

# 2024 Getting Ready for KINDERGARTEN Family Activity Calendar



**EPEL**  
Elgin Partnership for Early Learning

[www.elginpartnership.org](http://www.elginpartnership.org) | 844-KID-INFO  
844-543-4636

# Help Me Get Ready For Kindergarten!



## Talk

- » Tell me your stories; listen to mine.
- » Sing songs and nursery rhymes.
- » Talk about things we are doing.
- » Teach me new words.
- » Ask me 'how' and 'why' questions.

## Play

- » Build with me.
- » Pretend with me.
- » Make time for me to play with other kids.
- » Be silly with me.
- » Teach me the rules.

## Read

- » Read to me; listen to me "read" to you.
- » Point out meaningful letters in my world: J is for Jack, D is for Donut.
- » Point out the first letter in words and the sound it makes.
- » Use rhyming words with me.
- » Re-read books I love.

## Do

- » Take me to the library.
- » Explore our community with me.
- » Count things with me.
- » Let me touch, taste and smell new things.
- » Play games with me.

## Write

- » Use playdough with me.
- » Draw pictures with me.
- » Show me how to make letters.
- » Write down what I say.
- » Make lists with me.

# Tips for Using the Calendar

The Getting Ready for Kindergarten Calendar offers daily activities to support school readiness skills. Children develop at their own rate! It's up to you how to use this calendar; we give suggestions below. Calendar tips do not have to be done in order.

## Parents

- » Use the daily activities to engage your child in learning opportunities in and outside of your home in the community.
- » Look for full and part-time birth to five early care and education programs and school registration (pg. 29).
- » Check out local resources, including local libraries (pg.30), community agencies (pg.31), and Ready for Kindergarten Skills (pg.34).
- » Read the “**Children & Technology**” page to discover tips and tricks for using media in the home and on the go (pg.33).

"Typical" development varies from child to child. Each month focuses on a different topic based on Illinois Early Learning Standards and strategies developed by experts.

## Parents and Teachers

- » Enjoy the monthly tips and videos in the QR code in the [Parent and Teachers' Corner](#).
- » Use daily literacy activities as your question of the day, during transition times, and other times during the day.
- » Check out recommended books at the library and use them in the classroom.
- » Use the [Am I Ready for Kindergarten?](#) on pg. 28 to guide your teaching and monitor the children's development.
- » Make [Talk](#), [Play](#), [Read](#), [Do](#) and [Write](#) part of your daily routines at home and in the community.



## QR Code Download Instructions

- » Look for **QR Code** to learn tips and tricks for interacting with your child and guide you to community early learning opportunities.
- » To access the QR Codes open your picture app on your phone and hold it over the code.



**The children are our future. Enjoy the journey!**

Recommended Books

Each month, look here for a list of books to read with your child.

# Encourage your child to listen and use language to express ideas

**Take time each day to listen and to talk with your child.**

**While traveling or at home:**

- Turn off music in your car and talk about where you are going or have been.
- Talk about what might happen when you get to where you are going.
- Turn off the TV and other electronic devices and talk with your child about things that interest him or her. **Talking is teaching!**

**Involve your child in activities which require listening and following directions.**

**Give your child directions that involve two steps. Here are some examples:**

- Take off your shoes and put them in the closet.
- Pick up your plate and put it in the sink.



## Parent and Teacher Corner

Children come to school after many early-morning transitions from home. There is an emotion behind every action and meltdowns can come out of nowhere.



**Small Children Have Big Feelings: There's an Emotion Behind Every Action**  
<http://bit.ly/2zMMS9m>




**Separation Anxiety in Young Children**

Separation anxiety is normal and eventually most young children will experience it. Tips for making this transition easier.  
<http://bit.ly/2B25I3r>

## Recommended Books

- Go, Sled! Go!** by James Yang
- Gray Fox in the Snow** by Isaac Peterson
- Oona in the Arctic** by Kelly DiPucchio
- Once Upon a Book** by Grace Lin
- Ruffles and the New Green Thing** by David Melling
- Yuna's Cardboard Castles** by Marie Tang
- So Much Snow** by Hyunmin Park
- Indigo Dreaming** by Dinah Johnson

# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Eye Care Month</b> 	<b>New Year's Day</b> <b>1</b> Use newspapers and magazines to make a New Year's crown or hat.	<b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>2</b> What do you eat that is white?	<b>3</b> Ask your child to name four things that rhyme with "dog."	<b>Library Day</b> <b>4</b> Ask your child to draw a picture of a snowman	<b>5</b> Brush your teeth and talk about why they are important.	<b>6</b> Play I-Spy with the numbers on this page. "I-Spy number 4. Can you find 4?"
<b>7</b> Count items in your kitchen.	<b>8</b> Do sit-ups and count to 10.	<b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>9</b> Look for white clothes.	<b>10</b> Count the windows in your house.	<b>Library Day</b> <b>11</b> Get a library card for your child.	<b>12</b> Practice putting on hats and gloves.	<b>13</b> Look for happy faces in a magazine.
<b>14</b> Sing your child's favorite song.	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b> <b>15</b> Have your child help prepare a meal.	<b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>16</b> Look for the color white outside.	<b>17</b> Have your child practice writing his/her name using upper and lower case letters.	<b>Library Day</b> <b>18</b> Read your favorite children's book to your child.	<b>19</b> Ask your child to help set the table and count the items.	<b>20</b> Do 15 jumping jacks.
<b>21</b> Cut shapes out of paper to make a picture.	<b>22</b> Have your child draw a picture of himself/herself playing in the snow.	<b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>23</b> Look for the color white in a book or magazine.	<b>24</b> Exercise with your child; hop in place, do jumping jacks and arm circles.	<b>Library Day</b> <b>25</b> Ask for a book about winter fun.	<b>26</b> Make a grocery list together.	<b>27</b> Look outside and ask your child about the weather.
<b>28</b> Play a board game with your child.	<b>29</b> Start a nursery rhyme and have your child finish it.	<b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>30</b> Look for something white in the kitchen.	<b>31</b> Have your child look at pictures in a book and make up his/her own story.	<b>Remember:</b> <b>U-46 Kindergarten Registration February</b> Check the school district websites in early February for Kindergarten registration.		

# Play learning games with your child

## Play card games.

- Play "Old Maid" and "Go Fish" card games. Follow the directions on the back of the box.
- Play "Memory" game. Shuffle the cards and lay them face up. Invite your child to find the two cards that match.
- A deck of playing cards can be used to match numbers, shapes and introduce beginning math skills.

## Have fun as you play "I Spy" color games.

- Play the game by spying different colored objects at home, outdoors, or in the car.
- Say, "I spy something yellow. You peel it and eat it. What is it?" (banana)



Sitting down and playing games with children is the way they learn to take turns, learn rules and spend quality time with you. This time also gives you the opportunity to observe skills that need to be worked on. The Dollar Store is a great place to grab matching, shape, color, letter and number games.

