

2024 Getting Ready for KINDERGARTEN Family Activity Calendar



EPEL
Elgin Partnership for Early Learning

www.elginpartnership.org | 844-KID-INFO
844-543-4636

Help Me Get Ready For Kindergarten!



Talk

- » Tell me your stories; listen to mine.
- » Sing songs and nursery rhymes.
- » Talk about things we are doing.
- » Teach me new words.
- » Ask me 'how' and 'why' questions.

Play

- » Build with me.
- » Pretend with me.
- » Make time for me to play with other kids.
- » Be silly with me.
- » Teach me the rules.

Read

- » Read to me; listen to me "read" to you.
- » Point out meaningful letters in my world: J is for Jack, D is for Donut.
- » Point out the first letter in words and the sound it makes.
- » Use rhyming words with me.
- » Re-read books I love.

Do

- » Take me to the library.
- » Explore our community with me.
- » Count things with me.
- » Let me touch, taste and smell new things.
- » Play games with me.

Write

- » Use playdough with me.
- » Draw pictures with me.
- » Show me how to make letters.
- » Write down what I say.
- » Make lists with me.

Tips for Using the Calendar

The Getting Ready for Kindergarten Calendar offers daily activities to support school readiness skills. Children develop at their own rate! It's up to you how to use this calendar; we give suggestions below. Calendar tips do not have to be done in order.

Parents

- » Use the daily activities to engage your child in learning opportunities in and outside of your home in the community.
- » Look for full and part-time birth to five early care and education programs and school registration (pg. 29).
- » Check out local resources, including local libraries (pg.30), community agencies (pg.31), and Ready for Kindergarten Skills (pg.34).
- » Read the “**Children & Technology**” page to discover tips and tricks for using media in the home and on the go (pg.33).

"Typical" development varies from child to child. Each month focuses on a different topic based on Illinois Early Learning Standards and strategies developed by experts.

Parents and Teachers

- » Enjoy the monthly tips and videos in the QR code in the [Parent and Teachers' Corner](#).
- » Use daily literacy activities as your question of the day, during transition times, and other times during the day.
- » Check out recommended books at the library and use them in the classroom.
- » Use the [Am I Ready for Kindergarten?](#) on pg. 28 to guide your teaching and monitor the children's development.
- » Make [Talk](#), [Play](#), [Read](#), [Do](#) and [Write](#) part of your daily routines at home and in the community.



QR Code Download Instructions

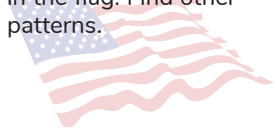
- » Look for **QR Code** to learn tips and tricks for interacting with your child and guide you to community early learning opportunities.
- » To access the QR Codes open your picture app on your phone and hold it over the code.

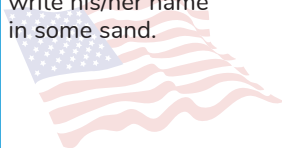



The children are our future. Enjoy the journey!

Recommended Books

Each month, look here for a list of books to read with your child.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| Asian Pacific American Heritage Month | | | May Day Children's Book Week May 2 - May 8 Make a parade with your stuffed animals. Count how many animals in the parade. | Library Day Share a nursery rhyme with your child. | Talk about summer plans. | Help your child get the mail. Count the pieces together. |
| Orthodox Easter Cinco de Mayo Make up silly words that rhyme with your child's name. | Find things that begin with the letter "B." | Color Tuesday Find something yellow in your clothes. | Talk about the weather. "April showers bring May flowers." Is it rainy or sunny? | Library Day Ask about summer reading programs. | Make animal noises. Have your child guess the animal. | Sing the "ABC Song." |
| Mother's Day Take a "rainbow walk." Find all the colors of the rainbow. | Listen to a story, cassette tape or CD with your child. | Color Tuesday Find something yellow outside. | Buy a packet of flower seeds - plant some in a paper cup. | Library Day Read two books today. Have your child tell which is his/her favorite and why. | Take a walk and talk about the different sounds you hear. | Armed Forces Day Draw some flowers. Color them. |
| Name a letter and have your child find items beginning with that letter. | Write your child's name. Have them trace the letters. | Color Tuesday Find something yellow in a book or magazine. | Cut out shapes and play a matching game. | Library Day Ask a librarian to recommend new children's music. | Visit Festival Park in Elgin and play. | Practice opposites with your child (up/down, in/out, over/under). |
| Sing songs with rhyming sounds. | Memorial Day Discuss the pattern in the flag. Find other patterns.  | Color Tuesday Find something yellow in the kitchen. | Bake cookies together. Count the number on each tray. | Library Day Register for the children's summer reading program at your library. | Hide an object. Have your child look for it by giving him/her clues. | |

