



PERIMETER SCHOOL  
A Covenant Christian Community

## A Ready First Grader

How do I prepare my child for first grade at Perimeter School? Often, parents who ask this question are looking for an academic list of items to be mastered before first grade. Although we have provided such a list below, learning at our school is much more than academics. Perimeter School offers a very unique philosophy that emphasizes true learning, where the child is taught to love to learn. Learning is a complex, spiritual endeavor that requires prayer, the Holy Spirit, and deep thought about the nature and role of the child in relation to God, others, and the world.

## Habit Readiness

Good habits enable children to avoid unnecessary distractions, giving them more energy and focus to tackle the challenges of schooling. Please consult our list of habits, which we value here at Perimeter School. These are taught throughout our entire curriculum and in all grades. Please read over the habits carefully, go over them with your child, and help them to understand and practice these concepts as they prepare for school. This concept may be new to you and your child.

## Academic Readiness

The following lists are minimal skills that result from natural instruction, which comes from parents' teaching of purposeful, real-life experiences with their children. We believe that these three areas of academic readiness go hand-in-hand with the areas of "Habit Readiness" above. Our academic goal at Perimeter School is for children to become lifelong learners and lovers of living books, art, music, people, and the world around them.

### ***A child who is ready to read:***

- has experienced lap-reading with parents and shows an interest in reading.
- can track from left to right with his eyes and fingers while being read to or pretending to read.
- knows upper and lowercase letters as well as their sounds.
- can complete a sentence when a final word or phrase is left out.
- can distinguish rhyming words.
- can distinguish between similar words (e.g. cat and chat).

- can recognize simple three letter words like “hat” or “sit.”

***A child who is ready to write:***

- is practicing proper pencil grip with all writing/painting/drawing tools. (The muscle strength required for handwriting is developed beginning in infancy with lots of “tummy time” and other naturally-occurring experiences to improve core strength.)
- writes upper and lowercase letters neatly.
- writes his full name with the first letter capitalized and the other lower case.
- attempts making, tracing, and copying words and designs.

***Readiness for numeracy is indicated when a child:***

- can orally count to 100.
- can count up to 20 objects correctly (one-to-one correspondence).
- can write numbers sequentially and neatly through 20.
- can see, name, and continue patterns.
- can break down a group of 10 into smaller groups and restore the smaller groups to their original size (the concept of addition and subtraction without using numbers and symbols).
- can identify numbers in the 10’s and 100’s.
- can understand that numbers represent sets of items.