## Play "shapes" and "sizes" games.

- Play hide-and-seek with different sized shapes.
- Grab shapes out of a bag and name.
- Make bath time a fun learning opportunity with foam letters, numbers and shapes to play with in the tub.

## Play movement games.

- Play "Follow the Leader" and "Simon Says".



## Parent and Teacher Corner



Easy Beginner Preschool Board Games  
<http://bit.ly/47EomWY>



Check out this Website for Play Ideas  
<http://bit.ly/2QDtXVH>

## Recommended Books

- Same Love, Different Hug** by Sarah Hovorka
- Love Is All Around** by Nikki Shannon Smith
- Real to Me** by Minh Lê
- Together: A First Conversation About Love** by Megan Madison & Jessica Ralli
- This Little Kitty** by Karen Obuhanych
- Some of These Are Snails** by Carter Higgins
- I'm From** by Gary R. Gary, Jr.
- Beautiful You, Beautiful Me** by Tasha Spillet-Perera

# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Black History Month</b> Check out events in the community to be a part of the celebrations.</p> <p><b>Dental Care Month</b> Your child must have a dental exam to start school. Make an appointment to have your child's teeth checked.</p>				<p><b>Library Day</b> <b>1</b> Say a word to your child and ask him/her to say words that rhyme.</p>	<p><b>Groundhog Day</b> <b>2</b> Write down the names of family members.</p>	<p><b>3</b> Read your child a story and ask him/her to act it out with a sock puppet.</p>
<p><b>4</b> Have your child put a glove on his/her hand and count his/her fingers.</p>	<p><b>5</b> <b>Check school website for Kindergarten Registration information</b> List how many people you know that go to school.</p>	<p><b>6</b> <b>Color Tuesday</b> Look for pink clothes.</p>	<p><b>7</b> Play peek-a-boo with scarves.</p>	<p><b>8</b> <b>Library Day</b> Ask for an award-winning book.</p>	<p><b>9</b> Count while someone in your house brushes their teeth. How high did you count?</p>	<p><b>10</b> Have your child think of words that start with the first letter in his/her name.</p>
<p><b>11</b> Read a story with your child and point to each word as you read.</p>	<p><b>12</b> <b>Lincoln's Birthday</b> Make a list of things that are really tall.</p>	<p><b>13</b> <b>Color Tuesday</b> Look for something pink in your kitchen.</p>	<p><b>14</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>Valentine's Day</b> Trace and cut heart shapes together..</p>	<p><b>15</b> <b>Library Day</b> Ask for rhyming books.</p>	<p><b>16</b> Have your child help prepare a meal.</p>	<p><b>17</b> Leap across your living room.</p>
<p><b>18</b> Count to 20.</p>	<p><b>19</b> <b>Washington's Birthday</b> <b>President's Day</b> Read your favorite children's book to your child.</p>	<p><b>20</b> <b>Color Tuesday</b> Think of things that you can eat that are pink.</p>	<p><b>21</b> Have your child wear something red today.</p>	<p><b>22</b> <b>Library Day</b> Read a book about love.</p>	<p><b>23</b> Count the number of hops your child can do on one foot.</p>	<p><b>24</b> Name a letter and have your child find items that begin with that letter.</p>
<p><b>25</b> Sort out toys by color.</p>	<p><b>26</b> Talk about what happens when snow melts.</p>	<p><b>27</b> <b>Color Tuesday</b> Take a walk and find things that are pink.</p>	<p><b>28</b> Make shadows with your child using a flashlight.</p>	<p><b>29</b> <b>Library Day</b> Meet a friend at the library and check out a book about friendship.</p>		

# Read with your child each day

## Create a reading area for your child.

- Store your child's books in a special place that is easy to reach such as a basket, drawer, or on a low shelf.
- Place a small rug or pillow in the area to create a cozy and comfortable place for reading.
- Join your child and read together in this special place.
- Hold your child close to you when you read to help develop a bond and a positive attitude toward reading.
- Read your child's favorite books over and over as this builds strong reading skills.



## Let your child participate in book reading with a variety of books.

- Visit your local library with your child and get a library card.
- Let your child look at the picture books in the children's section of the library and select several books to checkout.
- Attend a story time program at your library.
- While reading a book with your child, talk about the pictures and information on the cover of the book.
- Ask your child to look at the cover and guess what the book is going to be about.
- Show your child how to start at the beginning of the book and how to turn the pages from front to back.
- Ask your child questions throughout the story and to retell the story in his or her own words at the end.



## Parent and Teacher Corner



**Building Print Awareness  
By Sharing a Book**  
<http://bit.ly/2PnqDkZ>



**The Importance of Reading  
Aloud to Children**  
<http://bit.ly/45slWsd>

Reading aloud is so important to young children's learning. One of the most important skills a parent or teacher can teach a child is how to communicate. We communicate by speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

Children love hearing a story when you add different intonations and make the characters and story come alive.

## Recommended Books

- Mama's Home** by Shay Youngblood
- The Rainbow Snail** by Karin Åkesson
- Powerful You** by Kate Jane Neal
- Izmelda, the Fairest Dragon of Them All** by Joan Marr
- Hidden Gem** by Linda Liu
- Izzy Paints** by Tim Miller
- Happy Birthday to Me** by Thao Lam
- Peaceful Me** by Sarah Feder



# March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Count fruits in the refrigerator.	<b>1</b> <b>Read Across America Day</b> <b>2</b> Look for Dr. Seuss books at your library.
<b>3</b> Have your child think of words that start with the first letter in his/her name..	<b>4</b> Watch a movie with your child.	<b>5</b> <b>Color Tuesday</b> Look for the color green outside.	<b>6</b> Look for different shapes in your living room.	<b>7</b> <b>Library Day</b> Talk about your favorite author and what is the author's job.	<b>8</b> Sort old socks by color.	<b>9</b> Practice the "ABC" song.
<b>10</b> <b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b> Let your child help you change the numbers on the clock.	<b>11</b> <b>Ramadan Begins</b> Read a story with your child and point to each word as you read.	<b>12</b> <b>Color Tuesday</b> Find the color green in books or magazines.	<b>13</b> Hide an object, give your child clues and have him/her find it.	<b>14</b> <b>Library Day</b> Talk about animals.	<b>15</b> Point out street signs as you move through town.	<b>16</b> Count to 20.
<b>17</b> <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> Look in your closet and find clothes that are green.	<b>18</b> Have your child write his/her name on a card and display it on the refrigerator.	<b>19</b> <b>First Day of Spring</b> <b>Color Tuesday</b> Look for the color green in the kitchen.	<b>20</b> Look outside for spring changes.	<b>21</b> <b>Library Day</b> Find books about spring.	<b>22</b> Jump 10 times.	<b>23</b> Sing your favorite children's song together.
<b>24</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> Play a game that involves taking turns.	<b>25</b> Help your child practice zipping his/her coat.	<b>26</b> <b>Color Tuesday</b> Find the color green in your child's toys.	<b>27</b> What letter does March start with? Can you find other M's on the page?	<b>28</b> <b>Library Day</b> Ask for books that can be sung like a song.	<b>29</b> <b>Good Friday</b> Have your child help prepare a meal.	<b>30</b> Put together a puzzle with your child.
<b>31</b> <b>Easter</b> Count how many puddles you see outside.						