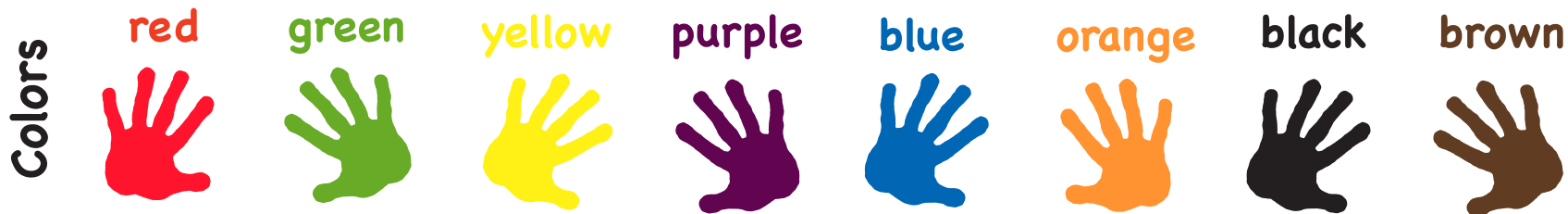
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| <p>Remember: Did you schedule your child's preschool or kindergarten physical, eye and dental exam? Check out pg. 31 for locations to schedule appointments.</p> | | | | | | <p>Find things around the house that are square or circular. 1</p> |
| <p>Take a walk and count the flowers you see. 2</p> | <p>How many clothes can you put on all by yourself? 3</p> | <p>Color Tuesday 4 Find something black outside.</p> | <p>Walk like a penguin. What other animal is black & white? 5</p> | <p>Library Day 6 Ask for books about summer fun.</p> | <p>Paint the sidewalk with a paint brush. Add food coloring to the water. 7</p> | <p>Play "Simon Says." Focus on exercise activities (hopping, bending over, touching toes). 8</p> |
| <p>Play catch together and count as you catch the ball. 9</p> | <p>Make an obstacle course for your bike. 10</p> | <p>Color Tuesday 11 Find something black in a book or magazine.</p> | <p>Sing "The Ants Go Marching" song. 12</p> | <p>Library Day 13 Ask for books about cars or trucks.</p> | <p>Flag Day 14 Have your child write his/her name in some sand.</p>  | <p>Have a picnic with your child or play a game outside. 15</p> |
| <p>Father's Day 16 Dance together.</p> | <p>Count from 1 to 10 or as high as your child can count. 17</p> | <p>Color Tuesday 18 Find something black in the kitchen.</p> | <p>Juneteenth 19 Name words that rhyme with "can."</p> | <p>First Day of Summer 20 Library Day Ask for books that have shapes in them.</p> | <p>Visit the park or a beach. 21</p> | <p>Play a game together such as "Memory" or "Go Fish." 22</p> |
| <p>Help your child practice putting their shoes on. 23</p> | <p>Find things that begin with the letter "T." 24</p> | <p>Color Tuesday 25 Find something black in your toys.</p> | <p>Go on a scavenger hunt outside and look for things that are the color yellow, green and red. 26</p> | <p>Library Day 27 Read a book with with your child on a blanket outside under a tree.</p> | <p>Have your child invite a friend over and play a game. 28</p> | <p>Discuss your family's favorite food. 29</p> |
| <p>Plan a picnic and go to the park or outside to eat lunch on a blanket. 30</p> | | | | | | |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| | <p>Sing a favorite song with your child. 1</p> | <p>Color Tuesday 2 Find something red in your clothes.</p> | <p>Have your child name letters found on cereal boxes, cans, etc. 3</p> | <p>Independence Day 4 Library Day Draw and decorate a flag.</p>  | <p>What food would you take on a picnic? 5</p> | <p>Use sidewalk chalk to draw a hopscotch board and count as you hop. 6</p> |
| <p>Keep the TV off today. Read books and play games instead. 7</p> | <p>Sing the "A, B, C" song and stop on a letter and see if your child knows what letter comes next. 8</p> | <p>Color Tuesday 9 Find all the red fruits and vegetables at the grocery store. Can you name them?</p> | <p>Use family photos to tell different stories. 10</p> | <p>Library Day 11 Talk with your child. What did you do today?</p> | <p>Use a stick to write numbers in the dirt or sand. 12</p> | <p>Make a piggy bank out of a coffee can or box and start saving coins. 13</p> |
| <p>Pretend to be a statue. How long can you stay still? 14</p> | <p>Have your child help make his/her favorite sandwich. 15</p> | <p>Color Tuesday 16 Find something red in a book or magazine.</p> | <p>Put on music and dance and clap to the beat. 17</p> | <p>Library Day 18 Let your child pick out a DVD the whole family will enjoy.</p> | <p>Using blocks, ask your child to sort by colors. Now create a pattern. 19</p> | <p>Play "I Spy" with numbers. 20</p> |
| <p>Have your child learning their phone number. 21</p> | <p>Make a touch and feel box with objects from outside. Have your child reach in and guess what he/she touches. 22</p> | <p>Color Tuesday 23 Find something red in your kitchen.</p> | <p>Count pennies into piles of 1, 2, 3... 24</p> | <p>Library Day 25 Ride your bike or walk to the library.</p> | <p>Open your piggy bank, sort and count the coins. 26</p> | <p>Play a counting game like "How many striped or spotted things do you see?" 27</p> |
| <p>Ask for music or stories to play in your car. 28</p> | <p>Practice counting to 10 (or higher)! 29</p> | <p>Color Tuesday 30 Use the color red marker and add other colors to it, did the color change or stay the same?</p> | <p>Make a grocery list together and go to the store. 31</p> | | | |

