

## **Activities to Help Prepare Your Child for Kindergarten**

### **Practice writing his/her first and last name**

1. Have your child practice writing his/her name using a variety of tools such as a Magna Doodle, crayons, pencils, and markers. Check that your child is gripping the writing utensil correctly. You may even consider having your child practice writing his/her name using different items around the house such as pudding, rice, sand, or shaving cream.
  - Be sure that your child uses a capital letter only at the beginning and lowercase letters for the rest of the name.
2. Write your child's name in large letters (or use magnetic letters). Say each letter aloud as you write or place it so your child can associate the name of the letter with the shape of the letter.
3. Cut apart the letters of your child's name (or use magnetic letters) and have him/her put them back in the correct order saying the name of each letter while doing so. (Start with just the first name, adding the last name only when they have mastered this.)
4. Label your child's door or other objects so his/her name can be seen in print.

### **Practice recognizing and writing the numbers 0 to 10 (or higher)**

1. Read and enjoy counting books together.
2. Point out numbers in license plates, in the store, in your home, and all around you.
3. Use magnetic numbers to have your child practice naming them. Have your child put the numbers for your phone number in order saying each number while doing so.
4. Practice writing numbers with a variety of materials such as pencils, crayons, markers, sidewalk chalk, etc...as in name writing above. (see number formation sheet in folder).

### **Practice counting orally and practice counting objects (to 10 or higher)**

1. Have your child count his/her own snacks such as pretzels, goldfish crackers, grapes, etc....
2. Count each item as you pick up 10 things to put away in the house or bedroom.
3. Count the number of stair steps in your house or the number of steps from your car to the store.

### **Practice naming and correctly writing the letters in the alphabet**

1. Read and enjoy alphabet books together.
2. Help your child recognize letters of the alphabet in everyday life (ex: restaurants, road signs, store signs, cereal boxes, etc...).
3. Explore with magnetic letters (see the activity sheet in the folder).
4. Practice recognizing and writing both upper and lowercase letters. (see letter information sheet in folder).

### **Practice book handling skills**

1. Discuss how to open the book from the front. Point out the front of the book versus the back. Discuss the front of the book is where the story begins and the back is where the story ends.
2. Discuss how to hold a book so it is not upside down and where to start reading.
3. Read with your child on a daily basis.

### **Practice recognizing the three primary colors**

1. When your child is coloring, ask what colors were used.
2. Have your child draw objects on paper and ask him/her to color the objects in certain colors.
3. Have your child sort objects or food by colors such as clothes, blocks, and candies or cereal to name a few and then name the colors.
4. Discuss colors of things in the world around you such as the sky, the grass, cars, clothing items.

### **Practice naming and drawing the six basic shapes (circle, triangle, square, rhombus, ellipse, rectangle)**

1. Point out objects in your house or environment that have the basic shapes such as doors, windows, clocks, can tops, kites, etc...
2. Read and enjoy shape books together.
3. Have your child draw the shapes on chalkboards, paper, etc....then cut them out naming each shape while doing so.

### **Practice your phone number and address**

1. Have your child practice the phone number on a play telephone.
2. Make up a rhyme or song to go along with your phone number that your child can remember. Practice it regularly.

### **Practice coloring within the line and cutting on the lines**

1. Have your child cut out coupons.
2. Have your child cut out pictures from old magazines of things that he/she is interested in.
3. Have your child draw simple objects with some detail (including "self, family, house, and pets).
4. Explore coloring with a variety of resources including markers, crayons, chalk, and paint.