

A: We send home a weekly newsletter, tuition statements and other notes and information. These are placed in the family folders located at the parent sign in area. Please check your folder daily.

In addition, check out the Jump Start webpage by going to [www.isd623.org](http://www.isd623.org) and click on 'our schools', then either Brimhall or Emmet D. Williams, then Jump Start.

Each teacher is also available by phone or email for further communication.

***Q: How are meals handled at Jump Start?***

A: Breakfast, lunch and snack are covered in the cost of tuition. Breakfast and snack will be served in the cafeteria with Friendship Connection before and after the school bell. Lunch will be served in the Jump Start classroom and is served by the Jump Start teachers. Included in this packet are both the breakfast and lunch menus. The children will have 2 lunch options to choose from and will need to let the Jump Start teachers know their lunch choice at the beginning of each school day. You may want to review the choices with your child ahead of time.

***Q: What do I do if my child will be absent?***

A: Please call the Jump Start classroom, before 9:00 AM to let us know if your child won't be attending school. We have a direct line to our room and voice mail is set up if we can't get to the phone. The Jump Start phone numbers are:

Brimhall: 651-639-4087

EDW: 651-482-0421 (listen for the prompt for Jump Start and press 1)

You may also email either of the teachers at:

Brimhall: [martina.mohn@isd623.org](mailto:martina.mohn@isd623.org)

EDW: [anne.larson@isd623.org](mailto:anne.larson@isd623.org)

***Q: Will there be nap time?***

A: We will have a quiet rest time every day for the students. We have mats they will use and children are encouraged to bring a blanket and something snuggly from home to make them more comfortable. Items brought for rest time need to fit inside a bin that will be provided by Jump Start. We provide approximately an hour of rest time however if children do not fall asleep, we have quiet activities they can do on their mat. We try to make accommodations for children who rarely nap and those who need longer rest times.

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## ***Q: What should my child bring to school?***

- Please bring a change of clothes for your child (underwear, pants, shirt, socks) in case of accident or spills. We will set aside space in our classroom to store their clothes and send clothes home to get laundered if necessary.
- Tennis shoes for outside and gym time.
- Soft items for rest time (Blanket, small pillow, stuffed animal).
- Make sure your child is dressed to play outside every day. Jump Start tries to spend at least 30 minutes outside every day, weather permitting. We follow each school's guidelines in regards to cold weather however Jump Start staff have the discretion to stay inside if they feel the weather is too cold.

## ***Q: My child has a birthday during the school year. Can I bring birthday treats?***

A: You are welcome to bring birthday treats for your child as long as they are store bought. As a program we try to serve healthy snacks so if possible, please consider healthy alternatives.

## ***Q: Can my child bring toys from home to use during the school day?***

A: Please do not bring toys from home other than a small stuffed animal for rest time. We will have some designated days throughout the year when toys from home will be allowed.

## ***Q: Will there be library time for my child?***

A: Jump Start students go to the media center each week to check out books. We ask that children bring their book back each week on the same day so that they can check out another book. Families will be responsible for lost books.

## ***Q: What curriculum does Jump Start use?***

A: Our curriculum is developed by the Jump Start teachers and is based on the Minnesota Early Learning Standards. We also use parts of the Second Steps and Leap Skills curriculum to supplement our teaching of social and emotional skills.

## ***Q: Is Jump Start open on school release days?***

A: Jump Start follows the regular school calendar. You can find this on line at [www.isd623.org](http://www.isd623.org), click on 'calendar'. We are also open on most school release days for optional sign up. Each month Jump Start will post a non-school day sign up sheet. If you need care on these days, sign your child up to attend. If you register for care on these days you will be billed for each day you signed up for. Jump Start will be closed on all major holidays.

## ***Q: How is discipline handled?***

A: We use the responsive classroom approach when handling discipline. At the beginning of the year a 'break' area is designated as a space children can go to cool off or regain control, so they can refocus on what they should be doing. All students are given an opportunity to 'practice' using this space.

Teachers help students solve problems and disputes by coaching them through questions such as: "How did that make you feel?", "I feel \_\_\_\_\_ when you do \_\_\_\_\_", "How can you make it better"? Students are involved in thinking of better ways to solve problems next time. As students progress in developing these social skills teachers remind them to use their words to try and work out disputes with each other. Teachers try to allow the students to work these out independently but will step in if needed. Curriculum from Second Steps and Leap Skills is used to help teach children these skills.