



Full-Day Kindergarten

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Benefits of Full-Day Kindergarten

- Children who attend full-day kindergarten learn more in reading and math over the kindergarten year than those in half-day programs.¹
- Children in full-day kindergarten programs receive 40-50% more instruction than children enrolled in half-day kindergarten programs. More instructional time in full-day kindergarten allows for increased learning activities and strategies such as: group read-aloud, peer tutoring, mixed-ability grouping, and child-initiated activities.²
- Children who attend full-day kindergarten spend 30% more time on reading and literacy instruction and 46% more time on mathematics than children in half-day programs.³
- Full-day kindergarteners exhibit more independent learning, classroom involvement, productivity in work with peers, and reflectiveness than half-day kindergarteners.⁴
- Full-day kindergarten allows for a more consistent schedule for children and reduces the ratio of transition time to class time, reducing stress for children.^{5,6}
- Parents of children in full-day kindergarten report higher levels of satisfaction with their children's schedule and curriculum and the program's support for working families.

	ADVANTAGES	AREAS OF CONCERN
FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN	Allows time for experiential learning	Requires more instructional space
	Provides more time for quality interactions between adults and students	Requires more teachers
	More time available for assessment of student progress	Students may not yet have the stamina for a full-day experience
	Students have time to work in a variety of settings: independent, small group, large group	Full day programs may be considered free child care
	Allows time for students to explore socio-dramatic play and practice social skills	Teaching structure needs to be adjusted to adapt to full-day schedule
	ADVANTAGES	AREAS OF CONCERN
HALF-DAY KINDERGARTEN	Experience that orients children to school	Children disrupted mid-day to move from one program to another
	Allows more time for children to play in an unstructured environment	Children are less able to experience social interactions with peers at school
	Allows more time for children to interact with family at home	Children have less opportunity to interact with peers and practice cooperative work and problem solving activities

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