

TARGETS FOR KINDERGARTEN ENTRY

A five-year-old with these skills is **READY** to succeed at school.

LETTERS AND SOUNDS

- Enjoys being read to and can retell a story
- Recognizes letters (upper and lower case) and some letter sounds
- Repeats the first sound in a word
- Speaks in complete sentences
- Prints his or her first name

MATH

- Counts in order from 1-20
- Recognizes numbers and quantities to 5
- Names and sorts items by color, shape and size
- Understands concepts such as more, less, same, above, below, big, small

SOCIAL

- Settles in to new groups or situations
- Can concentrate on a task for 5 minutes
- Follows simple directions
- Shows kindness and concern for others

Reading together every day helps your child master these skills.

What is the most important way to ensure my child has these skills?

Read aloud, read aloud, read aloud . . . every day together with your child. Studies show children must hear and share in hundreds of stories and Nursery Rhymes before they are ready to learn and read in school. It is also important for them to talk and talk about what they see every day and say the sounds of the letters they are learning.

*"The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is **reading aloud to children**. This is especially so during the preschool years."*

~ The Report of the Commission on Reading ~

What are some simple activities parents can do at home to teach their child these skills?

Whenever you are working with the child, it should always be fun! Early childhood advocates call it playing with a purpose. Some ideas are:

Snack Time	Look for letters on food boxes or cans and say them together.
Driving	Sing songs and read signs, such as McDonald's or Walmart – pointing out various letters.
Preparing Meals	Put magnetic letters on the refrigerator for play.
Shopping	Talk about beginning letters of food, clothes, or toys.
Nap Time	Read a story and talk about what's happening on each page. Let children predict what is going to happen next or "read" the story to you.
Doing Chores	Put a sign on a few objects at home, such as "bed" and make a game of saying letters aloud.
Play Time	Point to an object and ask children to say words that rhyme, including silly words: ball, wall, tall, dall, jall, nall.
Eating	Say nonsense rhymes such as <i>Hey Diddle, Diddle</i> .
Lesson Time	Spell personal names with letter cards. Let children match each capital letter with lowercase form, or put the letters in order. Draw a letter and find objects that begin with the same sound. (ball, boy, bike)
Library Time	Make weekly trips to the library part of your family's fun time together. Books about going to school help build children's confidence about kindergarten. A librarian can help you find them.