# Let your child use school tools

## Gather and organize materials for coloring, drawing, writing, and cutting.

- Help your child select a durable container to hold drawing/writing materials such as: crayons, markers, and pencils.
- Show your child how to use markers and scissors appropriately.
- Decide on some simple expectations for your child using the drawing and writing materials.
- Provide crafts that require your child to use markers, crayons, and scissors.

## Encourage your child to explore with drawing materials.

- Draw a picture with your child about family events and experiences and talk about the picture.
- Praise your child's efforts by displaying his or her work in a special spot.



Developing fine motor skills is important for learning to hold a pencil in the future. You can strengthen your child's hands by giving him or her the opportunity to play with playdough as well as using their "pincer" grasp (index finger and thumb) to pick up little objects like beans, beads, or small pasta.

Scan the QR codes for some easy tips for teaching your child to cut with scissors.



**How to Teach a Preschooler to Cut with Scissors**  
<http://bit.ly/2z6jV91>



**How to Teach Your Child to Use Scissors Correctly**  
<http://bit.ly/3ODVlww>

## Support your child as he or she practices using scissors.

- Be sure that your child knows how to hold the scissors, how to open and close the blades, and how to hold the paper. "Chomp the paper like an alligator mouth."
- Snipping playdough snakes, strips of construction paper or paint strips from the hardware store is good practice.

## Let your child see that written words are a part of daily life.

- Involve your child in making lists together, writing notes and names.



### Recommended Books

- A Bear, A Bee, and a Honey Tree** by Daniel Bernstrom
- The City Tree** by Shira Boss
- Something Great** by Jeanette Bradley
- Let's Go Pudding!** by Emma Perry
- In Between** by April Sayre
- Remember** by Joy Harjo
- Little Land** by Diana Sadyka
- Butterfly Child** by Marc Majewski

# April



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>April Fool's Day</b> <b>1</b> How high can you count? Count the numbers on this page.	<b>Autism Awareness Day</b> <b>2</b> <b>Color Tuesday</b> Look in your kitchen cabinet and find boxes and cans that have the color blue on them.	<b>3</b> Put together a puzzle with your child.	<b>Library Day</b> <b>4</b> Together read a book about feelings.	<b>5</b> Pick up litter to help keep your neighborhood clean.	<b>6</b> Together find things around the house that begin with letter "P."
<b>7</b> Use a ruler to measure your hands and feet.	<b>8</b> Make a collage of shapes together.	<b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>9</b> Find something blue in your clothes.	<b>10</b> Sing the "ABC" song.	<b>Library Day</b> <b>11</b> Read a story and ask your child what his/her favorite part was and why.	<b>12</b> Measure rice with a measuring cup or spoon.	<b>13</b> Draw and cut out circles and triangles.
<b>14</b> Sing your child's favorite song.	<b>Tax Day (Taxes Due)</b> <b>15</b> Use crayons to draw a picture for a parent.	<b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>16</b> Find something blue outside.	<b>17</b> Find some squares in your house.	<b>Library Day</b> <b>18</b> Ask for books about bugs.	<b>19</b> Count the stairs as you climb them in your house.	<b>20</b> Act out a favorite story or song.
<b>21</b> Play a board game or card game with your child.	<b>Passover Begins Earth Day</b> <b>22</b> Have your child count all the doors and windows in your house.	<b>World Book Day Color Tuesday</b> <b>23</b> Find something blue in a book or magazine.	<b>24</b> Have your child invite a friend over to play.	<b>Library Day</b> <b>25</b> Ask for books about trees.	<b>Arbor Day</b> <b>26</b> Take a walk and find small new trees that are growing. Talk about "tall" trees compared to "small" trees.	<b>27</b> Print your name – use a different color for each letter.
<b>28</b> Count from 0 to 10.	<b>29</b> Have your child draw a picture. Let him/her tell you about it.	<b>Last Day of Passover Color Tuesday</b> <b>30</b> Cut out pictures that are blue from magazines and glue them on paper.	<b>Week of the Young Child: April 6-12</b>  <b>Visit EPEL website for Week of the Young Child activities at <a href="http://www.elginpartnership.org">www.elginpartnership.org</a></b>			

# Enjoy the sounds of language

## Read rhymes with your child.

- Read Mother Goose Rhymes with your child. Encourage your child to listen and complete the sentence with the rhyming word such as, "Hickory, Dickory, Dock. The mouse ran up the (clock)."
- Read books with rhyming words like *Jeep in a Sheep*, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* and *Wocket in My Pocket*.

Remember that children grow and develop at different rates, but you may be surprised to see how your child has progressed in the past few months.



## Parent and Teacher Corner

- Children need to hear books with rhyming words to develop their language.
- Read books with predictable endings to the sentences.
- Did you know you can check out children's CD's from the library?



**How to Teach Your Child Key Reading Skills: Phonological Awareness -Talk, Sing, Rhyme!**  
<http://bit.ly/2Ffm4Vc>

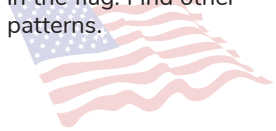
## Play with rhyming sounds

- Play a game of naming rhyming words. (Silly, Billy, Sock, Rock)
- Silly, nonsense words count, too.
- Sing, dance, and listen to songs with your children that have rhyming words.