August

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| | | | | Library Day Talk to your child about their new school-day bedtime and wake-up schedule. | 1 Look for things that begin with "P." Point out the letter "P" in print. | 2 Plan a party for the 1st day of school. 3 |
| Pretend it is the first day of school. Practice ways to say goodbye with your child. 4 | Help your child write his/her name and identify each letter. 5 | Color Tuesday Name objects that are the color purple. 6 | Visit your child's new school and play on the playground. 7 | Library Day Ask for stories about families. 8 | Practice writing your name with crayons, markers, chalk, and pencils. 9 | Make up a story for your child. 10 |
| Take a picnic lunch to a park. 11 | Practice taking turns and sharing. 12 | Color Tuesday Find something purple outside. 13 | Paint on the sidewalk with colored water. Practice your letters. Practice painting your letters in your name. 14 | Library Day Make a costume out of things you have at home. 15 | Find words that rhyme with "me." 16 | Write a letter or draw a picture to a special friend. 17 |
| Find your favorite color flower outside and tell someone what color it is. 18 | Take a walk and talk about the sounds you hear. 19 | Color Tuesday Find something purple in a book or magazine. 20 | Help set the table. Count the plates, forks, spoons and napkins. 21 | Library Day Ask for books about friendships. 22 | Practice your phone number and address with your child. 23 | Help your child draw a picture and give it to someone special. 24 |
| Help your child make a list of things that make him/her happy. 25 | Practice with your child zipping jacket, pulling pants up and down and buttoning. These self-help skills are needed for independence in school. 26 | Color Tuesday Help your child find something purple in their toys. 27 | Play "Hide & Seek" outside. 28 | Library Day Look for a book about an animal that lives in the ocean. 29 | Practice bouncing a ball. Count the number of bounces. 30 | Take a paintbrush and a bowl of water outside to paint shapes, letters or numbers on the sidewalk. 31 |

Ready for Kindergarten Skills



Alphabet Linking Chart

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

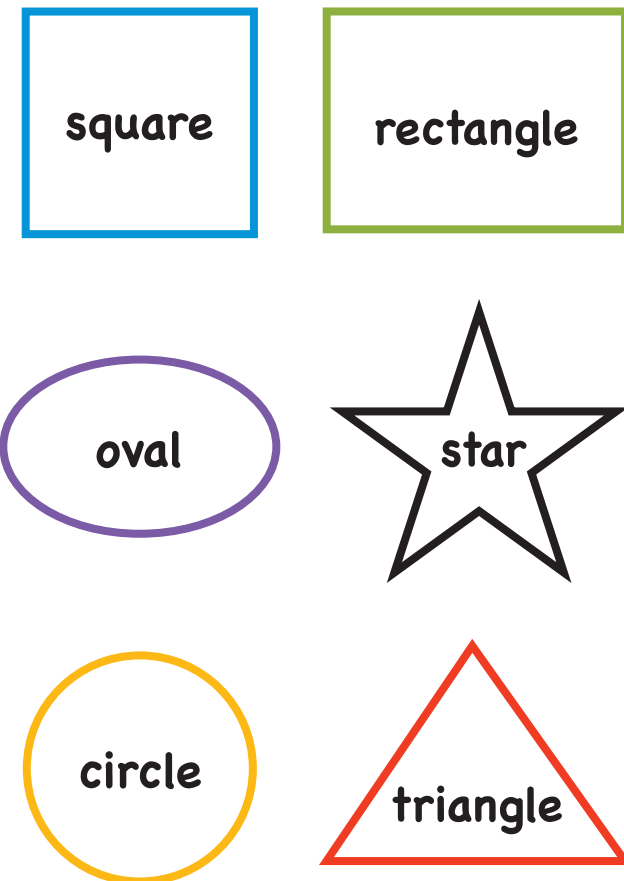
| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Aa apple acorn | Bb bear | Cc cat celery | Dd dog |
| Ee egg eagle | Ff fish | Gg goat giraffe | Hh hat |
| Ii iguana ice | Jj jar | Kk kite | Ll leaf |
| Mm mouse | Nn nest | Oo octopus ocean | Pp pig |
| Qq queen | Rr ring | Ss socks | Tt turtle |
| Uu umbrella unicorn | Vv violin | Ww window | Xx x-ray |
| Yy yarn | Zz zebra | | |

Numbers

www.worksheetfun.com

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 One | 2 Two | 3 Three |
| 4 Four | 5 Five | 6 Six |
| 7 Seven | 8 Eight | |
| 9 Nine | 10 Ten | |

Shapes





Get Ready for School







PARENTS GET YOUR
3-5 YEAR OLD
CHILDREN READY
FOR KINDERGARTEN!





LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT:

- Speaks in Complete Sentences 
- Recognizes some **LETTERS** of **ALPHABET**
- RECOGNIZES LETTERS** in **NAME**, signs or logos
- Identifies** and attempts to **WRITE** **FIRST NAME** 


PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT: Fine & Gross Motor Skills

- Throws a **BALL**, **CLIMBS & RUNS** 
- COLORS AND DRAWS** beyond a simple scribble 
- Uses a **PENCIL**, **CRAYON**, **SCISSORS** 
- Uses **alternate feet walking** downstairs 
- Completes a **SIMPLE PUZZLE** 
- Looks at **PICTURES** and **TELLS STORY**
- Expresses **FEELINGS** with **WORDS**
- Says **FULL NAME** 


MATH SKILLS:

- Recognizes **BASIC SHAPES** and **COLORS** 
- COUNT OBJECTS** up to 10 
- KNOWS AGE**

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Puts **toys and materials** away 
- Takes **URNS** and **SHARES**
- LISTENS** and **FOLLOWS** **2-3 step DIRECTIONS** 
- SITS** and **LISTENS** to a story 
- ASKS** for **HELP** **I NEED**
- Uses **TOILET MYSELF** 
- Pretends to **READ** a **BOOK** 

SELF-HELP SKILLS:

- FASTENS** pants, **PUTS** on and **ZIPS** jacket, able to **DRESS** independently 
- Uses **TOILET MYSELF**
- Pretends to **READ** a **BOOK**

All Children Grow and Develop at their own Pace.

Starting at Birth, Use the **FIRST 2,000 DAYS** to Get Your Child Ready for School.



Read with your child each day

Create a reading area for your child.

- Store your child's books in a special place that is easy to reach such as a basket, drawer, or on a low shelf.
- Place a small rug or pillow in the area to create a cozy and comfortable place for reading.
- Join your child and read together in this special place.
- Hold your child close to you when you read to help develop a bond and a positive attitude toward reading.
- Read your child's favorite books over and over as this builds strong reading skills.



Let your child participate in book reading with a variety of books.

- Visit your local library with your child and get a library card.
- Let your child look at the picture books in the children's section of the library and select several books to checkout.
- Attend a story time program at your library.
- While reading a book with your child, talk about the pictures and information on the cover of the book.
- Ask your child to look at the cover and guess what the book is going to be about.
- Show your child how to start at the beginning of the book and how to turn the pages from front to back.
- Ask your child questions throughout the story and to retell the story in his or her own words at the end.



Parent and Teacher Corner



**Building Print Awareness
By Sharing a Book**
<http://bit.ly/2PnqDkZ>



**The Importance of Reading
Aloud to Children**
<http://bit.ly/45slWsd>

Reading aloud is so important to young children's learning. One of the most important skills a parent or teacher can teach a child is how to communicate. We communicate by speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

Children love hearing a story when you add different intonations and make the characters and story come alive.

Recommended Books

- Mama's Home** by Shay Youngblood
- The Rainbow Snail** by Karin Åkesson
- Powerful You** by Kate Jane Neal
- Izmelda, the Fairest Dragon of Them All** by Joan Marr
- Hidden Gem** by Linda Liu
- Izzy Paints** by Tim Miller
- Happy Birthday to Me** by Thao Lam
- Peaceful Me** by Sarah Feder

Let your child use school tools

Gather and organize materials for coloring, drawing, writing, and cutting.

- Help your child select a durable container to hold drawing/writing materials such as: crayons, markers, and pencils.
- Show your child how to use markers and scissors appropriately.
- Decide on some simple expectations for your child using the drawing and writing materials.
- Provide crafts that require your child to use markers, crayons, and scissors.

Encourage your child to explore with drawing materials.

- Draw a picture with your child about family events and experiences and talk about the picture.
- Praise your child's efforts by displaying his or her work in a special spot.



Developing fine motor skills is important for learning to hold a pencil in the future. You can strengthen your child's hands by giving him or her the opportunity to play with playdough as well as using their "pincer" grasp (index finger and thumb) to pick up little objects like beans, beads, or small pasta.

Scan the QR codes for some easy tips for teaching your child to cut with scissors.



