



# Ready for Kindergarten



Below are some fun activities to do with your child to prepare for school. Remember, children grow and mature at different rates. Not all children of the same age are ready for school at the same time.

## Language/Literacy Skills

- Look for words beginning with the same first letter.
- Pick a new book and encourage your child to guess what the story will be about by looking at the cover.
- Read a story and ask your child what his/her favorite part was and why.
- Say a word to your child and ask him/her to say words that rhyme with it. You could give your child beginning sounds for rhyming words if needed.
- After listening to a story, have your child tell you what happened first, next, and last. You can say, "First . . .", "Next . . .", "Last . . ." along with other words and ideas to help your child think about the story.
- Recite nursery rhymes with your child.
- Using letters, have your child find items around the house beginning with these letters.
- Help your child practice writing his/her first and last name. Make it more fun by doing this outside with sidewalk, or using shaving cream on a tray/plate. Your child can trace his/her name, too.
- Help your child find words that rhyme with "me". Read a book with lots of rhyming words. Find words that rhyme with a word you find in the book.
- Help your child to practice his/her phone number and address.

## Math Skills

- Have your child practice counting to 10 and higher.
- Play "I Spy Numbers" with your child.
- Using junk mail or newspaper, have your child circle numbers between 6 and 10.
- Count backward from 10.
- Play counting games like "How many windows are in this room?"
- Cut out shapes and play a matching game.
- Play card games like "War", "Go Fish", "Memory", or "Uno".
- Have your child count the trees in your yard or on your street.
- Have your child find things around your house that are square, circular, and rectangular.
- Look through magazines and cut out circles, squares, and rectangles.
- Practice writing numbers with his/her finger in a container of uncooked rice, outside with sidewalk chalk, or with shaving cream on a tray/plate.
- Use addition and subtraction words like "I have one cookie and you have two cookies. That makes three cookies." OR "I have two cookies and ate one cookie. Now I have one cookie left."

## Fine/Gross Motor Skills

- Practice cutting strips of paper.
- Trace/cut basic shapes.

- Put a puzzle together with your child.
- Play hopscotch with your child.
- Play toss and catch with your child using 9 to 12-inch rubber balls.
- Set up an obstacle course and encourage your child to steer a tricycle or bicycle through it.
- Put on some music and have a dance party.

### Self-Help/Social Skills

- Practice tying his/her shoes or the shoes of someone else.
- Help your child practice buttoning, snapping, zipping his/her clothing (i.e. coats, shirts, pants, etc.).
- Give your child two simple directions to follow: “put your book on the table and then brush your teeth”
- Play “Simon Says”.
- Arrange a play date with a friend. Let them play together and be available to help work out problems or conflicts if needed.
- Play a game with at least 3 family members or other people. Talk about taking turns and waiting for your turn.
- Make an “I Did it Myself” list of all the things your child can do on his/her own. (For example: brushing teeth, getting dressed, tying shoes, riding a bike, writing their name, etc.)
- Role play a pretend argument or situation when your child is told “no”. Discuss ways to solve the argument or how to handle being told “no”.
- Look at pictures showing action (from magazines, newspapers, photos, etc.) and ask your child to tell you what he/she thinks is happening in the picture.
- Talk to your child about their interests/dislikes. Encourage them to share why they like/dislike those things.

