



THOMAS PRINCE SCHOOL
Princeton, Massachusetts

Thank you for coming today!

Please find some fun ideas you can do at home this summer to further develop your child's readiness skills. All children are unique and will learn at their own pace. The best thing you can do to prepare your child for kindergarten is to invest as much time as possible helping him/her learn readiness skills!

Please remember to keep learning fun! Enjoy your summer! See you in August!

TPS Kindergarten Team



Activities To Do At Home

TRACING LETTERS WITH FINGERS:

Let your child make the letters of his/her name, family members' names, or other words in any one of the following substances:
PUDDING, SALT, SAND, DIRT, SHAVING CREAM, MASHED POTATOES, OR ICING.

Sam

LETTERS YOU CAN FEEL:



Write your child's name or another word with glue on cardboard, index cards, or boxes, and let your child drizzle sand, dirt, salt, or glitter onto the glue. After the glue has dried, your child can do crayon rubbings of the word(s) and "read" his/her creation.

CAN YOU FIND THIS LETTER?:



Letters of the alphabet are everywhere! As you go through the grocery store, cook dinner, look at a magazine, drive down the road, or watch a sports game, ask your child to point out a specific letter. Begin with asking him/her to find a letter in his/her **name**.

LABELS, LABELS:

Children can learn to recognize some words by sight if the words have meaning to them. You and your child can label his/her bathroom, bedroom, or any rooms. Print, in lower case letters, the names of items in the room and place the labels near or on those items.



CUTTING OUT THE LETTERS OF MY NAME:



Let your child cut out the letters of his/her name from a magazine or newspaper. Call out the letter names as you find them. This reinforces letter recognition.

WHAT I SEE, I WILL DO:

We all know children will copy whatever they see someone else doing. If you want your child to be a reader/writer, she/he must see you modeling those behaviors. Make sure your child sees you making out grocery lists, writing letters, reading books, etc.





WRITING MATERIALS:

Children do not always need fancy paper and pens to benefit from writing activities. Cardboard and an old sock make a perfect chalkboard and eraser for practicing letters, words, etc. Sidewalk chalk is fun too! Children can write on any scrap of paper that you have around the house.

LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE:

Keep a summer diary with your child, having him/her watch while you write what he/she says happened on a particular day, either after a special day or "just because." Keep these entries in a spiral notebook and let your child illustrate the pages of their "book."



ENVIRONMENTAL Print:

Children recognize many symbols and words they see every day. "Environmental print" examples include the labels of cereal boxes, toothpaste, or any other item whose name your child would recognize (even McDonald's for instance). Cut the label off the box or bag and glue it to a blank page in a spiral notebook. Have fun reading your book!



PREDICTABLE BOOKS:

These are books that have the same or a similar phrase on each page and are easy for the children to memorize. An example is Brown Bear, Brown Bear. Children love these books because they give them a sense of success in reading.



ALPHABET BINGO is an all-time favorite game and easy to make at home.

- Make some bingo cards with uppercase or lowercase letters in the boxes.
- Make a set of "pull" cards with the same letters on them.
- Use pieces of paper, small rocks, or other small items as counters.
- Take turns being the "caller."

You can also make a bingo game using numbers, colors, or shapes. Have fun!

Egg carton Fun:

Write letters in the bottoms of the egg carton compartments. Place a marble, bean, or coin inside the carton and close it. Let your child shake the egg carton for a minute. Then open the carton and let them tell the letter underneath the marble, bean, or coin. This game can be used for letter, number, or word recognition.



Kid Friendly Websites:

www.pbskids.org

www.nickjr.com

www.sesameworkshop.org

www.starfall.com

Travel Games

Here are some fun ways to help your child get ready for kindergarten.

Magic Word: Before taking a trip to the store, everyone agrees on the magic word. During the trip, as people are talking, everyone listens for the "magic word." The first one to raise his/her hand when the word is heard gets a point. At the end of the trip, give a treat to the person with the most points.

My Grandmother's Trunk: One person begins by saying, "In my grandmother's trunk there was an apple." The person repeats the verse..."In my grandmother's trunk there was an apple and a baseball bat." The next person repeats the verse adding an object beginning with the letter "c". This goes on until the last letter of the alphabet. The last person who goes has to list all twenty-six things.

Category Game: The first person begins by naming a category, such as fruits, vegetables, animals, toys, sports, etc. The next person must name an object that fits in the category. Each player takes a turn until no more objects can be named. Then move on to a new category.

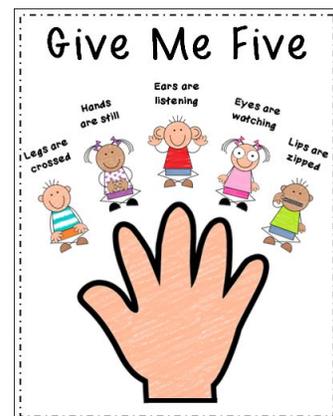
I'm Going to Mary's: The first person begins by saying, "I'm going to Mary's and I'm taking some milk." The next playing repeats that sentence replacing "milk" with another word that begins with "m." Continue until no one can think of another word. Then work with another consonant.