How to Teach a Preschooler to Cut with Scissors
<http://bit.ly/2z6jV91>



How to Teach Your Child to Use Scissors Correctly
<http://bit.ly/3ODVlww>

Support your child as he or she practices using scissors.

- Be sure that your child knows how to hold the scissors, how to open and close the blades, and how to hold the paper. "Chomp the paper like an alligator mouth."
- Snipping playdough snakes, strips of construction paper or paint strips from the hardware store is good practice.

Let your child see that written words are a part of daily life.

- Involve your child in making lists together, writing notes and names.



Recommended Books

- A Bear, A Bee, and a Honey Tree** by Daniel Bernstrom
- The City Tree** by Shira Boss
- Something Great** by Jeanette Bradley
- Let's Go Pudding!** by Emma Perry
- In Between** by April Sayre
- Remember** by Joy Harjo
- Little Land** by Diana Sadyka
- Butterfly Child** by Marc Majewski

Enjoy the sounds of language

Read rhymes with your child.

- Read Mother Goose Rhymes with your child. Encourage your child to listen and complete the sentence with the rhyming word such as, "Hickory, Dickory, Dock. The mouse ran up the (clock)."
- Read books with rhyming words like *Jeep in a Sheep*, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* and *Wocket in My Pocket*.

Remember that children grow and develop at different rates, but you may be surprised to see how your child has progressed in the past few months.



Parent and Teacher Corner

- Children need to hear books with rhyming words to develop their language.
- Read books with predictable endings to the sentences.
- Did you know you can check out children's CD's from the library?



How to Teach Your Child Key Reading Skills: Phonological Awareness -Talk, Sing, Rhyme!
<http://bit.ly/2Ffm4Vc>

Play with rhyming sounds

- Play a game of naming rhyming words. (Silly, Billy, Sock, Rock)
- Silly, nonsense words count, too.
- Sing, dance, and listen to songs with your children that have rhyming words.



Recommended Books

- The Yellow Áo Dài** by Hanh Bui
- Lola's Nana-Bibi Comes to Visit** by Anna McQuinn
- How We Say I Love You** by Nicole Chen
- The World and Everything in It** by Kevin Henkes
- The Bears Shared** by Kim Norman
- It Is Time: The Life of a Caterpillar** by Lizzy Rockwell
- You Are a Honey Bee!** by Laurie Ann Thompson
- Everything a Drum** by Sarah Warren

Give your child daily opportunities to use large muscles

Let your child spend time inside and outdoors and have space and freedom to use large muscles. Join your child in active play.

- Have a safe outdoor place for your child to run and play.
- Let your child pedal a tricycle outdoors.
- Take music outside to enjoy and dance to.
- Hang a basketball hoop low enough so your child can successfully “make a basket.”
- Toss bean bags into a basket or a tape circle on the floor.
- Create an obstacle course in your house. Use words like crawl “over” the chair. Slide “under” the table. Slither “through” the door like a snake.



Parent and Teacher Corner

What are gross motor skills?

Gross motor skills are the abilities required to control the large muscles of the body for walking, jumping, skipping, and more. Gross motor skills help a child gain strength and confidence in his/her body. It also helps them get exercise and physical activity.

What are fine motor skills?

Fine motor skills are the abilities required to control the small muscles in the body to develop skills like coloring with a crayon, writing with a pencil, or cutting with scissors.

If you have concerns about your child's gross or fine motor skills, you can contact the Early Learners Department in your school district for a screening.



The Difference Between Fine and Gross Motor Skills
<http://bit.ly/2K6ljvz>

Recommended Books

- My Dad Is a Tree** by Jon Agee
- If You Were a City** by Kyo Maclear
- Whose Feet?** by Sam Williams
- Finding Papa** by Angela Pham Krans
- We Belong to the Drum** by Sandra Lamouche
- SNAP!** by Anna Walker
- The Fastest Tortoise in Town** by Howard Calvert
- Logan's Greenhouse** by JaNay Brown-Wood

Introduce your child to numbers and counting

Use number words and point out written numerals as you and your child do things together.

- "I need you to put 3 forks and 3 plates on the table."
- "Pick out 4 apples and put the apples in the bag."
- "See if you can stack 6 pennies on the table."
- "Can you put 4 blocks in a row?"

Involve your child in number and counting activities.

- Play "Simon Says." Say to your child, "Simon says clap your hands 5 times." "Simon says take 3 steps forward."
- "Can you show me 4 fingers on your hand?"
- "Can you show me 5 fingers on your hand?" "Take one finger away. How many fingers do you have left?"

Read, tell stories, sing songs and say rhymes about numbers and counting with your child.

- Read or sing *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed*.
- Sing counting songs such as "This Old Man."



Parent and Teacher Corner

Early math skills are learned through everyday play.

Make learning fun! Talking is teaching!



