

Full Day Kindergarten: Why Does It Matter?



Forty-two states and the District of Columbia have adopted the Common Core Standards¹, expecting kindergarten children to master skills like these:

- ✓ Write numbers 0 - 20. Represent a number of objects with a written numeral. (K.CC.1)
- ✓ Solve addition and subtraction word problems, and add and subtract within 10. (K.OA.1)
- ✓ For any number from 1 to 9, find the number that makes 10 when added to the given number. (K.OA.4)
- ✓ Describe measurable attributes of objects, such as length or weight. (K.MD.1)
- ✓ Analyze and compare two- and three-dimensional shapes, in different sizes and orientations, using informal language to describe their similarities, differences, parts and other attributes.(K.G.4)
- ✓ Identify basic similarities in and differences between two texts on the same topic. (RI.K.9)
- ✓ Spell simple words phonetically, drawing on knowledge of sound-letter relationships. (L.K.2.d)
- ✓ Participate in shared research and writing projects. (W.K.7)
- ✓ Write a letter or letters for most consonant and short-vowel sounds. (L.K.2.c.)
- ✓ Distinguish shades of meaning among verbs describing the same general action (e.g., *walk*, *march*, *strut*, *prance*) by acting out the meanings. (L.K.5.d.)
- ✓ Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding. (RL.K.10)

In order to master these skills some children in the U.S. receive:

1,080 hours of instruction².

And some only

540 hours of instruction³.

For more information and how you can help to bring about equal education opportunities for our children, contact Cathy Grace (cgrace@childrensdefense.org).

¹ Common Core State Standards Initiative. (2010). *Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects.*; *Common Core Standards for Mathematics*. Retrieved May 27, 2011, from <http://www.corestandards.org/>

² Based on 6 hours instruction per day in a 180 day school year. Data comes from National Center for Education Statistics. (1993). *Public School Kindergarten Teachers' Views of Children's Readiness for School*.

³ Based on 3 hours instruction per day in a 180 day school year. Data comes from National Center for Education Statistics. (1993). *Public School Kindergarten Teachers' Views of Children's Readiness for School*.