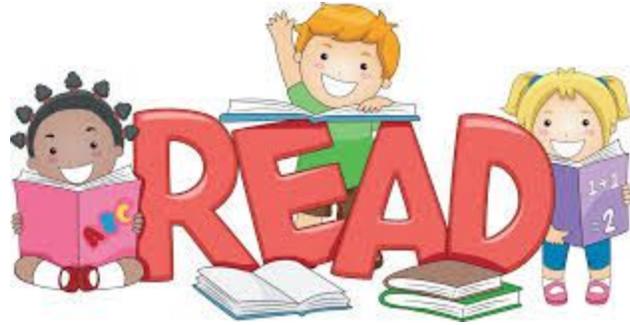
License Plate Identification: Keep a list of the states you see. Find them on a map. Another game is to find the alphabet, in order, on license plates.



Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

- Talks in complete sentences of five to six words
- Listens to stories without interrupting
- Discuss details in stories
- Recognizes rhyming sounds
- Pays attention for short periods of time to adult-directed tasks
- Understands actions have both cause and effect
- Shows understanding of general times of day
- Cuts with scissors
- Traces basic shapes
- Follows expectations and independently completes 1-2 step directions
- Begins to share with others
- Recognizes authority figures (e.g. police officer, principal, teacher, coach)
- Manages bathroom needs
- Buttons shirts, pants, coats, and zips up zippers
- Begins to control oneself
- Separates from parents without being upset
- Speaks understandably
- Looks at pictures and then tells stories
- Identifies beginning sound of some words
- Identifies some letters of the alphabet
- Recognizes some common sight words like "the, like, can, I"
- Sorts similar objects by color, size, and shape
- Recognizes groups of one, two, three, four and five objects
- Counts to ten
- Bounces a ball





Tips for Reading to Your Child

1. Read to your child at least fifteen minutes each day. Pick a time when your child wants to listen and when there are no distractions. Bedtime is usually a good time.
2. Sit next to your child and hold the book so that your child can see it.
3. Allow your child to choose some of the books she/he wants to read aloud.
4. Look at the book cover before reading. Point out the title, author and illustrator.
5. Your child may want to hear the same story over and over again. Repetition builds knowledge in beginning reading. Encourage your child to finish predictable phrases or rhymes.
6. Allow the child to interrupt you and ask questions or comment on the story. Ask what might happen next, or what she/he might do in the same situation; this strengthens thinking skills. Some helpful questions:
 - a. What happened at the beginning, middle, or end of the story?
 - b. What do you think will happen next?
 - c. Why do you think the character did that?
 - d. What would you have done if you were that character?
 - e. What was the best thing about the story?
7. Encourage children in your family to read to each other. This is good for the reader and the listener.
8. Try to relate stories to things your child has seen on television, in the movies, or in the course of his/her daily life. This will give more meaning to the reading.
9. Draw attention to the pictures as part of the story.
10. Don't stretch your child's attention span to the breaking point when you are reading aloud. Fifteen minutes is about the maximum time for a beginning reader.
11. Poetry is excellent for reading aloud because rhyming is very important in learning to read.
12. Make sure your child sees you as a reader: reading a newspaper, enjoying a good book, reading a magazine, etc.
13. Consider giving books as a present so they become associated with a pleasurable experience and have special meaning.

Home Practice Ideas For Kindergarten

Readiness

1. Practice self-help skills

- a. Your child should practice buttoning, snapping, tying and zipping his/her clothes.
- b. Teach your child how and when to blow his/her nose and wash his/her hands.
- c. Teach your child how to open/close lunch boxes/lunch containers at his/her level of independence
- d. Teach your child about bathroom routines and general expectations given his/her level of independence.

2. Practice counting out loud and practice counting to 10 (or higher)

- a. Have your child count his/her own snacks such as pretzels, goldfish crackers, grapes, etc.
- b. Count each item as you pick up 10 things to put away in the house or bedroom.
- c. Count the number of stair steps in your house or the number of steps from your car to the store.

3. Practice naming the letters in the alphabet

- a. Read and enjoy alphabet books together.
- b. Help your child recognize letters of the alphabet in everyday life (i.e., restaurants, road signs, store signs, cereal boxes, etc.).
- c. Explore with magnetic letters.

4. Practice book handling skills

- a. Discuss how to open a book from the front cover. Point out the front and back of the book. Discuss how the front is where the story begins and the back is where it ends.
- b. Discuss how to hold a book so it is not upside down and where to start reading.
- c. Read with your child on a daily basis.

5. Practice recognizing the eight primary colors

- a. When your child is coloring, ask what colors are used.
- b. Have your child draw a picture and ask him/her to color the objects in certain colors.
- c. Have your child sort objects by color such as clothes, blocks, skittles, M&Ms, or Fruit Loops while naming the colors.
- d. Discuss colors of things in the world around you such as the sky, the grass, cars, clothing items, etc.

6. Practice naming the five basic shapes (circle, triangle, square, hexagon, rectangle)

- a. Point out objects in your environment that have the basic shapes such as doors, windows, clocks, can tops, kites, etc.
- b. Have your child draw the shapes on chalkboards, papers, etc., then cut them out while naming each shape.

7. Practice personal information such as first name, last name, parents' names, phone number and address

- a. Have your child practice important phone numbers on a play telephone.
- b. Make up a rhyme or song to go along with your phone number that your child can remember. Practice it regularly.

8. Use classroom tools appropriately

- a. Allow your child opportunities to explore using pencils, glue, scissors, markers, crayons, etc.
- b. Discuss rules and set expectations for using the tools (i.e., “crayons are for writing on paper, not the wall” or “you may cut paper when you are sitting at the table” or “if you leave the cap off the marker, it will dry out.”)
- c. Remember your child needs time to explore with the tools before performing tasks such as writing letters or cutting on a line.