## Recommended Books

- The Yellow Áo Dài** by Hanh Bui
- Lola's Nana-Bibi Comes to Visit** by Anna McQuinn
- How We Say I Love You** by Nicole Chen
- The World and Everything in It** by Kevin Henkes
- The Bears Shared** by Kim Norman
- It Is Time: The Life of a Caterpillar** by Lizzy Rockwell
- You Are a Honey Bee!** by Laurie Ann Thompson
- Everything a Drum** by Sarah Warren

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Asian Pacific American Heritage Month</b>			<b>May Day</b> <b>Children's Book Week</b> <b>May 2 - May 8</b> Make a parade with your stuffed animals. Count how many animals in the parade.	<b>Library Day</b> Share a nursery rhyme with your child.	Talk about summer plans.	Help your child get the mail. Count the pieces together.
<b>Orthodox Easter</b> <b>Cinco de Mayo</b> Make up silly words that rhyme with your child's name.	Find things that begin with the letter "B."	<b>Color Tuesday</b> Find something yellow in your clothes.	Talk about the weather. "April showers bring May flowers." Is it rainy or sunny?	<b>Library Day</b> Ask about summer reading programs.	Make animal noises. Have your child guess the animal.	Sing the "ABC Song."
<b>Mother's Day</b> Take a "rainbow walk." Find all the colors of the rainbow.	Listen to a story, cassette tape or CD with your child.	<b>Color Tuesday</b> Find something yellow outside.	Buy a packet of flower seeds - plant some in a paper cup.	<b>Library Day</b> Read two books today. Have your child tell which is his/her favorite and why.	Take a walk and talk about the different sounds you hear.	<b>Armed Forces Day</b> Draw some flowers. Color them.
Name a letter and have your child find items beginning with that letter.	Write your child's name. Have them trace the letters.	<b>Color Tuesday</b> Find something yellow in a book or magazine.	Cut out shapes and play a matching game.	<b>Library Day</b> Ask a librarian to recommend new children's music.	Visit <b>Festival Park in Elgin</b> and play.	Practice opposites with your child (up/down, in/out, over/under).
Sing songs with rhyming sounds.	<b>Memorial Day</b> Discuss the pattern in the flag. Find other patterns. 	<b>Color Tuesday</b> Find something yellow in the kitchen.	Bake cookies together. Count the number on each tray.	<b>Library Day</b> Register for the children's summer reading program at your library.	Hide an object. Have your child look for it by giving him/her clues.	

# Give your child daily opportunities to use large muscles

Let your child spend time inside and outdoors and have space and freedom to use large muscles. Join your child in active play.

- Have a safe outdoor place for your child to run and play.
- Let your child pedal a tricycle outdoors.
- Take music outside to enjoy and dance to.
- Hang a basketball hoop low enough so your child can successfully “make a basket.”
- Toss bean bags into a basket or a tape circle on the floor.
- Create an obstacle course in your house. Use words like crawl “over” the chair. Slide “under” the table. Slither “through” the door like a snake.



## Parent and Teacher Corner

### What are gross motor skills?

Gross motor skills are the abilities required to control the large muscles of the body for walking, jumping, skipping, and more. Gross motor skills help a child gain strength and confidence in his/her body. It also helps them get exercise and physical activity.

### What are fine motor skills?

Fine motor skills are the abilities required to control the small muscles in the body to develop skills like coloring with a crayon, writing with a pencil, or cutting with scissors.

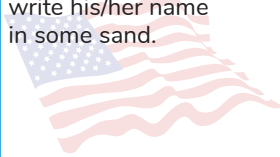
If you have concerns about your child's gross or fine motor skills, you can contact the Early Learners Department in your school district for a screening.



The Difference Between Fine and Gross Motor Skills  
<http://bit.ly/2K6ljvz>

## Recommended Books

- My Dad Is a Tree** by Jon Agee
- If You Were a City** by Kyo Maclear
- Whose Feet?** by Sam Williams
- Finding Papa** by Angela Pham Krans
- We Belong to the Drum** by Sandra Lamouche
- SNAP!** by Anna Walker
- The Fastest Tortoise in Town** by Howard Calvert
- Logan's Greenhouse** by JaNay Brown-Wood

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Remember:</b>  <b>Did you schedule your child's preschool or kindergarten physical, eye and dental exam? Check out pg. 31 for locations to schedule appointments.</b></p>						<p>Find things around the house that are square or circular. <b>1</b></p>
<p>Take a walk and count the flowers you see. <b>2</b></p>	<p>How many clothes can you put on all by yourself? <b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>4</b> Find something black outside.</p>	<p>Walk like a penguin. What other animal is black &amp; white? <b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Library Day</b> <b>6</b> Ask for books about summer fun.</p>	<p>Paint the sidewalk with a paint brush. Add food coloring to the water. <b>7</b></p>	<p>Play "Simon Says." Focus on exercise activities (hopping, bending over, touching toes). <b>8</b></p>
<p>Play catch together and count as you catch the ball. <b>9</b></p>	<p>Make an obstacle course for your bike. <b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>11</b> Find something black in a book or magazine.</p>	<p>Sing "The Ants Go Marching" song. <b>12</b></p>	<p><b>Library Day</b> <b>13</b> Ask for books about cars or trucks.</p>	<p><b>Flag Day</b> <b>14</b> Have your child write his/her name in some sand.</p> 	<p>Have a picnic with your child or play a game outside. <b>15</b></p>
<p><b>Father's Day</b> <b>16</b> Dance together.</p>	<p>Count from 1 to 10 or as high as your child can count. <b>17</b></p>	<p><b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>18</b> Find something black in the kitchen.</p>	<p><b>Juneteenth</b> <b>19</b> Name words that rhyme with "can."</p>	<p><b>First Day of Summer</b> <b>20</b> <b>Library Day</b> Ask for books that have shapes in them.</p>	<p>Visit the park or a beach. <b>21</b></p>	<p>Play a game together such as "Memory" or "Go Fish." <b>22</b></p>
<p>Help your child practice putting their shoes on. <b>23</b></p>	<p>Find things that begin with the letter "T." <b>24</b></p>	<p><b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>25</b> Find something black in your toys.</p>	<p>Go on a scavenger hunt outside and look for things that are the color yellow, green and red. <b>26</b></p>	<p><b>Library Day</b> <b>27</b> Read a book with with your child on a blanket outside under a tree.</p>	<p>Have your child invite a friend over and play a game. <b>28</b></p>	<p>Discuss your family's favorite food. <b>29</b></p>
<p>Plan a picnic and go to the park or outside to eat lunch on a blanket. <b>30</b></p>						

# Introduce your child to numbers and counting

## Use number words and point out written numerals as you and your child do things together.

- "I need you to put 3 forks and 3 plates on the table."
- "Pick out 4 apples and put the apples in the bag."
- "See if you can stack 6 pennies on the table."
- "Can you put 4 blocks in a row?"

## Involve your child in number and counting activities.

- Play "Simon Says." Say to your child, "Simon says clap your hands 5 times." "Simon says take 3 steps forward."
- "Can you show me 4 fingers on your hand?"
- "Can you show me 5 fingers on your hand?" "Take one finger away. How many fingers do you have left?"

## Read, tell stories, sing songs and say rhymes about numbers and counting with your child.

- Read or sing *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed*.
- Sing counting songs such as "This Old Man."



## Recommended Books

- Cooler Than Lemonade** by Harshita Jerath
- Simon and the Better Bone** by Corey R. Tabor
- All Kinds of Special** by Tammi Sauer
- Mister Kitty Is LOST** by Greg Pizzoli
- The Coquíes Still Sing** by Karina Nicole González
- 10 Cats** by Emily Gravett
- Light Speaks** by Christine Layton
- Together We Swim** by Valerie Bolling



## Parent and Teacher Corner

Early math skills are learned through everyday play.

