

Kindergarten Readiness Activities

Colors

Notice colors everywhere. What color is the traffic light? Use color with art. Have child sort objects according to color. Notice differences between colors. Talk about the colors you see around you.

Shapes

Point out shapes that you see in the environment. Use shape words in daily life, cut sandwiches in triangles and squares. Talk about how they are different. Play games that challenge a child to describe and identify shapes. Observe artwork or murals and look for different shapes used.

Counting

Play hide and seek. Count how long it will take for the stoplight to turn green. Count aloud while washing your hands. How long does it take to run across the yard?

Numerals

Look for numbers everywhere! Notice the numbers in your neighborhood, on houses, license plates, mailboxes, signs. Have your child match numbers he/she finds in the house. Grocery stores are full of numbers! Look for numbers on price tags, signs and boxes. Talk about the numbers you see.

Letters

Use all your senses! See and match letters, use different textures to feel letters. Smell an object that begins with that letter (i.e. flower – f). Make the letter shape with your body. Hear the letter sounds. Taste the letter with food (bananas-b). Trace the letter shape with your finger in the air, on the window, or on the floor.

Sounds

Play "I spy" with letter sounds (I spy something that starts with "b"). Match names that begin with the same sound. When reading, talk about the sound. When reading, talk about the sounds in the words on the page. Go on a "sound hunt". How many things can you find that start with the "s" sound?

Rhymes

Sing or chant nursery rhymes with your child. Make up nonsense rhymes. Play with the sounds in the words. Make up rhyming songs using your child's name.

Writing Name

Make writing fun! Use cotton swabs, shaving cream, sidewalk chalk, finger paint, a paintbrush and water. Write your name on a steamed up mirror or shower door. Practice writing your name in the air with your finger. Have your child trace over their name with a highlighter or marker.

Social

Play card games such as Go Fish or Old Maid with your child and a friend or sibling. Host a play date or ask a friend to meet at a park. Look for Story Times or other group activities at our local libraries.

Emotional

Help your child understand and name feelings. "Show me your happy face." Or "What does your face look like when you are frustrated?" During the day, provide explanations about how others may be feeling. Discuss the feelings of characters in books.

Thinking Skills

Play concentration or Memory games with your child. Do a short treasure hunt. Play "Simon Says". Encourage pretending and imaginative play.

Self Control

Role play using puppets. Talk with your child about what they would do if a friend took their cookies. Play board games such as *Chutes and Ladders* or *Candyland* so they learn to wait their turn.

Attention and Focus

Play "Red Light, Green Light" – when you say "green light" they can move towards you, when you say "red light" they stop. Read familiar books and have your child finish the sentence. Play guessing games with your child.