The Importance of Early Math
<http://bit.ly/2Pmz9Rc>



Everyday Fun With Measurement
<http://bit.ly/2OH059g>

Recommended Books

- Cooler Than Lemonade** by Harshita Jerath
- Simon and the Better Bone** by Corey R. Tabor
- All Kinds of Special** by Tammi Sauer
- Mister Kitty Is LOST** by Greg Pizzoli
- The Coquíes Still Sing** by Karina Nicole González
- 10 Cats** by Emily Gravett
- Light Speaks** by Christine Layton
- Together We Swim** by Valerie Bolling

Make "going to Kindergarten" plans with your child

Visit your child's school and preview school activities.

Attend your school's family open house, parent night or "meet the teacher day." Here are some things to do when you visit:

- Explore the classroom. Look at the books and materials, find out where the children store backpacks, and hang coats.
- Find out about the daily schedule for your child's class so you can talk about it at home.
- Ask when they have story time, lunch, outdoor play and rest time. Children understanding their schedule helps with transitions.
- Locate the restrooms and water fountains.
- Look for the cafeteria, the playground, principal's office, nurse's office, library, and other special features of the school.



Parent and Teacher Corner

The first days of school are often tough for both young children and parents. When

you say goodbye, reassure your child that you will see him or her later. Children don't understand time so mention a specific time and a concrete activity, for example "I will pick you up after you have had lunch and gone out to play."

Practice going to Kindergarten.

- Begin to gather school supplies with your child.
- Play school with your child. Take turns being the teacher. Have story time, sing songs, draw pictures, or play a game.

Maintain predictable family routines.

- Establish a regular bedtime for your child. American Academy of Pediatrics recommends 10-13 hours of sleep per night for children ages 3-5.
- Be prepared for your morning "before school" times. Getting everyone up and off to school can be hectic. Planning and getting organized the night before can eliminate transition problems for your child and a hassle free morning.
- Designate a place for lunch boxes and backpacks that need to go to school so you aren't scrambling in the morning.



Recommended Books

- Gibberish** by Young Vo
- Kitty & Cat: Opposites Attract** by Mirka Hakkonen
- I'm Ready for School!** by Stephen Krensky
- Giant Sized Butterflies on My First Day of School** by Justin Roberts
- Shy Robin and the First Day of School** by Jaime Kim
- Sometimes Shy** by Julie Bliven
- Molly's Tuxedo** by Vicki Johnson
- Snake's Big Mistake** by Sarah Kurpiel



Transitioning to Kindergarten
<http://bit.ly/2z54nSQ>



Helping Your Kindergartener with Separation Anxiety
<http://bit.ly/2PTBLFK>

Help your child learn personal information

Involve your child in learning personal information about him or herself.

- My name is _____ (includes child's first and last name.)
- My mother's name is _____
- My father's name is _____
- My address is _____
- My phone number is _____



Parent and Teacher Corner

- Learning personal information is one of the most important lessons you can teach your child in case they get lost or accidentally separated from you.
- Ask your child questions in different ways. In an emergency, your child may be asked, "What is your address?" "Where do you live?" "What is your full name?" The variety of questions will help your child know what to expect.
- When asking about an address you might ask it in different ways. "What is your address?" The next day, I would ask, "Where do you live?"



Teach Kids to Get Found When They're Lost
<http://bit.ly/2QGaaVQ>



Recommended Books

- Wutaryoo** by Nilah Magruder
- I'm a Unicorn** by Helen Yoon
- Mariana and Her Familia** by Monica Mancillas
- Plátanos Are Love** by Alyssa Reynoso-Morris
- Wallflowers** by Mackenzie Joy
- Together with You** by Patricia Toht
- Just Like Grandma** by Kim Rogers
- Pa, Me, and Our Sidewalk Pantry** by Toni Buzzeo

Invite your child to think and solve problems

Ask questions:

- “Wow that is a tall tower! How many blocks did you use to build that structure? 1, 2, 3, 4. You used four blocks to make that tower.”
- “Do you have your raincoat and umbrella today? How does the raincoat protect you when it is cold and raining?”
- “I noticed how you drew a triangle on top of the square to make a structure with a roof. How are those two shapes different?”
- “I wonder if we can build a tower out of marshmallows or sticks.”
- “What would happen if it started raining on our walk to school?”
- “I wonder why the leaves are turning yellow and brown?”



Play pattern games with your child.

- Create a movement pattern and ask your child to repeat it. For example: -step-step-jump, step-step-jump (take 2 steps forward, then jump)
- Start a pattern using objects and ask your child to, “Make a pattern just like this one.” For example: fork, spoon, fork, spoon

Provide opportunities to experience and resolve challenges cooperatively.

- Give your child lots of time to play with other children. Encourage activities that involve sharing such as books, blocks, crayons, playdough, and dress-up clothes.

Provide opportunities that encourage thinking and problem solving.