Make learning fun! Talking is teaching!




**The Importance of Early Math**  
<http://bit.ly/2Pmz9Rc>



**Everyday Fun With Measurement**  
<http://bit.ly/2OH059g>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>Sing a favorite song with your child. <b>1</b></p>	<p><b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>2</b> Find something red in your clothes.</p>	<p>Have your child name letters found on cereal boxes, cans, etc. <b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Independence Day</b> <b>4</b> <b>Library Day</b> Draw and decorate a flag.</p> 	<p>What food would you take on a picnic? <b>5</b></p>	<p>Use sidewalk chalk to draw a hopscotch board and count as you hop. <b>6</b></p>
<p>Keep the TV off today. Read books and play games instead. <b>7</b></p>	<p>Sing the "A, B, C" song and stop on a letter and see if your child knows what letter comes next. <b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>9</b> Find all the red fruits and vegetables at the grocery store. Can you name them?</p>	<p>Use family photos to tell different stories. <b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Library Day</b> <b>11</b> Talk with your child. What did you do today?</p>	<p>Use a stick to write numbers in the dirt or sand. <b>12</b></p>	<p>Make a piggy bank out of a coffee can or box and start saving coins. <b>13</b></p>
<p>Pretend to be a statue. How long can you stay still? <b>14</b></p>	<p>Have your child help make his/her favorite sandwich. <b>15</b></p>	<p><b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>16</b> Find something red in a book or magazine.</p>	<p>Put on music and dance and clap to the beat. <b>17</b></p>	<p><b>Library Day</b> <b>18</b> Let your child pick out a DVD the whole family will enjoy.</p>	<p>Using blocks, ask your child to sort by colors. Now create a pattern. <b>19</b></p>	<p>Play "I Spy" with numbers. <b>20</b></p>
<p>Have your child learning their phone number. <b>21</b></p>	<p>Make a touch and feel box with objects from outside. Have your child reach in and guess what he/she touches. <b>22</b></p>	<p><b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>23</b> Find something red in your kitchen.</p>	<p>Count pennies into piles of 1, 2, 3... <b>24</b></p>	<p><b>Library Day</b> <b>25</b> Ride your bike or walk to the library.</p>	<p>Open your piggy bank, sort and count the coins. <b>26</b></p>	<p>Play a counting game like "How many striped or spotted things do you see?" <b>27</b></p>
<p>Ask for music or stories to play in your car. <b>28</b></p>	<p>Practice counting to 10 (or higher)! <b>29</b></p>	<p><b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>30</b> Use the color red marker and add other colors to it, did the color change or stay the same?</p>	<p>Make a grocery list together and go to the store. <b>31</b></p>			

# Make "going to Kindergarten" plans with your child

## Visit your child's school and preview school activities.

Attend your school's family open house, parent night or "meet the teacher day." Here are some things to do when you visit:

- Explore the classroom. Look at the books and materials, find out where the children store backpacks, and hang coats.
- Find out about the daily schedule for your child's class so you can talk about it at home.
- Ask when they have story time, lunch, outdoor play and rest time. Children understanding their schedule helps with transitions.
- Locate the restrooms and water fountains.
- Look for the cafeteria, the playground, principal's office, nurse's office, library, and other special features of the school.



## Parent and Teacher Corner

The first days of school are often tough for both young children and parents. When

you say goodbye, reassure your child that you will see him or her later. Children don't understand time so mention a specific time and a concrete activity, for example "I will pick you up after you have had lunch and gone out to play."

## Practice going to Kindergarten.

- Begin to gather school supplies with your child.
- Play school with your child. Take turns being the teacher. Have story time, sing songs, draw pictures, or play a game.

## Maintain predictable family routines.

- Establish a regular bedtime for your child. American Academy of Pediatrics recommends 10-13 hours of sleep per night for children ages 3-5.
- Be prepared for your morning "before school" times. Getting everyone up and off to school can be hectic. Planning and getting organized the night before can eliminate transition problems for your child and a hassle free morning.
- Designate a place for lunch boxes and backpacks that need to go to school so you aren't scrambling in the morning.



## Recommended Books

- Gibberish** by Young Vo
- Kitty & Cat: Opposites Attract** by Mirka Hakkonen
- I'm Ready for School!** by Stephen Krensky
- Giant Sized Butterflies on My First Day of School** by Justin Roberts
- Shy Robin and the First Day of School** by Jaime Kim
- Sometimes Shy** by Julie Bliven
- Molly's Tuxedo** by Vicki Johnson
- Snake's Big Mistake** by Sarah Kurpiel



**Transitioning to Kindergarten**  
<http://bit.ly/2z54nSQ>



**Helping Your Kindergartener with Separation Anxiety**  
<http://bit.ly/2PTBLFK>

# August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
				<b>Library Day</b> Talk to your child about their new school-day bedtime and wake-up schedule.	<b>1</b> Look for things that begin with "P." Point out the letter "P" in print.	<b>2</b> Plan a party for the 1st day of school.	
<b>4</b> Pretend it is the first day of school. Practice ways to say goodbye with your child.	<b>5</b> Help your child write his/her name and identify each letter.	<b>Color Tuesday</b> Name objects that are the color purple.	<b>6</b> Visit your child's new school and play on the playground.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Library Day</b> Ask for stories about families.	<b>9</b> Practice writing your name with crayons, markers, chalk, and pencils.	<b>10</b> Make up a story for your child.
<b>11</b> Take a picnic lunch to a park.	<b>12</b> Practice taking turns and sharing.	<b>Color Tuesday</b> Find something purple outside.	<b>13</b> Paint on the sidewalk with colored water. Practice your letters.  Practice painting your letters in your name.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Library Day</b> Make a costume out of things you have at home.	<b>16</b> Find words that rhyme with "me."	<b>17</b> Write a letter or draw a picture to a special friend.
<b>18</b> Find your favorite color flower outside and tell someone what color it is.	<b>19</b> Take a walk and talk about the sounds you hear.	<b>Color Tuesday</b> Find something purple in a book or magazine.	<b>20</b> Help set the table. Count the plates, forks, spoons and napkins.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Library Day</b> Ask for books about friendships.	<b>23</b> Practice your phone number and address with your child.	<b>24</b> Help your child draw a picture and give it to someone special.
<b>25</b> Help your child make a list of things that make him/her happy.	<b>26</b> Practice with your child zipping jacket, pulling pants up and down and buttoning. These self-help skills are needed for independence in school.	<b>Color Tuesday</b> Help your child find something purple in their toys.	<b>27</b> Play "Hide & Seek" outside.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Library Day</b> Look for a book about an animal that lives in the ocean.	<b>30</b> Practice bouncing a ball. Count the number of bounces.	<b>31</b> Take a paintbrush and a bowl of water outside to paint shapes, letters or numbers on the sidewalk.

