

KINDERGARTEN READINESS PACK

The world around us is full of opportunities to learn! You can find organic teachable moments in the car driving, out at the grocery store, or in your backyard! Approaching our learning in this natural and easy-going manner helps develop a perseverant mindset within our children.



LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT IDEAS

Home Practice Ideas:

- Play "I Spy" in the car or at the grocery store
- Create or learn songs to build upon your child's vocabulary
- Point out letters/words/colors/numbers/shapes you see in your day to day environments
- Tell jokes or rhymes
- Play musical instruments and listen to music
- Keep a journal together to record and reflect upon daily happenings
- Practice counting items aloud in the grocery cart, outside at your house, or anywhere
- Ask your child questions (who, what, where, when, how, why)
- Participate in dramatic play (explore different roles and situations, use imagination)

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A parent is a child's first teacher and much of what you practice at home will set your child up for success in the Kindergarten classroom. These handouts will outline readiness skills for Kindergarten as well as fun activities to continue building upon these targets.



ACADEMICS – EARLY LITERACY

Skill	Home Practice Ideas
<input type="checkbox"/> I know how to use a book (open and close, turn pages).	Have your child hold and care for books.
<input type="checkbox"/> I enjoy the experience of reading and listening to stories.	Read books to your child daily. Make silly voices for different characters. Encourage your child to participate.
<input type="checkbox"/> I know some of the letters of the alphabet.	Use picture letter cards and other manipulatives to expose your child to the alphabet.
<input type="checkbox"/> I can write the letters of my name.	Have your child use a variety of tools to practice writing their name.
<input type="checkbox"/> I can identify words that rhyme (cat, hat- top, pop).	Read books with rhyme and play rhyming games like "I spy a word that rhymes with cat" - "mat".

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Practice Tip: All of these target skills can be practiced through a play-based approach. For example, if you are looking to work more on letter and sound identification, you can have your child go on a letter hunt. Approaching learning through a play-based lens will keep your child excited about learning.



ACADEMICS – MATHEMATICAL THINKING

Skill	Home Practice Ideas
<input type="checkbox"/> I can count a group of objects.	Have your child practice counting with manipulatives.
<input type="checkbox"/> I can sort beads in a color pattern.	Build patterns at home with blocks, food items, and other materials.
<input type="checkbox"/> I can count aloud to thirty.	You can practice counting aloud with your child and play counting songs.
<input type="checkbox"/> I can identify basic shapes and colors.	Use a variety of tools to draw shapes /colors and look for real-world examples that fit both.
<input type="checkbox"/> I can sort objects into like groups (by color, by size, by category).	Practice sorting objects in your home and make it a sorting game!

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Social-emotional learning is extremely important when it comes to helping children understand and manage their emotions. Being able to articulate how they are feeling is instrumental in a busy classroom environment. Having these skills also helps them foster healthy relationships with others, and make responsible decisions.



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Skills:

- I can demonstrate self control (hands to self, personal space).
- I can stay engaged for 10-15 minutes at a time.
- I can attempt to be independent (opening things, tying laces, general needs).
- I can seek help from others kindly.
- I can take turns, share, and help others.
- I can keep trying, even if something is difficult for me.
- I can work and play independently, with a friend, and in a group.
- I can follow simple directions.

Home Practice Ideas:

- Hold conversations about feelings often. Ask your child about how certain things and situations have made them feel and have them reflect on it. Also reflect on feelings of others and why they may have felt those ways.
- Encourage your child to practice above skills independently even if something is challenging them.

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Fine motor and gross motor skills enable us to do many every-day tasks such as opening doors, zipping zippers, getting out of bed, walking downstairs, and more! The best part about practicing these skills is the amount of creative tools that can be used. From paintbrushes to sand, jump ropes to slides, kids just love to MOVE!



FINE MOTOR & GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

Skill	Home Practice Ideas
<input type="checkbox"/> I can fasten my pants and put on my jacket.	Have your child practice dressing themselves.
<input type="checkbox"/> I can manipulate pencils and crayons well enough to color and draw.	Use a variety of tools to draw, color, and write.
<input type="checkbox"/> I can use scissors to cut and glue to paste.	Put together simple crafts.
<input type="checkbox"/> I can work a zipper.	Practice zipping with different zippers on different jackets and other clothing.
<input type="checkbox"/> I can hop, jump, climb, throw, skip, and balance.	Play games outside! Go to the park and different playgrounds that have different equipment!

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When we join forces and work together as a team, student achievement is inevitable. Building this strong home/school connection will help every child feel safe, secure, and assured that their individual needs are being met (academically and emotionally).



HOME/SCHOOL RELATIONSHIP

Teachers	Parents
Communicate effectively with one another	Communicate effectively with one another
Create opportunities for parent involvement	Participate in parent involvement opportunities
Support academic, and social-emotional needs of students	Support academic, and social-emotional needs of students
Work with parents to make decisions regarding individual needs of child	Work with teachers to make decisions regarding individual needs of child