



Helping to prepare your child for a successful year in Kindergarten

Transitional kindergarten students can complete materials that they were given that were not completed during the year. If you would like, you can purchase a Kindergarten workbook for the summer.

1. Language Development

Listening and Speaking Skills

This refers to knowledge of spoken words and also non-verbal language, such as gestures and picture symbols.

Ways to help include:

- Encourage your child to express their thoughts and feelings
- Talk to your child everyday and ask questions (*What did you think of that song? What was your favorite part of the movie? Do you like playing soccer or basketball?*)
- Listen to someone speak without interrupting
- Help your child to know his/her full name



Reading and Writing Skills

This refers to developing knowledge of oral language, concepts of print, letters and sounds.

Ways to help include:

- READ with your child everyday
- Provide a variety of reading materials
- Help your child with **Alphabet Knowledge**: point out letters on kid magazines, newspapers and street signs. Help your child determine the difference between letter and number
- Help your child recognize letters in his/her name
- Help them to **print his/her name legibly, using correct letter strokes**. The only upper case letter should be at the beginning; all other letters should be lower-case.
- Sing songs together
- Encourage your child to scribble, draw and print. As your child draws or scribbles, ask them about their work. Scribbles are the first step to writing
- Limit use of coloring books and use plain white paper instead
- Supply materials for children to cut and draw. Use markers, crayons and pencils daily



- Help strengthen his/her fine motor skills, use clay or play dough, spray bottles, tweezers, or string Cheerio necklaces
- Help develop his/her large motor skills. Create obstacle courses for your child such as, walking on a beam, crawling under a chair, etc.
- Encourage outdoor activities everyday
- Allow children to hop, skip, jump and run, throw, bounce and catch a ball with your child



Websites to help with reading and writing-

- 1)Star Fall (www.starfall.com)
- 2)ABC Mouse (www.abcmouse.com)
- 3)ABCy (www.abcy.com)

Persistence, Attentiveness and Responsibility

This refers to the ability to hold attention, pursue difficult tasks, and take responsibility for one's own learning.

Ways to help include:

- Please teach your children **manners** (e.g., saying please, thank you, excuse me)
- Follow **simple directions**
- Pay attention as your child talks about his/her experiences and ask follow-up questions (e.g., How did that make you feel? What did you learn? Etc.)
- Help your child to try more than once when they fail. Let him/her know that it is OK
- Give your child **daily responsibilities/chores** (i.e., make their bed, feed the dog, set the table, put their backpack in their room and brush their own teeth). Create a chore chart for your child.
- Practice being **independent** (i.e., carrying own belongings, allow them to dress themselves)
- Setting a routine is very helpful in the transition into kindergarten. Please practice going to bed and waking up at a set time.



Curiosity, Information –Seeking & Eagerness

This refers to a child's interest in the world, asking questions to find answers, and experimenting with materials.

Ways to help include:

- Allow your child to play and learn skills at a comfortable pace
- Involve your child in the planning of family activities
- Provide time for unscheduled activities that allow your child to understand the need for flexibility

Emotional & Social Development

These areas of development are influenced by personal experiences, temperament, cultural expectations and experiences.

Ways to help include:

- Discuss, with your child, their feelings and how they should handle them
- Help your child see the consequences of their actions
- Encourage friendships and guide your child in how to deal with differences. (*Whom do you like to play with? Why? If you guys are fighting how can you work it out?*) In the beginning, your child will need assistance solving problems
- Promote and respect appreciation for the cultures and abilities of others
- Establish, explain and model simple rules
- Remind your child about sharing and using their words to get what they need. (*Can I have a turn with that train? I don't like that. Can I play with you?*)
- Read and discuss stories that talk about emotions and feelings
- Encourage your child to be independent in bathroom use
- Help your child become independent when taking off shoes and coats



2. Math Skills

These skills are used on a daily basis. Basic math skills will help your child with all daily routines.

Ways to help include:

- Count to **twenty** daily with your child
- Recognize and name basic colors: play I Spy, guessing games, etc.
- Help your child to recognize numbers are different than letters
- Cook with your child. (*Measure and mix ingredients*)
- Shop with your child and help them with the concept of money
- Plant a garden - indoors or out (*Look for changes over time, measure height, etc.*)
- Have your child set the table (*This is a great way to incorporate math skills, self-care skills, and physical development skills*)
- Have your child help with the laundry
- Let your child sort objects (*Keys, coins, buttons, etc.*) to help them categorize and recognize basic shapes



Websites to help with Math Skills

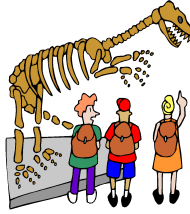
Splash Math (splashmath.com)

Education.com (<http://www.education.com/games/kindergarten/>)

3. Field Trips

Trips with your child are invaluable. Here are a few suggestions:

- Library
- Parks
- Zoos
- Museums
- Nature Walks
- Explore local neighborhoods



Suggested reading to help your child with the transition into Kindergarten:

Countdown to Kindergarten by Alison McGee

First Day Jitters by Julie Danneberg

Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come! by Nancy L Carlson

Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten by Joseph Slate

Molly Rides the School Bus by Julie Brillharta

My First Day of School by Nancy J. Skarmeas

My Kindergarten by Rosemary Wells

Off to School, Baby Duck! by Amy Hest

The Night Before Kindergarten by Natasha Wing

The School Trip by Tjibbe Veldkamp

Timothy Goes to School by Rosemary Wells.

Tiptoe Into Kindergarten by Jacqueline Rogers

Welcome to Kindergarten by Anne Rockwell

Welcome Roberto! Bienvenido, Roberto! by Mary Schwartz.

When You Go to Kindergarten by James Howe



We look forward to seeing you all in August. Have a wonderful summer!

Blessings,
Mrs. Sinn and Miss Karina