# Help your child learn personal information

Involve your child in learning personal information about him or herself.

- My name is \_\_\_\_\_ (includes child's first and last name.)
- My mother's name is \_\_\_\_\_
- My father's name is \_\_\_\_\_
- My address is \_\_\_\_\_
- My phone number is \_\_\_\_\_



## Parent and Teacher Corner

- Learning personal information is one of the most important lessons you can teach your child in case they get lost or accidentally separated from you.
- Ask your child questions in different ways. In an emergency, your child may be asked, "What is your address?" "Where do you live?" "What is your full name?" The variety of questions will help your child know what to expect.
- When asking about an address you might ask it in different ways. "What is your address?" The next day, I would ask, "Where do you live?"



**Teach Kids to Get Found When They're Lost**  
<http://bit.ly/2QGaaVQ>



## Recommended Books

- Wutaryoo** by Nilah Magruder
- I'm a Unicorn** by Helen Yoon
- Mariana and Her Familia** by Monica Mancillas
- Plátanos Are Love** by Alyssa Reynoso-Morris
- Wallflowers** by Mackenzie Joy
- Together with You** by Patricia Toht
- Just Like Grandma** by Kim Rogers
- Pa, Me, and Our Sidewalk Pantry** by Toni Buzzeo

# September



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Take your calendar and help your child look for family members birthdays.</p> <p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>Labor Day</b> Have your child retell a story or event in order (first, middle, last).</p> <p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Color Tuesday</b> Find something silver or gray in the kitchen.</p> <p><b>3</b></p>	<p>Draw a picture of your family and have your child say the first and last name of each member.</p> <p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Library Day</b> Check out new books at the library about fall.</p> <p><b>5</b></p>	<p>Go outside. Find rocks to make the first letter of your name.</p> <p><b>6</b></p>	<p>Make a list of things that start with the letters of your child's first name.</p> <p><b>7</b></p>
<p><b>Grandparents' Day</b> Call someone on the phone to say, "I love you."  Learning the numbers on the phone helps with needed math skills too!</p> <p><b>8</b></p>	<p>Help clean up the yard or at a park.</p> <p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Color Tuesday</b> Find something silver or gray in a book or magazine.</p> <p><b>10</b></p>	<p>Go outside to play or swing.</p> <p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>Library Day</b> Make a smiley face using fruits and vegetables.</p> <p><b>12</b></p>	<p>Read and talk about people from other cultures.</p> <p><b>13</b></p>	<p>Try a new food to eat. Was it sweet, salty, sour? How did it feel in your mouth?</p> <p><b>14</b></p>
<p>Find something to stack – how high can you build it?</p> <p><b>15</b></p>	<p>Practice your phone number and address.</p> <p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>Color Tuesday</b> Draw a picture using silver or gray crayons.</p> <p><b>17</b></p>	<p>Make a collage with leaves.</p> <p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>Library Day</b> Pick 2 books to read today.</p> <p><b>19</b></p>	<p>Find something in your pantry. Make it together for dinner.</p> <p><b>20</b></p>	<p>Find 10 circular objects in your home.</p> <p><b>21</b></p>
<p><b>First Day of Autumn</b> Practice naming opposites.</p> <p><b>22</b></p>	<p>Wear the same color clothes as your child.</p> <p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>Color Tuesday</b> Find something silver or gray in your toys.</p> <p><b>24</b></p>	<p>Find things that begin with the letter "F."</p> <p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>Library Day</b> Sing the nursery rhyme "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."</p> <p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>Native American Day</b> Make a list of all your friends names.</p> <p><b>27</b></p>	<p>Help your child practice writing his/her first and last name.</p> <p><b>28</b></p>
<p>Take a walk and count the trees. Talk with your child about what animals live in trees.</p> <p><b>29</b></p>	<p>Buy sandpaper and cut out the letters of your child's name. Let him/her feel and talk about the texture.</p> <p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>Hispanic Heritage Month</b> <b>September 15 - October 15</b> Check out the activities in your community to celebrate your heritage.</p>				

# Invite your child to think and solve problems

## Ask questions:

- “Wow that is a tall tower! How many blocks did you use to build that structure? 1, 2, 3, 4. You used four blocks to make that tower.”
- “Do you have your raincoat and umbrella today? How does the raincoat protect you when it is cold and raining?”
- “I noticed how you drew a triangle on top of the square to make a structure with a roof. How are those two shapes different?”
- “I wonder if we can build a tower out of marshmallows or sticks.”
- “What would happen if it started raining on our walk to school?”
- “I wonder why the leaves are turning yellow and brown?”

## Play pattern games with your child.

- Create a movement pattern and ask your child to repeat it.  
For example: -step-step-jump, step-step-jump (take 2 steps forward, then jump)
- Start a pattern using objects and ask your child to, “Make a pattern just like this one.” For example: fork, spoon, fork, spoon

## Provide opportunities to experience and resolve challenges cooperatively.

- Give your child lots of time to play with other children. Encourage activities that involve sharing such as books, blocks, crayons, playdough, and dress-up clothes.

## Provide opportunities that encourage thinking and problem solving.

- Work on a puzzle together.
- Play with playdough.
- Measure and pour water or sand.
- Build with LEGO's or any blocks to compare sizes, shapes and colors.



## Parent and Teacher Corner

Following directions is an important skill for being successful in Kindergarten. Give your child opportunities

to be in activities where he/she is asked to listen and follow directions for short periods of time like story times. Prior to an activity, talk to your child about the expectations. This helps your child transition easier. After the activity, talk about what he/she enjoyed and praise him/her for sitting, listening and/or participating in the proper manner. “I liked how you sat and listened to the story. You were a good example for other children to understand how to listen with your whole body.”

