

# *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*

- Lilly Tapper

Sometimes high schoolers can forget the simple lessons that we learned over ten years ago. They have continued to master some ideas, but some have been forgotten. The most important year of our lives was kindergarten, because we learned everything that we will ever need to know.

*“These are the things I learned (in Kindergarten):*

1. *Share everything.*

There are peanut allergies, so do not share food, but share everything else!

2. *Play fair.*

In sports, there is one winner. We need to play equitably in order to prove the true champion.

3. *Don't hit people.*

Friends will always fight, just remember to make up later.

4. *Put things back where you found them.*

It is not yours, you know where it came from, so put it back.

5. *CLEAN UP YOUR OWN MESS.*

It is not your house and your mom does not go to school with you, so stop leaving the cafeteria tables piled with your trash.

6. *Don't take things that aren't yours.*

Some people need to work on this.

7. *Say you're SORRY when you HURT somebody.*

Be sympathetic when someone is hurt. Maybe you do not understand how they feel, but you can still help. Stop standing on the sidelines waiting for someone else to step in.

8. *Wash your hands before you eat.*

If the sinks actually worked and each bathroom had soap, maybe high schoolers could do this.

9. *Flush.*

We have mastered this.

10. *Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.*

Everyone loves those warm and delicious cookies in the cafeteria.

11. *Live a balanced life - learn some and drink some and draw some and paint some and sing and dance and play and work everyday some.*

We have to be well-rounded to get into college. Get good grades, do community service, play a sport, and be a part of clubs. But remember to leave time for friends and family.

12. *Take a nap every afternoon.*

We have so much homework, sometimes we just need a little break.

13. *When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together.*

Look both ways in the hallways and be kind to those trying to cross.

14. *Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.*

We learned how to wonder in Kindergarten, now we learn the reasons behind the fascinations.

15. *Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup, they all die. So do we.*

We all are going to go into the world after high school. There are going to be some friendships that we keep and some that drift away.

16. *And then remember the Dick-and-Jane books and the first word you learned the biggest word of all LOOK."*

Look in the hallways, look in class, and look out for others.

— Robert Fulghum, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*