

# Preparing For Kindergarten

## What they need to know—Reading:

- Understands that print conveys meaning
- Recognizes many/most letters and knows some sounds
- Print concepts (front/back of book, points to first word on page, left to right, title, author)
- Retells a story
- Predicts
- Recites predictable text
- "Reads" favorite stories independently

## What a parent can do to facilitate:

- Child should see adults reading in home
- Set aside time for reading to your child and for "independent" reading time
- Child should be able to sit and listen to a story (attend story times frequently)
- Read environmental print
- Notice reading everywhere—ex. go for a "B" hunt at the store, etc.
- Magnets on the fridge, foam letters in the tub.....letters everywhere
- Read to your child EVERYDAY!
- Do "Think Alouds" (ex. I wonder what will happen next)
- Sing songs/recite poetry/nursery rhymes
- Play a rhyming game



## What they need to know—Writing:

- Writes own name
- Writes a few words (I, me, it)
- Correct pencil grip
- Writes most letters (upper case)
- Knows where to begin writing---they do not need to use lines yet
- Left to right directionality

## What a parent can do to facilitate:

- Model correct writing
- Let child write "Big" in sand, on the driveway with chalk, in the dirt with a stick....
- Have fun with writing---don't push if fine motor is not in place

## What they need to know—Math:

- Counting to 10—don't push beyond
- Patterns (AB, ABA)
- Shapes
- Sorting
- Problem solving
- Fair share
- Directional/Positional vocabulary

## What a parent can do to facilitate:

- Count (stairs, bears, etc.)
- Talk about shapes in the world (that book is square, the tire is round like a circle)
- Sort (socks, laundry, silverware) Talk about how things are alike and different in more than one way (Color/size/shape/texture)
- Don't solve all the problems—let your child figure out how many pitchers of water it will take to fill up the bathtub!
- Practice fair share---M&M's work great for this
- Use positional vocabulary—put this video *under* the TV—make a game out of it—Simon Says
- Play with patterns---red/blue red/blue red/red/blue red/red/blue

## What they need to know—Oral speaking:

- Children should be able to verbalize what they need/want
- Speak (mostly) in complete sentences with correct grammar (five to seven words)
- Repeat and follow directions
- Sing Songs/recite poetry

### **What a parent can do to facilitate:**

- Insist that children speak in sentences—do not allow pointing/grunting, etc. No baby talk!
- Model correct word usage—if the child says “car blue” you say, “Yes, the car is blue.”
- Give 1-2 directions at a time and ask your child to repeat the directions back to you. Make it a game!
- Use puppets to stimulate oral speaking

### **What they need to know—Fine Motor:**

- Pick up small objects (beads/rice)
- Hold a pencil correctly
- Cut on a straight line using scissors

### **What a parent can do to facilitate:**

- Give your child small things to pick up or craft projects to work on.
- String beads, buttons
- Allow your child to cut out coupons from the newspaper, fun pictures from magazines, etc.

### **What they need to know—Gross Motor:**

- Catch and throw a ball
- Balance

### **What a parent can do to facilitate:**

- Catch and throw a ball with your child
- Help them develop balance---have them walk on a balance beam
- Enroll them in dance or gymnastics

### **What they need to know—Misc.:**

- Follows rules
- Listening to an adult
- Playing “nice” with others
- Making choices (ex. lunchroom)

### **What a parent can do to facilitate:**

- Role-play—problem solving –(cafeteria, greetings, manners, playground) Play “What if”
- Talk to them about what you expect—getting along with others, listening to adults, etc.
- Allow your child make choices (do you want the red shirt or blue shirt)

### **Other suggestions**

- Limit TV
- Go on “Backyard” walks—notice details in nature—do leaf and bark rubbings to notice texture and stimulate conversation)
- Go to story time
- Make play dates with other children
- Go the museum
- Cook with your child
- Play “Eye Spy”

### **Things to buy/borrow/make:**

- Playdoh/clay
- Stamps
- Crayons
- Stickers
- Craft Supplies
- Puzzles
- Songs
- Poetry
- Something to sort/pattern/count
- Play phone/cash register to stimulate imagination
- Blocks
- Paint
- Pencil
- Costumes
- Puppets
- Blocks
- Art easel
- Books
- Lacing cards
- Safety scissors