“Learning to follow directions can be a challenge for young children. This video contains tips for teaching young children to listen and follow directions.”  
- Sixty Second Parent




**Following Directions**  
<http://bit.ly/2K6Jrzj>

## Recommended Books

- The Skull** by Jon Klassen
- Luminous: Living Things That Light Up the Night** by Julia Kuo
- The Worst Teddy EVER** by Marcelo Verdad
- Night in the City** by Julie Downing
- My Powerful Hair** by Carole Lindstrom
- Magic: Once Upon a Faraway Land** by Mirelle Ortega
- Problem Solved!** by Jan Thomas
- Pumpkin Day at the Zoo** by Susan Meissner

# October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>1</b> What foods can you think of that are orange?	<b>Rosh Hashanah</b> <b>2</b> Find things around the house that begin with the letter "T."	<b>Library Day</b> <b>3</b> Ask for books about a favorite animal.	Take your child for a walk and collect different kinds of leaves. <b>4</b>	Find something that rhymes with the word, "sat". <b>5</b>
<b>Fire Prevention Week</b> <b>6</b> Go outside and ask your child to repeat patterns: step-step-jump; hop-clap-hop.	Count groups of ten using cereal like Cheerios or beans. <b>7</b>	<b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>8</b> Find something orange in your clothes.	Make up a story about a stuffed animal or puppet. <b>9</b>	<b>Library Day</b> <b>10</b> Carve a pumpkin with an adult.	<b>Yom Kippur</b> <b>11</b> Sing the song "If You're Happy and You Know It."	Take a walk at around sunset and talk about what your child observes that is different. <b>12</b>
Talk about fall and make a picture of a tree. <b>13</b>	<b>Columbus Day</b> <b>14</b>  <b>Indigenous Peoples' Day</b>  Read a story to your child. Point to each word as you read.	<b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>15</b> Find something orange outside.	Find things that begin with the letter "S." <b>16</b>	<b>Library Day</b> <b>17</b> As you select fruits and vegetables at the store have your child name the colors.	Give your child a newspaper or magazine and have him/her highlight each "s" they find. <b>18</b>	Let your child draw on the sidewalk with chalk. <b>19</b>
Find something at home to make a costume. <b>20</b>	Make no-cook play-dough together. Find easy recipes at:  <a href="http://www.littlebinsforlittlehands.com">www.littlebinsforlittlehands.com</a>	<b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>22</b> Find something orange in a book or magazine.	Make a card for a friend. Deliver the special card! <b>23</b>	<b>Library Day</b> <b>24</b> Ask the librarian to share one of his/her favorites.	Visit a new park today. Have your child name objects on the playground. <b>25</b>	Invite a friend over to play outdoors. <b>26</b>
Find items that begin with the same letter. <b>27</b>	Have your child match socks as you fold laundry. <b>28</b>	<b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>29</b> Find something orange in the kitchen.	Find things around your house to make a funny costume. <b>30</b>	<b>Halloween</b> <b>31</b>  <b>Library Day</b> Sort candy by colors, shapes, size or kind.	<b>Remember to change the batteries in the fire and smoke detectors.</b> 	

# Help your child become aware of letters and words at home and in the community

## Encourage your child to "read" environmental print.

- Give your child printed materials such as magazines, grocery store ads, and menus from your favorite restaurants to play with.
- Invite your child to "read" road and business signs as you drive.

## Give your child opportunities to recognize and name letters of the alphabet.

- Encourage your child to find letters in his or her name in signs that you see.
- Read alphabet books and allow him or her to name the letters he or she recognizes.



## Parent and Teacher Corner

Print awareness is a necessary skill children need to begin to learn to read. To recognize letters and understand that each letter has a meaning will help your child begin to understand how words are formed. You can build print awareness skills at home or school by reading books, and making letters, words, and print a part of every day.



**Becoming Aware of Print**  
<http://bit.ly/2JZue2M>



**The Importance of Reading Aloud: Tips for Reading to Children**  
<http://bit.ly/2DBBZLU>

## Help your child recognize his or her own first name in print.

- Say each letter in your child's name out loud when you write his or her name.
- Put alphabet letter magnets from your child's name on the refrigerator to play with. Children learn through PLAY!
- Encourage your child to spell his or her name by placing the magnets in the correct order.
- Place the alphabet letter magnets in a bag and pull out a letter one at a time and name them.

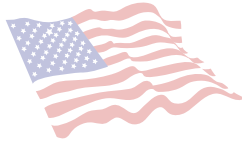



## Recommended Books

- It's Fall!** by Renée Kurilla
- Bear Helps the Forest (Maybe You Help, Too)** by Karen Lynn Williams
- Mina Belongs Here** by Sandra Niebuhr-Siebert
- WOO HOO! YOU'RE DOING GREAT!** by Sandra Boynton
- Bubbie & Rivka's Best Ever Challah (So Far!)** by Sarag Lynne Reul
- This Is Not a Unicorn** by Barry Timms
- There's Always Room for One More** by Robyn McGrath
- Cindy and Panda** by Benson Shum



# November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Help your child build his/her name using magnetic letters. <b>1</b>	Put a leaf under a sheet of paper and rub your crayon over it. <b>2</b>
<b>Daylight Savings Time ends</b> <b>3</b> Change your clocks back one hour.	Name four things that rhyme with "pig." <b>4</b>	<b>Election Day VOTE!</b> <b>5</b> 	Count the number of days on the calendar until Thanksgiving. <b>6</b>	<b>Library Day</b> <b>7</b> Ask for a Thanksgiving book.	Practice the "ABC" song. <b>8</b>	Find things that begin with the letter "T." <b>9</b>
Sing a favorite song together. <b>10</b>	<b>Veterans Day</b> <b>11</b> Look for flags in your neighborhood. 	<b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>12</b> Find something brown in a book or magazine.	Make a decoration for Thanksgiving. <b>13</b>	<b>Library Day</b> <b>14</b> Ask for books about food or cooking.	Pretend to be a bear – talk about what sounds they make, what color they are, what they eat. <b>15</b>	Trace your hands to make turkeys. Color the tail feathers. <b>16</b>
Help your child make a list of the things he/she is thankful for. <b>17</b>	Take your child to the grocery store and talk about the colors and shapes of food and recognize the letters on cans and boxes. <b>18</b>	<b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>19</b> Find something brown in the kitchen.	Count how many chairs are in the house. <b>20</b>	<b>Library Day</b> <b>21</b> Make a list of your favorite foods or toys.	Help your child make a list of all the things that he/she can do "all by myself." <b>22</b>	Enjoy a family movie night – have hot chocolate & cookies. <b>23</b>
Line up all your cars/trucks. Use a ruler to measure the line. <b>24</b>	Help your child practice putting on his/her winter coat. Try the flip-coat trick method (ask Google). <b>25</b>	<b>Color Tuesday</b> <b>26</b> Play I Spy something brown at home.	Exercise with your child. Count the number of arm circles or hops. <b>27</b>	<b>Thanksgiving</b> <b>28</b> Talk about the colors and taste of the yummy foods.	Have your child write and decorate his or her name and display it on his or her bedroom door. <b>29</b>	Play a game that involves taking turns. <b>30</b>

# Make math a “hands on” learning experience for your child

Use recycled materials such as small boxes, paper towel tubes, and bottle tops to involve your child in addition and subtraction and “more” or “less” activities.

- Pretend you are a zookeeper. Put 3 animals in one cage and 5 animals in another. Say to your child, “Show me the cage that has more animals.”
- Add variety to math games. Use paper towel tubes as tunnels for the counting bears and small boxes as garages for cars.
- Ask your child, “How many forks, napkins, and spoons do we need to make sure each person gets one?”

