

# Getting Ready for Kindergarten: What Parents Can Do

## Oral Language & Vocabulary

- Talk with your child about daily routines and experiences.
- Read books with your child and talk about the story.
- Ask your child questions.
- Answer your child's questions.
- Encourage your child to speak in sentences.
- Encourage your child to play and talk with other children.
- Provide opportunities for your child to do and see new things. Go for walks in your neighborhood, visit the zoo, library, and other places of interest.
- Provide opportunities for your child to draw, dance, listen to music, and make music. Talk about it.
- Provide opportunities for your child to have hands-on experiences to do things in the world. For example: touch objects, pet animals, observe bugs, help with cooking, smell and taste foods, watch cars and trucks move. Talk about how objects look, smell, and feel.
- Ask your child to follow simple directions and encourage him/her to do many things independently. For example: getting dressed, setting the table, preparing a snack.



## Concepts about Print

As you read with your child:

- Read the title on the cover.
- Talk about the picture on the cover.
- Point to where the story starts and later where it ends.
- Let your child help turn the pages.
- When you start a new page, point to where the words of the story continue.
- Follow the words by moving your finger underneath the words.
- Encourage your child to move his/her finger underneath the words as you read.



## Phonemic Awareness



- Sing rhyming songs with your child.
- Read and recite nursery rhymes with your child. As you read, stop before a rhyming word and encourage your child to fill in the blank. For example: Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great \_\_\_\_.
- Around your home, point to objects and say their names. For example: rug. Then ask your child to say as many words as he or she can say that rhyme. For example: jug, tug, mug, bug.
- Say three words such as cat, dog, and sat and ask your child which words rhyme.
- Say silly tongue twisters with your child. For example: Peter piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.
- Help your child make up and say silly sentences with lots of words that start with the same sound. For example: Betty bought a big, blue balloon.

# Letter Identification

- Sing the Alphabet song with your child.
- Play games using the Alphabet.  
For example: I spy something that begins with the letter M.
- With your child sitting next to you, print the letters of your child's name on paper and say each letter as you write it.
- Help your child to spell and write his/her name. At first, he/she may use just a few letters. For example, Jenny might use letters JNY.
- With your child, make a name sign for your child's room.
- Point out individual letters in signs, posters, food containers (like cereal boxes), menus, magazines.
- Read ABC books with your child
- Give your child a page from a magazine. Circle a letter on the page and have him/her circle matching letters.
- Watch TV shows with your child, such as, "Between the Lions," "Blue's Clues," and "Sesame Street" that feature letter learning activities for young children.



## Phonics



- Look at pictures or objects. Ask your child to say the sound the picture or object begins with.
- As you read a story or poem, ask your child to listen for and say words that begin with the same sound. Then have him/her think of and say another word that begins with the same sound.
- Write letters on pieces of paper and put them in a bag. Have your child pull out a paper from the bag and say the name of the letter and the sound that it represents. Then have him/her say a word that begins with the same sound.
- Cut pictures from a magazine or draw pictures to help your child make his/her own alphabet book.
- Let your child have fun writing the alphabet letters, his/her name, and stories. Let your child share his/her writing. Praise your child's effort to write.

## Word Recognition

- Place alphabet magnets on your refrigerator. Encourage your child to make simple words. For example: cat, dog, mom, dad.
- Read books with your child and point out common words. For example: the, I, go, a, and, see, like, me, you.



## Social/ Emotional



Parents can help their children interact socially by ensuring their child:

- Can correctly state his gender and age.
- Encourage your child's independence.
- Can recite her first and last names, and the names of parents.
- Takes care of his own needs, such as washing hands and dressing.

Adjusts to new situations without an adult being present. Is starting to notice other people's moods and feelings.

- Expresses anger with words rather than acting out physically.
- Take turns, share, and cooperate.
- Is beginning to recognize his limits and can ask others for help.

