



**What is Kindergarten Screening?** Kindergarten screening is a brief assessment, usually lasting about twenty minutes. The screening tool we use has a broad focus. It samples performance in several areas of development: speech, language, cognition, perception, and fine and gross motor coordination. It is NOT an IQ test nor is it intended for use as a school readiness test.

**What will my child be asked to do?** Children will engage in block building, drawing tasks and a visual memory game to assess fine motor skills, eye-hand coordination, short-term memory skills, and the ability to reproduce two- and three- dimensional forms and structures. The language and cognition portion of the assessment focuses on language comprehension and verbal expression, the ability to reason and count and the ability to remember auditory sequences. Gross motor coordination will involve opportunities for children to demonstrate their ability to balance, hop and skip.

**Why is it screening conducted?** We conduct kindergarten screening in response to the state law that requires public school systems to screen all children prior to their entrance into kindergarten. The purpose of the screening is to identify children who *may* have significant learning problems and who *may* need special education services in order to perform successfully in school.

**Who will be working with my child?** Our screening team consists of our two kindergarten teachers, our K and 1 special education teacher, a reading specialist and the speech and language pathologist. However, your child will be working with just one adult for the entire 20 minute assessment. PLEASE NOTE: The teacher who screens your child is not necessarily your child's teacher for the fall.

**How will I know how my child did?** Parents of children who score below the expected range will be contacted by phone by one of the team members who did the assessment and/or the principal. These children will be rescreened in the fall of the kindergarten year. No child will be excluded from kindergarten as a result of the screening. If you do not hear from one of the screening team members, you can assume your child fell in the expected range.

**Does an "okay" letter mean that my child will be successful in kindergarten?** Many factors contribute to success in school. Among the most important is social and emotional maturity. Unfortunately, these areas of development cannot be assessed during screening. If you have questions about your child's maturity, we recommend that you discuss your concerns with your child's preschool teacher or with a member of the screening team.

**Will I get an actual copy of the screening?** A copy of the screening results is placed in your child's cumulative folder which is kept in the school office during the time your child remains at South Row.

**Are the screening results used for class placement?** The screening results are used only to plan programs for children who may have special learning needs. All other classroom placements are made in an effort to create heterogeneous groups.

**Whom do I contact if I have more questions about Kindergarten Screening?** Dr. McMahon is the screening coordinator at South Row. If you have any questions you may contact her by phone at 978-251-5177 or by email at [mcmahonme@chelmsford.k12.ma.us](mailto:mcmahonme@chelmsford.k12.ma.us)