



Virtual Learning: A Whole Family Experience

Welcome to Alabama First Class Pre-K!

We are excited to join you and your child on this virtual learning journey. Until we are able to resume a typical in-person classroom day in pre-k, this will be our new normal. With your willingness and support we will make the best of this situation together as one big school family.

Amazing Facts about Four-Year-Olds

- They learn quickly and through real-life, hands-on interactions.
- They love to ask questions; *lots* of questions!
- They learn by watching adults and imitating their actions, both the good and bad.
- The world is new to them, therefore, things that seem “boring” or a “nuisance” to adults will excite and engage these young learners. Some examples include seeing an ant trail on the back porch, or pouring, measuring and preparing food in the kitchen.

Nearly any experience in your home can become a beneficial learning experience with your child!

What to Expect in First Class Pre-K

Seeing children light up with new discoveries is part of what makes pre-k so much fun!

Throughout the year, you can expect your young learner to:

- Improve foundations for all future relationships by learning and improving social skills.
- Create friendships embedded with respect and understanding of others
- Develop crucial life skills including problem solving, thinking critically, sharing, listening to others, patience, and empathy.

With the combination of teaching in the moment, and following well-planned, thoughtful experiences through lesson planning, your child will experience learning success in pre-k!

A successful virtual school year experience in pre-k requires a team consisting of teacher, child, and parent who are all willing and ready to teach and provide human connection. Four-year-olds need people, connection, and your willingness as the caregiver to provide the best learning situation.

To teach we must first reach: this means there needs to be authentic connection formed between the adult and the student before learning can take place. A 20-minute activity with an engaged adult promotes true, long-lasting connection and learning.

There are no education videos or learning experiences more beneficial to children than personal connections.

This may sound like a lot of responsibility, and we recognize that it is. During this season of virtual learning, teachers across the nation are leaning on families right now for the missing piece of classroom community – personal connection.



Options to connect with your child and connect with your child's teacher will be provided for you from Day 1 in the First Class Pre-K learning environment. We understand your schedules make be hectic or uncertain, and you may have other children also distance learning at home. We ask that you focus on *quality over quantity* when it comes to meaningful, intentional learning activities. We appreciate your patience and understanding which is being asked of everyone right now. We are all on this journey together, and First Class Pre-K is here for you!

Here is what First Class Pre-K is asking of you as a parent or family member:

- **Willingness to engage with your child in activities that are suggested from your child's teacher.**

This means if the teacher dances, you dance as well...count it as your daily exercise!

- **Willingness to be your child's first teacher and support them on this new adventure.**

Follow their lead and let them talk to you. It's never boring!

- **Willingness to be excited about the little things and try to see the world from your child's eyes.**

The more excited you are, the more your child's brain lights up and is ready to learn.

- **Willingness to be patient and supportive when a task is too challenging for your child.**

If this happens please let your teacher know, and the teacher will meet your child's needs with a new activity.

- **Willingness to be a partner with your child's teacher and let them know when your child is frustrated with an activity or excited about an activity.**

Your input is essential in lesson planning for your child's teacher.

- **Willingness to understand that all children develop differently and will all bloom at different times.**

This means that some children may write their name first and some children may skip first, and it's all okay. As long as they are progressing, we support them in all areas.

- **Willingness to talk through emotions and give words when things get tough.**

We know you are stressed, and this means that sometimes your adult emotions get too big. Four-year-olds also have big feelings about four-year-old problems. This may seem silly but watching you handle stress is how they will handle stress. We need you to give them words and help them learn to handle big feelings. Reach out to the teacher anytime you feel you need support. Your child's teacher has many resources that he/she will be ready and willing to share with you. You are not alone!