- Work on a puzzle together.
- Play with playdough.
- Measure and pour water or sand.
- Build with LEGO's or any blocks to compare sizes, shapes and colors.

Parent and Teacher Corner

Following directions is an important skill for being successful in Kindergarten. Give your child opportunities

to be in activities where he/she is asked to listen and follow directions for short periods of time like story times. Prior to an activity, talk to your child about the expectations. This helps your child transition easier. After the activity, talk about what he/she enjoyed and praise him/her for sitting, listening and/or participating in the proper manner. “I liked how you sat and listened to the story. You were a good example for other children to understand how to listen with your whole body.”

“Learning to follow directions can be a challenge for young children. This video contains tips for teaching young children to listen and follow directions.”

- Sixty Second Parent



Following Directions
<http://bit.ly/2K6Jrzj>



Recommended Books

- The Skull** by Jon Klassen
- Luminous: Living Things That Light Up the Night** by Julia Kuo
- The Worst Teddy EVER** by Marcelo Verdad
- Night in the City** by Julie Downing
- My Powerful Hair** by Carole Lindstrom
- Magic: Once Upon a Faraway Land** by Mirelle Ortega
- Problem Solved!** by Jan Thomas
- Pumpkin Day at the Zoo** by Susan Meissner

Help your child become aware of letters and words at home and in the community

Encourage your child to "read" environmental print.

- Give your child printed materials such as magazines, grocery store ads, and menus from your favorite restaurants to play with.
- Invite your child to "read" road and business signs as you drive.

Give your child opportunities to recognize and name letters of the alphabet.

- Encourage your child to find letters in his or her name in signs that you see.
- Read alphabet books and allow him or her to name the letters he or she recognizes.



Parent and Teacher Corner

Print awareness is a necessary skill children need to begin to learn to read. To recognize letters and understand that each letter has a meaning will help your child begin to understand how words are formed. You can build print awareness skills at home or school by reading books, and making letters, words, and print a part of every day.



Becoming Aware of Print
<http://bit.ly/2JZue2M>



The Importance of Reading Aloud: Tips for Reading to Children
<http://bit.ly/2DBBZLU>

Help your child recognize his or her own first name in print.

- Say each letter in your child's name out loud when you write his or her name.
- Put alphabet letter magnets from your child's name on the refrigerator to play with. Children learn through PLAY!
- Encourage your child to spell his or her name by placing the magnets in the correct order.
- Place the alphabet letter magnets in a bag and pull out a letter one at a time and name them.



Recommended Books

- It's Fall!** by Renée Kurilla
- Bear Helps the Forest (Maybe You Help, Too)** by Karen Lynn Williams
- Mina Belongs Here** by Sandra Niebuhr-Siebert
- WOO HOO! YOU'RE DOING GREAT!** by Sandra Boynton
- Bubbie & Rivka's Best Ever Challah (So Far!)** by Sarag Lynne Reul
- This Is Not a Unicorn** by Barry Timms
- There's Always Room for One More** by Robyn McGrath
- Cindy and Panda** by Benson Shum

Make math a “hands on” learning experience for your child

Use recycled materials such as small boxes, paper towel tubes, and bottle tops to involve your child in addition and subtraction and “more” or “less” activities.

- Pretend you are a zookeeper. Put 3 animals in one cage and 5 animals in another. Say to your child, “Show me the cage that has more animals.”
- Add variety to math games. Use paper towel tubes as tunnels for the counting bears and small boxes as garages for cars.
- Ask your child, “How many forks, napkins, and spoons do we need to make sure each person gets one?”

Explore Measurement

- Measure with straws, sticks, shoes, paperclips.
- Ask your child, “Are you taller or shorter than your siblings?”
- Help your child measure your foot and then measure his or hers.
- Use words like smallest to largest, shortest to tallest, lightest to heaviest.

Include addition and subtraction words as you talk with your child.

- Make a recipe with your child. Use math words like first, second, and third to describe the steps.
- Talk about measurements as you use measuring cups and spoons.
- Ask your child, “You have 5 crackers and I have 3. Do you have more crackers or fewer crackers than I do?”
- Ask your child, “You put 4 crayons in a box. Now add 2 more. How many crayons are in the box?”

Tell stories and read books that include math ideas, and books in which characters are added or subtracted as the story progresses.

- Read number books such as *Five Little Ducks*. As a duck goes away, ask your child how many ducks are left.



Parent and Teacher Corner

The best time to introduce math concepts to your children is between birth and five years old.

The home and classroom are full of opportunities to integrate math into children's routines. Engage in play activities that involve games, songs, and books that are already part of their day.



