

Skills Children Should Bring to Kindergarten

- Say first and last name
- Recognize his/her name in print
- Write their name with first letter capital and the rest of the letters lowercase
- Say birthday and age
- Recognize letters and numbers (0-30) or more
- Recognize and name colors
- Count to 10 or higher
- Count ten objects
- Recite the ABCs
- Tell a story about a picture
- Communicate needs in a simple sentence
- Able to wait his/her turn and shares
- Follow two-step instructions
- Listen to others
- Attend to a story being read aloud
- Snap, zip and button jacket (and other clothing items)
- Care for toilet needs independently
- Be able to separate from parents without being upset
- Experience drawing with crayons and pencils
- Experience using scissors
- Experience playing with clay or play dough
- Bounce and catch a large ball

Helping Your Child Succeed In School

Your child is more likely to succeed in school when you . . .

Encourage reading at home by...

- reading to your child and encouraging him/her to share books.
- asking questions about stories you have read.
- answering your child's questions about reading and stories.
- taking your child to the public library where she/he can choose books.
- keeping books, magazines, and newspapers around the home and reading in your child's presence.
- having a variety of children's books in an area where your child can go and spend time with them.
- tape recording stories as you read them which your child can play back to read the book again by him/herself at a later time.
- choosing some repetitive, rhythmic books. Children enjoy them.
- encouraging your child to express a story by providing crayons, pencils, paper, and other materials and allowing your child to write a story by drawing a picture.

Spend time talking and doing things with your child by...

- providing a relaxed atmosphere in the home.
- speaking clearly and thoughtfully in complete sentences.
- encouraging your child to express him/herself.
- listening to your child.
- expecting your child to listen to you.
- watching television with your child. Limit the amount of time he/she watches television and choose what is appropriate to watch.

Build self-confidence and independence by...

- showing your child that you are pleased with his successes no matter how small.
- not showing disappointment when he/she tries and does not do as well as you had expected.
- increasing responsibilities as he/she matures.
- encouraging your child to do things for himself/herself (e.g. putting toys away, hanging up clothes, putting dirty clothes in proper place, and other simple chores around the house).

Guide your child in the development of social skills by...

- talking about feelings such as anger and how to deal with them.
- supervising and playing games with him/her so that they have experiences dealing with rules and cooperative play.
- teaching respect for rights and property of others.
- encouraging him/her to share his/her toys or games with others.
- being a good model for your child. Children watch everything you do!

Developing Great Attitudes About Kindergarten

As parents, you can make coming to school a happy and exciting experience by...

- talking about school in a positive way.
- discussing your child's feelings about leaving the familiar surroundings and relationships.
- giving your child experiences and opportunities to be interacting and working with others away from home and with you (visiting with grandparents, other relatives, friends, etc.).
- opportunities to work and play with other children (preschool, Sunday school, supervised play with other children, etc.).
- not allowing older children to discourage or frighten your child.