



# Next Steps

## A Kindergarten Decision-Making Guide

### Student Character Traits

Academics are not the only concern in educating our children. Most parents are equally concerned with developing their children's character. Building character includes a number of traits.

**Discernment** in making choices - An individual must be able to seek and know the right, godly choice and realize that our choices, right or wrong, have consequences for which we are individually responsible.

**Diligent Effort** in all things - a commitment to excellence allows us to build our gifts and talents as God has blessed us. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord" (Colossians 3:23)

**Honesty** in all things. Honesty is not just truth-telling but also truth-living. This trait leads to reliability, trustworthiness, and integrity in individuals.

**Responsibility** - we all have responsibilities on a variety of different levels - to each other, to our families, to God, and to our jobs. Students must learn that learning and completing school work is their responsibility. Children must be supported when obstacles appear, however in our support we should not eliminate these obstacles. Growth comes from these experiences.

**Respect** - all people are worthy of respect and honor because all are created by God and are image-bearers of God. When those in authority are properly respected, a solid foundation for our relationship with God is also reinforced.

A sense of wonderment and awe in God's creation - This trait is a force behind our motivation and desire to continually learn. This attitude helps us to develop higher-level critical thinking skills as we observe our surroundings and study God's word.

**Positive Self-Esteem** - we all have a self-image. Because we are all created in God's image we have no need to impress others. Understanding who we are in Christ should provide us with our self-worth - that He loves us and that His love is a lasting source of assurance.

Character traits greatly determine how we think and how we live. We as adults can help to nurture our children's character. Properly rooting our words, attitudes, and actions in God's truth is a main way that our children learn these traits as we model them. The Christian home, school, and church are incubators in helping children develop proper character traits for life.

by Ken Goff, Principal, Lafayette Christian School



### Kindergarten Readiness

Is your child ready for the wonderful world of kindergarten? The kindergarten checklist below will give you an idea on what areas your child is doing well in, and where they may need to improve. There is no perfect formula that determines when a child is truly ready for kindergarten. Young children change so fast as they learn new skills. Your child may not be able to master a certain skill this week, but they may be able to do it a few weeks later.

- \* Recognizes shapes
- \* Can sort objects by color, shape, and size
- \* Counts from 1 to 10
- \* Recognizes five colors
- \* Writes his or her name
- \* Recognizes his or her written name
- \* Holds scissors correctly
- \* Holds pencil or crayon properly
- \* Uses words instead of being physical when angry
- \* Speaks clearly so an adult can understand him or her
- \* Plays with other children
- \* Waits his or her turn and shares
- \* Follows simple directions
- \* Goes to the bathroom by him or herself
- \* Can spend extended periods away from Mom and Dad

By Bridget Winger, Kindergarten Teacher





# A Kindergarten Decision-Making Guide

## Why a Christian Education?

In Christian schools students learn **to see** the world through the lens of the Word. Christian school teachers don't avoid the world. They help students see it just the way it is: created by God, smudged by sin, and restored again in Christ. It's more than a Bible study; it's a study of the world through the Bible. Here are some of the things that students learn about the world from the Bible:

- our bodies are temples where God dwells
- God made and provides for guppies and grandmas
- sunrises and skyscrapers give glory to God
- math formulas and planetary orbits show God's intricate ordering of all things.

In Christian schools students learn **to transform** the world. Christian schools help students learn that the world belongs to God, who created it and cares for it. They learn that Christ came to redeem the world and make it new again. And they learn that the Holy Spirit empowers people to carry out God's work in the world.

In Christian schools students learn **that they are uniquely gifted** by God to serve him: "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others" (1Peter 4:10). Students learn to listen for God's direction in the use of these gifts. Here the groundwork is laid for what God will use later in their lives to extend his kingdom by:

- healing a hurt in a person's mind or body
- making a beautiful building or a source of water for a poor village
- developing technology for people to communicate across barriers
- managing resources for the good of others.

All parents have big dreams for the next generation. Christian schools can help these dreams come true. They teach your children to see and do — to see the world through the lens of the Bible and to do God's work in his world.



## Top Ten Reasons to Consider

### Lafayette Christian School

1. Christ-Centered Education
2. Outstanding Academics
3. Nurturing Family Atmosphere
4. Music, Art, PE Specialty Teachers
5. Programming for the Gifted and Struggling Learner
6. Parent-Directed
7. Fifty Churches Represented
8. Team Sports Beginning in Fourth Grade
9. Exceptional 60 Year Reputation
10. ISTEP+ Scores Among Best in Area

## For More Information about



visit

[www.lafayettechristian.org](http://www.lafayettechristian.org)

or call (765) 447-3052

2011-2012  
Kindergarten Callout  
Thursday, January 20 or  
Tuesday, March 8  
at 6:30 p.m.



*Mission Statement:  
Lafayette Christian School  
excels in Christ-centered  
education and equips each  
unique child to love and  
serve God in all of life.*