

Daily Activities that Prepare Children for Kindergarten

Try these activities on the calendar below for every month prior to kindergarten.

And don't forget... READ, READ, READ to your child every day!

The public library and several bookstores in the community have Story Time for children to help to instill the love of reading, build language, and encourage early literacy skills.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Counting Practice counting with your child. Count the number of socks in the drawer, the number of toys in the box, and the number of windows in your home.</p>	<p>All About Me Ask your child to tell you his/her: First & Last Name Age Parent's name</p>	<p>Social Butterfly Reinforce interpersonal skills by having your child greet others (good morning, good night, How are you?, fine thank you) Practice in the community, such as the grocery store, or through pretending at home with your child.</p>	<p>Library Visit Begin to create a love of reading by establishing a routine of visiting the library each week. Apply for a library card and check out a book.</p>	<p>Play with Clay Use modeling clay to help your child build strength in his or her hand muscles for writing and drawing. Make different shapes, use cookie cutters, and create stories based on the clay creations.</p>	<p>Follow the Leader Motor skills are very important to a child's development. Play "Follow the Leader" with your child. Skip, hop, gallop, and clap.</p>	<p>Playing with Words "Play" with words by clapping and singing them. Clap out the sounds, sing it to music and change the beginning sound of the words to create a new silly word that rhymes (e.g., shirt / firt / mirt)</p>
<p>Let's Compare Take two objects from your kitchen. Ask your child to compare them. Use questions like "How are they the same?" and "How are they different?" Make comparisons of size, shape, color or texture</p>	<p>Talking Together Ask your child to tell you about his or her favorite activity of the day. Make sure you sit down and give your child your undivided attention.</p>	<p>Following Directions Give your child two simple, unrelated directions to follow, such as "Pick up the apple, then close the door."</p>	<p>Library Visit Ask your child what his or her favorite animal is. Find fiction and non-fiction books with the animal as a character. Read and discuss together.</p>	<p>Stringing Things Reinforce cutting skills by having your child cut straws into small pieces. Have your child put the pieces onto a string. You can also string O-shaped cereal, beads, and other small objects.</p>	<p>Playing Ball Take a large ball outside. Take turns kicking the ball back and forth with your child. Also, try throwing and catching.</p>	<p>Letter Practice Use various materials to practice writing letters. For example, place pudding, sand, salt, or shaving cream in a pie tin or cookie sheet and write letters in it. It's fun and a great sensory experience.</p>
<p>Number Sense Ask your child to recite numbers from 1 to 10. Then ask your child to show you "10" of something (e.g., beans, books, raisins, toys)</p>	<p>Conversation Have your child call a friend or family member on the telephone. Your child should tell the friend or relative about his/her day or a special event. If needed, brainstorm ideas together before making the call.</p>	<p>Sequencing Create a cooking project with your child, (e.g., baking cookies, making a sandwich). Before beginning, draw a picture of each step of the process. Work together, using your picture "recipe." When completed, see if your child can retell the steps in making your treat.</p>	<p>Library Visit Encourage your child to pick out a book for him or her to read to a younger sibling or friend. You can read the book together several times before he or she becomes the "reader."</p>	<p>Tracing Shapes Draw different shapes on a piece of paper (e.g., circle, square, triangle). Have your child use a crayon to trace the shapes and color them in. Cut the shapes out and find things around the house that have the same shape.</p>	<p>Journal Time With your child, go to the store and purchase a writing journal for you both. Have your child draw a picture about something special that happened this week using various writing instruments (crayons, markers, colored pencils). While your child is writing in his/her journal, you write in yours.</p>	<p>ABC's Practice the alphabet song with your child. Afterwards, play "I Spy" by seeing if your child can find a letter "A" (or any letter) in a magazine, on a cereal box, or in the newspaper. Circle all the letter A's that he/she can find.</p>
<p>Finding Patterns Practice patterning by sorting small objects (e.g., beans, buttons, Legos) by color and then lining them up using a pattern (e.g., red-blue-red-blue)</p>	<p>Pictures Need Words Find a picture in a magazine, newspaper or from a family photo album. Ask your child to tell you what is happening in the picture. Extend his language by asking, "What is happening here?" or "What do you think would happen if...?"</p>	<p>Categorizing Using old magazines, cut out pictures related to a particular category (e.g., fruits, vegetables, transportation, clothes) and create a collage. Talk about how all the items are similar and think about what other items could be part of the same category.</p>	<p>Library Visit After reading a library book with your child, ask your child to draw a picture about the story. Talk about the picture and encourage your child to share it with other family members or friends.</p>	<p>Writing Practice Sit down with your child to write your grocery list. Ask your child to help by writing or drawing items on the list. Ask your child to read it back to you. Write the word next to your child's "writing."</p>	<p>Rhyming Basket Collect pairs of objects that rhyme (sock/lock, shoe/glue) and place in a basket. Make sure your child knows the name of all items. See if your child can find pairs of items that rhyme.</p>	<p>Words in the World Have your child copy words in the environment. Great places to find environmental print: cereal boxes, newspaper ads, labels, store signs, and restaurant menus.</p>