

Ideas For Getting Ready For Fun

- Ask your child to cut out pictures or comic strips from the newspaper or magazines. Be sure to use child-size scissors.
- Use fingers to make letters and numbers in the sand.
- Help develop muscles needed for printing by playing with sand and play dough.
- Play simple card games and board games to practice taking turns.
- Put puzzles together.
- Talk about colors: the pink shirt, the blue sky, the yellow truck.
- Run, jump, skip, and hop.
- Visit parks, playgrounds, and the library.
- Have fun with play dough!

Play Dough Recipe

Mix together the following dry ingredients:
2-1/2 cups flour
1/2 cup salt
1 Tbsp. cream of tartar
2 pkgs. unsweetened Kool-Aid (same flavor)
Stir in:
2 cups boiling water
3 Tbsp. oil
Knead to mix. Store in an airtight bag.
Refrigerate for longer life.



TIPS FOR PARENTS

Help Your Child Get Ready For Kindergarten

Get Ready To Help Myself

- Practice with zippers, snaps, buttons, and shoe laces
- Use toilet, flush toilet, and wash hands
- Use a tissue to blow nose, cover cough and sneeze
- Know address and phone number



Get Ready To Read

- Talk with adults and other children
- Listen to stories and nursery rhymes
- Look at picture books
- Say first and last name
- Know the first letter of my first name
- Recognize the first name in print
- Be familiar with some letters of the alphabet
- Follow simple 1, 2, or 3 step directions

ABCs

Get Ready For Math

- Practice counting
- Be familiar with some numbers
- Be familiar with basic shapes
square, triangle, circle, rectangle

123s

Get Ready For School Fun

- Practice using crayons, markers, pencils, glue, and scissors
- Practice sharing
- Help put things away after play
- Be familiar with names of colors:
red, blue, green, yellow, black, brown, orange, white



Ideas For Getting Ready To Read

- Talk with your child about what you are doing, whether it is in the car, grocery store, or kitchen.
- Read and re-read stories with your child over and over again.
- Look at picture books together.
- Go to the public library together. Check out books for free! Ask a librarian for a schedule of free and fun library events. Did you know that puppets and stories on tape are available to check out?
- Look for the first letter of your child's name on signs.
- Look for letters on familiar signs, such as stop signs.
- Help your child *read* food words, such as milk, *Cheerios*, apple, rice, bread, and juice.
- Practice following simple directions:
 - Put your hand on your head and stand up.
 - Sit down and clap.
 - Walk to the door and jump two times.Add a third direction when your child is ready:
 - Jump, clap, and touch your toes.
 - Touch your shoulder, tickle your tummy, and tiptoe to me.
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes together.
- Talk about the meaning of words, such as up and down, in and out, over and under.
- Talk about the difference between right and left.
- Know the difference between letters and numbers.



Ideas For Getting Ready For Math

- Compare objects with your child by using words like bigger, rounder, flatter, and shorter.
- Count everything: stairs, steps to the counter, jumps to the door, crackers in the dish, cookies on the plate, grapes in a bunch.
- Count your fingers, count your toes, count your eyes, ears, and nose.
- Count backwards with your child. Start with 5 and count down. When you get to 1, say *blast off*. Count down with other numbers, starting with 8 or 10.
- Help set the table for your family. Example: 3 people, 3 plates, 3 forks, 3 spoons.
- Sort objects by color, size, or shape. Use silverware, clothes, *Lego* pieces, crayons, fruit, crackers.
- Look for shapes in a room. Example: look for circles, squares, triangles, rectangles.
- Match objects such as mittens, socks, and shoes.
- Look for numbers on calendars, clocks, houses and apartments, telephones, stoves, newspapers, books, and playing cards.
- Cook together. Help your child count, measure, and pour.
- Help your child make patterns, such as:
 - raisin, cracker, raisin, cracker
 - big, little, big, little
 - red, blue, red, blue
 - bark, bark, meow, meow, bark, bark, meow, meow

