Parents: *Get ready for Kindergarten!*

Here are some fun things you and your child can do to get ready for Kindergarten.

Talk about school, and ask your child:

- What do you think school will be like?
- What are you looking forward to?
- Does anything worry you about school?

Visit the school. Your child will feel more comfortable if the school is familiar. Call the school secretary before you go.
You can:

- Walk or drive to the school.
- Visit the classroom. Look for cubbies. See where the teacher and students sit.
- Find the bathrooms.
- Meet the teachers.

Talk about classroom skills. Explain that there will be many kids in the classroom, so all children must:

- Listen to the teacher.
- Follow the class rules.
- Be polite.
- Share, take turns, and find ways to solve any disagreements.

Encourage independence:
Let your child do some things without your help:

- Fix an easy breakfast, like cereal or toast
- Make a snack or lunch to take to school
- Brush teeth
- Go to the bathroom – always flush and wash hands!
- Get dressed. Choose clothes that are right for the weather and are easy to take off and on (so it's easy to use the bathroom).

Teach your child good school habits:

- Get plenty of rest and wake up early
- Have a good breakfast
- Go over homework and school notices.
- Set a place and time to read and do homework.

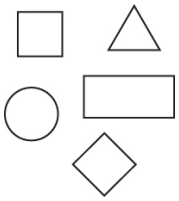
Here are fun activities you can do with your child.

Read together at least 15 minutes every day.

- Read and recite nursery rhymes. Listen for words that rhyme, especially in Dr. Seuss.
- Let your child ask you questions as you read.
- Make silly words that rhyme, like *funny-bunny*.
- Talk about the parts of a book, like the cover, title, author, pictures.

Write.

- Always have paper, pencils, pens, crayons, and envelopes.
- Show your child how to write his/her name, only capitalizing the first letter. Let your child practice.
- It's hard to hold a pencil at first. Use a pencil grip.
- Have fun and don't worry about neatness or spelling.



Play with numbers, sizes, and shapes.

- Count things (coins, fruit, buttons, keys). Touch each one as you say the number.
- Play with number flash cards. Count out loud.
- Look for numbers wherever you go — license plates, addresses, phone numbers
- Draw shapes, and make pictures with them. Learn their names and look for them everywhere.

Other fun activities to do together.

- Learn letters and sounds.
- Sing alphabet songs.
- Play with magnetic letters or alphabet flash cards. Say each letter out loud.
- Play games with letters like alphabet bingo, concentration.

Remember! Some of these activities may be hard. If your child gets frustrated, just stop and do something else that is fun for both of you!

If you have questions or problems, please talk to your child's teacher or principal at:

[put your information here]

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