

# **Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten**

## **Reading and Writing Expectations**

Kindergarten students need to be able to recognize, read and write their first name. Students begin to develop knowledge about the alphabet. Students have book handling skills. Students can tell a story by looking at the pictures. It is a benefit if the students know some familiar nursery rhymes.

- **My child can recognize his/her name.**
- **My child can tell a story by looking at the pictures.**
- **My child can hold a book and turn the pages without squishing or wrinkling them.**
- **My child can listen to stories without interrupting.**
- **My child can predict what will happen next while I read a story to him/her.**
- **My child can recognize rhyming sounds/words.**
- **My child can identify some capital and lowercase letters.**
- **My child can write most letters.**
- **My child can hold a pencil correctly.**
- **My child can write his/her name with a capital first letter and the rest lowercase.**
- **My child can draw a picture and talk about what is happening in it.**

## **Activities to Support Your Child**

- **Storytelling - tell stories based on pictures in books and magazines.**
- **Reading to your child daily**
- **After reading a story, have your child tell you what happened in the story.**
- **Have your child tell you the letters he/she sees in the world around him/her (driving to the store, while reading a book, on a cereal box...)**

## **Math Expectations**

Kindergarten students need to begin to develop knowledge about numbers.

- **My child can rote count to 20.**
- **My child can create an AB pattern.**
- **My child can recognize numbers to 20 out of order.**
- **My child can recognize more and less.**
- **My child can recognize positional words: over, under, on.**
- **My child can write some numbers.**
- **My child can count objects 1 - 10 using manipulatives.**

## **Activities to Support Your Child**

- **Sing counting rhymes: 5 Little Monkeys, Ten Little Indians, etc.**
- **Have your child tell you the numbers he/she sees in the world around you.**
- **Count how many like items are in your house.**

## **Social and Other Expectations**

- **Your child will be attending school mass every Friday.**
- **Your child will work with other children in pairs, small groups, and large groups.**
- **Exercise patience taking turns.**
- **Sit still for at least 10 minutes at a time.**
- **Exercise problem solving skills without the consistent use of the teacher.**

## **As a parent, help your child get ready by:**

- **Working on any items that you believe your child needs assistance with and cannot do independently**
- **Establish routines in your home (wake up, get dressed, eat breakfast, leave for school at the same time everyday)**
- **Set up a study area in your home (supply it with crayons, scissors, pencils and other materials)**

- **Read with your child daily (set aside time as part of your routine)**
- **Have your child be an active participant in home activities (choosing books to read, setting the table, cleaning up their toys)**
- **Talk “with” your child and not “at” your child (conversation builds vocabulary, knowledge, independence, and self-esteem)**

**Your child will have a rest time for approximately 30 minutes a day.**

**Have a great summer! We are looking forward to seeing you in August.**

**The Kindergarten Team**

# Kindergarten Summer Work

## Language

- Review letters/sounds of the alphabet
  - Suggestion: Use alphabet cards as flashcards or place them on a wall and have your child throw a ball at the letter then make the sound. Have them brainstorm other words that begin with that sound.
- Build and read word family words
  - -at, -am, -an, -ag, -ad, -et, -en, -ed, -ig, it, -ip, -in, -ick, -ing, -op, -ot, -ock, -ub, -un, -ug, -ut, -uck
  - Suggestions: build words using magnetic letters then have your child write them on paper or use them in a sentence. Have them read the words they built. Have them highlight the word family words that they wrote. Can also use attached activity sheet and change the words that you are practicing. You can also make flashcards and play the cards like a concentration game.
- Sight words
  - See attached list of kindergarten words.
  - Suggestions: Write the words in a hopscotch. Browse books to “hunt” for the words within the text. Tally mark how many times you find the word. Create a chart of the words. Can also use attached activity sheet and change the words that you are practicing. You can also make flashcards and play the cards like a concentration game.
- Blends/ digraphs
  - Bl-, cl-, sl-, fl-, pl-, ch-, th-, sh-, wh-, st-, str-, br-, cr-, sp, spr-, tr-, dr-
- Identify comprehension elements
  - Character, setting, sequence, main idea, details, problem, solution
  - Suggestions: read a story then ask questions about what you read. Have your child illustrate/write a sentence.
- Reading
  - Practice applying strategies - see attached file
  - Suggestion: Bob books or Biscuit CVC (consonant vowel consonant) books are available online or at Barnes & Noble. Have a “drop everything and read” time and create a chart of how long you read each day. Build your stamina!
- Phonetic writing - writing the sounds YOUR child hears in the word
  - Brainstorm a word for each letter of the alphabet then have your child write that word or create a sentence with that word.
  - Write sentences about a story that you read.
  - Write sentences about your favorite things or journal about your day.
  - Make sure they are beginning at the top of the line and using appropriate capital/lowercase letters.

## Math

- Addition/Subtraction
  - Suggestion: Use cereal pieces to create groupings then add/take away. Write addition sentences to match.
- Time
  - Suggestion: Make a clock out of a paper plate and different colored hands. Identify time to the hour. Read "The Grouchy Ladybug"
- Money
  - Suggestion: use coins and have your child sort them by type. Build a "store" and assign prices to the items then have your child "buy" the items with money.
- Positional words - above, below, left, right, top, bottom, middle, etc.
  - Suggestion: Play Simon Says and place hands in the correct said location.
- Counting/ Numbers/ Comparing groups (more/less/equal)
  - Suggestion: Ordering/ recognizing numbers - create hopscotches (can count by 1's, 5's, etc). Create groups of objects using candy then have your child count, write the number, then circle larger/ smaller. Count how many trees you see at the park. Count the number of items you bought at the grocery store.
- Measurement
  - Suggestion: Use paperclips to "measure" how long the table, counter, etc. is. Give your child a container of rice to analyze capacity.

## Technology supplemental ideas

- Additional suggestions to support learning. Many of these websites cover multiple topics.
  - <https://login.i-ready.com/>
  - [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)
  - [http://www.abcya.com/kindergarten\\_computers.htm](http://www.abcya.com/kindergarten_computers.htm)
  - <http://www.funbrain.com/FBSearch.php?Grade=K>
  - [www.teacherspayteachers.com](http://www.teacherspayteachers.com) (great free resources if you type in the terms listed and select kindergarten)
  - <http://pbskids.org/games/>
  - <http://www.literactive.com/Home/index.asp> - you do need to register but it's free!
  - Various apps for the tablet
  - You can also browse the topics using Google or Pinterest to come up with a large variety of hands-on learning games.

# Summer Reading

## Kindergarten Classes



Welcome! Summer is a perfect time to dive into learning with your child whether you're home, in the sun, or on the run. Nursery rhymes, picture books, or looking at businesses while you are driving ... Use those as jumping off points to foster your emerging reader! Provide them with hands-on experiences by writing letters/words in the sand at the beach, playing alphabet hopscotch, rhyming games, having them "write" their own grocery list, and discovering letters/numbers through magazines hunts.

When you are reading with your child have them predict what is going to happen next then check their predictions. Ask your child to tell you what is happening in the pictures, point out rhyming words, or have them change the ending of the story.

Eric Carle is a great place to start with your emerging reader and writer! I have listed a few of his stories. We suggest taking summer field trips to your local library or book store to build excitement and interest in books. This will be our starting point for the beginning of the year.

- "Brown Bear, Brown Bear"
- "The Very Hungry Caterpillar"
- "Polar Bear, Polar Bear"
- "Does a Kangaroo Have a Mother Too?"
- "10 Little Rubber Ducks"

We look forward to meeting all of you. Have a wonderful summer!