Our Kindergarten Program
The kindergarten program at Mead Elementary School is built around the District's curriculum which follows the Colorado State Standards. Children receive high quality instruction in reading, writing, math, science and social studies. They also participate in library, computer lab, art, and music (in the kindergarten classroom).

Our primary goal for all kindergartners is to have a positive and exciting experience in school. You can help your child by asking about school, helping with homework, and making sure your child is in attendance every day of school.

St. Vrain Valley School district Board of Education policy states that entering kindergarten students must turn five years of age on or before October 1, 2020.

Academic Readiness
*Does your child show an interest in numbers?
*Does your child recognize some numbers and letters?
*Does your child know the names of colors and shapes?
*Does your child show interest in letters of the alphabet?
*Does your child look at books with pictures and pretend to read?

Social Readiness
*Has your child had positive experiences in a group away from home and familiar adults?
*Does your child accept authority from adults outside their family?
*Has your child experienced satisfying friendships and other interactions with peers?
*Has your child acquired such social skills as taking turns, making compromises, and approaching new children?

Things you can be doing to prepare for kindergarten:
*Read to your child everyday.
*Get involved with play groups or invite friends over to play.
*Help your child practice writing their name with one capital letter and then lower case letters.
*Find things around the house to count.
*Encourage your child to color, draw, write, and paint.
*Strengthen your child's hands (fine motor) by playing with clay, Legos, small objects, and cutting with scissors.

*Do you read with your child on a regular basis?
*Is your child able to retell a story in order of the way things happened?
*Can your child recite the alphabet?
*Does your child recognize common sounds such as: birds singing, car horns, and water running?

*Practice tying shoes.
*Assemble puzzles.
*Talk positively about going to school!

What should I read to my kindergartner?
Reading, like talking, should be treated as a natural part of life. Children learn about reading by imitating those around them, so let your child see you reading. Beginning in infancy and continuing through adolescence, read aloud with your children everyday. It is important to share enthusiasm for reading and to praise successes. The purpose of reading aloud, however, is not to teach the child to read, but rather to establish a habit of reading for pleasure and to develop a lifelong love of books.

The following list of books will reinforce developing concepts children will be learning in kindergarten.

Fairy tales, folk tales and nursery rhymes:
- Book of Nursery and Mother Goose Rhymes
- The Tortoise and the Hare, Janet Stevens

Predictable and cumulative texts:
- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, Bill Martin, Jr.
- Too Much Noise, Ann McGovern
- If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, Laura J. Numerhoff

Books in rhyme, poetry, and songs:
Poems to Read to the Very Young, Josette Frank
A House is a House for Me, Mary Ann Hoberman
Read Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young, Jack Prelutsky

Alphabet and counting books:
Golden Animal ABS by Garth Williams
1 2 3 To The Zoo by Eric Carle
One Duck, Another Duck, Charlotte Pomerantz

Concept books:
Wing of a Flea, A Book About Shapes, Ed Emberley
The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Eric Carle

Reading is also directly involved in activities such as:
* working with manipulative toys (Tinker Toys, Legos, Lincoln Logs, Creative Playthings)
* assembling puzzles
* singing songs
* working on educational computer software
* making their own books and greeting cards

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

MEAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
520 Welker Avenue
Mead, CO 80502
970-535-4488
FAX 720-652-8053
Betsy Ball, M.A. Ed., Principal