



Kindergarten Readiness Tips

What do we do with all of this great stuff?

Whiteboard and Marker

- Draw lines, shapes, and doodles.
- Write numbers and letters.
- Write your first name.



WHY?

Writing and drawing build fine motor muscles. Learning to write your name builds confidence and independence in kindergarten.

Letter Cards

- Recognize and say the names of the letters in your first name.
- Recognize and say the names of ALL the letters in the alphabet.
- Say the sounds of the letters in your first name.
- Say the sounds of ALL the letters in the alphabet.
- Look at the letter on the card and find them in a book, newspaper, on a keyboard, etc.



WHY?

Learning letter names and letter sounds are foundational skills for all readers. Once you know the sounds, you can start putting them together to make words. Start with the letters in your child's first name. As your child learns those letters, introduce a few more. When a child can read and spell their name, they will be confident and excited when they can find it on their locker, table, mailbox, and supplies when they get to kindergarten.

Letter Formation Charts

- Use it to guide your child in writing their letters.
- Note where the letters start and the direction the lines go.

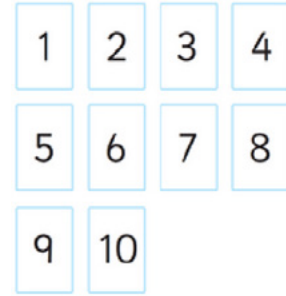


WHY?

Writing letters correctly (from top to bottom and left to right) helps organize your child's brain. Work on the correct letter strokes with your child's name starting with an uppercase letter followed by lowercase letters.

Number Cards

- Recognize and say the names of the numbers 0-10.
- Match the number on the card with the same number of objects. (ex: 5 pennies next to the #5)
- Put the cards in order from 0-10.

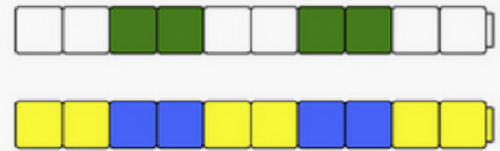


WHY?

Recognizing numbers, matching them to quantities, and putting them in order build the foundation for budding mathematicians.

Stacking Cubes

- Touch and count the cubes, say one number for each cube.
- Count out a specific quantity and match the cubes to the corresponding number card.
- Sort the cubes by color.
- Make a pattern with the different colors.

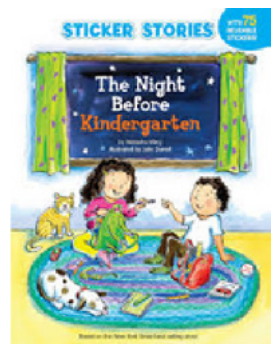


WHY?

Manipulating objects is good for fine motor skills. Counting and sorting the cubes and building patterns develop foundational math skills.

Books

- Read them to your child. (Over and over if they ask!)
- Talk about who is in the story and what is happening.
- Ask your child to tell you about their favorite part and tell you why.
- Move your finger under the words as you read.
- Look for letters they recognize on the pages.



WHY?

Reading to your child is a way to model what readers do and kids like to copy what adults do! Sharing books also provides lots of opportunities to talk and think, which helps kids learn to organize their thoughts and learn about the world around them. Pointing at the words and finding letters on the page helps kids understand how books, letters, and words work...all things good readers know and do!

Fun Recipes

Play-dough

- 1-2 packets of Kool-Aid
- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup salt
- 2 tablespoons cream of tartar
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 cup boiling water



Step 1: In a large bowl, add all dry ingredients and mix well (Kool-Aid, flour, salt, cream of tartar)

Step 2: Add the oil and boiling water to the mixture and mix this with a large spoon until it becomes very firm.

Step 3: After a few minutes of stirring, it should be cool enough to handle. If it feels too sticky, lay out some wax paper and knead in more flour.

Bubbles

- 1 cup water
- 2 tablespoons light Karo syrup or glycerin
- 4 tablespoons dishwashing liquid

Mix all ingredients together and have fun!

Make some homemade bubble wands out of pipe cleaners or metal hangers bent into shapes. Or, you can use cookie cutters, plastic funnels, or anything you can think of that will have an opening to dip in the bubble mixture. Store in a covered container.



Play-dough and bubbles are fun, develop fine motor muscles, and promote coordination. Have your child help you with the recipe to learn about measuring and for the valuable conversation you will have as you work together!