



Transitioning from Primary to Lower Elementary:

Around the time that children turn 6 years of age, they transition into a new stage of development. Students in this new developmental plane are more social, energetic, and have a lively imagination. They want to spend more time working in groups and they develop a strong sense of justice. Six year old students are also exhibiting greater gross and fine motor control as their bodies grow bigger and stronger.

Here are some of the traits a student will display that tell us they are ready for elementary school:

Social and Emotional:

- Understands and participates in conflict resolution with peers
- Displays a love of learning
- Respects others, self, and the materials in the room
- Exhibits self-control, self-discipline, and integrity
- Has shown leadership abilities in their primary classroom
- Works independently
- Beginning awareness of the passage of time
- Chooses appropriately challenging work
- Works and plays peacefully with peers
- Demonstrates sustained attention to a single task without adult redirection

Math:

- Exhibits a moderate understanding of the decimal system, place value, multiple digit operations, zero as a placeholder, and linear counting
- Reads and writes numbers legibly from top to bottom
- Has committed some single digit addition and subtraction facts to memory

Reading:

- Has committed to memory all of the letter sounds and many of the phonograms
- Can read fluently and comprehend reading materials at a 1st grade level
- Can read simple or complex sentences with short vowel sounds and sight words
- Can segment (sound out) words and blend consonant sounds (like gr, pl, st)

Writing:

- Holds a pencil correctly and writes legibly
- Writes all lowercase print letters from top to bottom, with correct path of formation
- Writes first and last name with correct capitalization
- Expresses thoughts in simple sentences
- Displays intellectual curiosity about cultural subjects