Everyday Fun With Addition and Subtraction
<http://bit.ly/2OGh8by>

Recommended Books

- Cinderella with Dogs** by Linda Baily
- Beneath** by Cori Doerrfeld
- Mama Shamsi at the Bazaar** by Mojdeh Hassani & Samira Iravani
- Weather Together** by Jessie Sima
- The Train Home** by Dan-ah Kim
- Ways to Play** by Lyn Miller-Lackmann
- The Carpet: An Afghan Family Story** by Dezh Azaad
- Mariana and Her Familia** by Mónica Mancillas

Children and Technology

From the Experts:

Children Younger Than 18 Months:

Digital media (computers, tablets, & TV) should be limited to video chatting only (FaceTime, Skype).

Children Ages 18-24 Months:

Digital media introduced should be high quality and it should be viewed with a parent or caregiver.

Children Ages 2-5 Years:

Digital media should be high quality, co-viewed, and limited to 1 hour a day.



Tips & Tricks

You are the bridge between the digital and physical world.

Ask questions! Point to pictures, talk about colors and shapes, and sing!

Create a Technology Plan.

Designate screen-free zones, screen-free times, and place device curfews.

Be your child's technology mentor!

Technology is great when used appropriately. Be a model by reading together, viewing together, and engaging together in any media.

Websites

Moms with Apps:

www.momswithapps.com

Common Sense Media:

www.commonsensemedia.org

American Academy of Pediatrics:

www.aap.org

How to Make a Family Media Use Plan:

www.healthychildren.org

Child Mind Institute:

www.childmind.org/article/media-guidelines-for-kids-of-all-ages/

Recommended Free Apps



PBS Parents Play & Learn



Doodle Buddy



Animal Antics



Endless Alphabet



Endless Numbers



Toca Tailor Fairy Tales



Small Wonders for Families



Finger Paint With Sounds



Khan Academy Kids



MiniMath by Bedtime Math

You Are Your Child's First and Best Teacher

Children learn best through the experiences you provide and interactions within the community.

Here are some recipes you can make at home with your child. Talk to your child while you make the recipe as they are all learning opportunities.

Homemade Playdough

Ingredients Needed:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup salt
- 4 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 2 cups water
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- Food coloring (liquid or gel) in your choice of colors

Directions: Let your child help you measure, count, stir and learn!

1. In a medium pot, stir together flour, salt, and cream of tartar.
2. In another bowl, mix water, vegetable oil, and a few drops of food coloring.
3. Pour the liquid mixture into the pot with the dry ingredients and stir well to combine.
4. Place the pot over low to medium heat and continue stirring constantly. The mixture will start to thicken and eventually form a dough-like consistency.
5. When the dough pulls away from the sides of the pot and clumps together, remove it from the heat.
6. Let the playdough cool for a couple of minutes, then knead it on a clean, flat surface until it becomes smooth. Be careful, as it may still be warm.
7. Once the playdough is cooled and ready, store it in an airtight container or a plastic bag to prevent it from drying out.

This playdough is safe, non-toxic, and can provide hours of fun for children. Strengthens hands for writing and cutting, use cookie cutters, roll in shapes, numbers, letters and even cut the playdough with safety scissors.



Homemade Bubbles

Making homemade bubbles is a fun and easy activity.

Ingredients Needed:

- 4 cups of warm water
- 1/2 cup of Dawn dish soap
- 1/2 cup of sugar, corn syrup or glycerin

Directions:

1. Combine the water, sugar or corn syrup or glycerin and dish soap.
2. Gently stir the mixture to mix the water and soap together. Be careful not to create too many bubbles during this step.
3. Let the bubble solution sit for about an hour before using it. This allows the solution to settle.
4. After it has rested, you can use the bubble solution with various bubble wands.

No bubble wands? No problem...make your own!

Plastic cup: Punch a hole in a paper cup. Dip the large end in solution and blow through hole.

Pipe cleaners: Create the shape you like but leave an end to hold. Dip in bubbles and blow.

Drinking Straw: Use a straw and blow the bubbles in the cup.

HINT: Sit the cup on a cookie sheet to contain the bubbles.

Sidewalk Chalk Paint

Sidewalk chalk paint is a fun and creative way for kids to express themselves on sidewalks and driveways.

Ingredients Needed:

- 1 cup cornstarch
- 1 cup water
- Liquid food coloring in various colors
- Plastic cups or bowls
- Paint brush

Directions:

1. Add cornstarch to water.
2. Stir well until the mixture is smooth and free of lumps.
3. Divide into smaller containers or bowls, one for each color of chalk paint you want to create.
4. Add a few drops of food coloring to each container and mix until well blended.
5. When sidewalk chalk paint is ready, use paintbrushes or foam brushes on sidewalk or driveway.
6. Let the chalk paint dry, which may take a few hours.
7. To clean up, wash away the paint with water or wait for it to rain.

HINT: This sidewalk chalk is washable and a great outdoor activity. Kids can have fun creating colorful designs, drawing shapes, letters, numbers or art.