## Explore Measurement

- Measure with straws, sticks, shoes, paperclips.
- Ask your child, “Are you taller or shorter than your siblings?”
- Help your child measure your foot and then measure his or hers.
- Use words like smallest to largest, shortest to tallest, lightest to heaviest.

Include addition and subtraction words as you talk with your child.

- Make a recipe with your child. Use math words like first, second, and third to describe the steps.
- Talk about measurements as you use measuring cups and spoons.
- Ask your child, “You have 5 crackers and I have 3. Do you have more crackers or fewer crackers than I do?”
- Ask your child, “You put 4 crayons in a box. Now add 2 more. How many crayons are in the box?”

Tell stories and read books that include math ideas, and books in which characters are added or subtracted as the story progresses.

- Read number books such as *Five Little Ducks*. As a duck goes away, ask your child how many ducks are left.



## Parent and Teacher Corner

The best time to introduce math concepts to your children is between birth and five years old.

The home and classroom are full of opportunities to integrate math into children's routines. Engage in play activities that involve games, songs, and books that are already part of their day.




Everyday Fun With  
Addition and Subtraction  
<http://bit.ly/2OGh8by>

## Recommended Books

- Cinderella with Dogs** by Linda Baily
- Beneath** by Cori Doerrfeld
- Mama Shamsi at the Bazaar** by Mojdeh Hassani & Samira Iravani
- Weather Together** by Jessie Sima
- The Train Home** by Dan-ah Kim
- Ways to Play** by Lyn Miller-Lackmann
- The Carpet: An Afghan Family Story** by Dezh Azaad
- Mariana and Her Familia** by Mónica Mancillas

# December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Play music, have child "freeze" when you stop the music. <b>1</b>	Have your child name letters found on cereal boxes, cans, etc. <b>2</b>	<b>Color Tuesday</b> When riding in a car see if you can spy something out the window that is gold. <b>3</b>	Use socks or paper bags to make puppets and have a puppet show with your child. <b>4</b>	<b>Library Day</b> Help your child write or draw. <b>5</b>	Bake cookies together and decorate. Cooking is a great time to build math skills like counting, measuring and recognizing numbers. <b>6</b>	Build a fort with blankets, sheets, or pillows. <b>7</b>
Sing and act out "Hickory Dickory Dock." <b>8</b>	Help your child write or draw a letter to someone special. <b>9</b>	<b>Color Tuesday</b> Find something gold in a book or magazine. <b>10</b>	Draw a star and decorate it. <b>11</b>	<b>Library Day</b> Check out books about kindness. <b>12</b>	Sing a favorite holiday song. <b>13</b>	Have your child help you make pizza for dinner. <b>14</b>
Sing "Frosty the Snowman" and hope for snow. <b>15</b>	Name two words that rhyme with "snow". <b>16</b>	<b>Color Tuesday</b> Find something gold in the kitchen. <b>17</b>	Have your child help you draw a red and white candy cane. Talk about patterns found on a candy cane. <b>18</b>	<b>Library Day</b> Have your child help you cut wrapping paper for presents. <b>19</b>	Go on a family car ride/walk and talk about the holiday lights you see. <b>20</b>	<b>First Day of Winter</b> Make a snowman with 1 hat, 2 eyes, 3 snowballs, on paper or outside! <b>21</b>
Take a ride in the car at night and look for different color lights. Which are your favorite and why? <b>22</b>	Give your child a household job like setting the table or helping you prepare a meal. <b>23</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>Color Tuesday</b> Find something gold in your toys. <b>24</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b> <b>Hanukkah Begins</b>  <b>25</b>	<b>Kwanzaa Begins</b> <b>Library Day</b> Talk about your favorite memory/thing that happened this year. <b>26</b>	Pretend you are rowing a boat – count as you row. <b>27</b>	Draw a picture of your family. <b>28</b>
Count up to 20 and back down to 0 with your child. <b>29</b>	Talk about what you're excited about for next year. <b>30</b>	<b>New Year's Eve</b> <b>Color Tuesday</b> Decorate party hats to celebrate. <b>31</b>				

# Get Ready for School







PARENTS GET YOUR  
3-5 YEAR OLD  
CHILDREN READY  
FOR KINDERGARTEN!




## LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT:

- Speaks in Complete Sentences 
- Recognizes some LETTERS of ALPHABET
- RECOGNIZES LETTERS in NAME, signs or logos
- Identifies and attempts to WRITE FIRST NAME 


## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT: Fine & Gross Motor Skills

- Throws a BALL, CLIMBS & RUNS 
- Uses a PENCIL, CRAYON, SCISSORS 
- Completes a SIMPLE PUZZLE 
- Looks at PICTURES and TELLS STORY
- Expresses FEELINGS with WORDS
- Says FULL NAME 
- COLORS AND DRAWS beyond a simple scribble 
- Uses alternate feet walking downstairs 

## MATH SKILLS:

- Recognizes BASIC SHAPES and COLORS 
- COUNT OBJECTS up to 10 
- KNOWS AGE

## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Puts toys and materials away 
- Takes TURNS and SHARES 
- LISTENS and FOLLOWS 2-3 step DIRECTIONS
- SITS and LISTENS to a story 
- ASKS for HELP I NEED
- FASTENS pants, PUTS on and ZIPS jacket, able to DRESS independently 
- Uses TOILET MYSELF
- Pretends to READ a BOOK 

All Children Grow and Develop at their own Pace.

Starting at Birth, Use the FIRST 2,000 DAYS to Get Your Child Ready for School.



# Early Care & Education Registration



High-quality early child care experiences increase children's readiness for school. Scan the QR codes below to learn more about available programs for your children.

## Child Care Assistance Program

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) helps you fund child care so you can go to work or school.

CCAP makes it possible for families and guardians who qualify to receive financial help.



## Birth-Two Year Old

Free parent support programs.

Specially trained early childhood educators walk families through child development stages and prepare them for preschool. The program provides access and resources to support the needs of families with young children.



## Three-Five Year Old

Children ages 3-5 are eligible for half and full day preschool programs.

Preschool options: park district, church programs, child care centers, Head Start and school district programs.



## Kindergarten

All parents/legal guardians of children who will be five years of age on or before September 1, 2024 are eligible to register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration begins in February for the 2024-2025 school year.

Go to your school district kindergarten page for more information and registration details.



Visit the EPEL website to learn more about full day early care and education opportunities and after-school programs in the community.



[www.elginpartnership.org](http://www.elginpartnership.org)  
Call 844-KID-INFO (844-543-4636) for help



# Local Libraries

Library storytimes boost language skills and reading readiness through stories, songs, fingerplays, and rhymes.

Look for your library's storytime schedule on their website or give them a call.



## Gail Borden Public Library

[www.gailborden.info](http://www.gailborden.info)

### Main Location

270 N. Grove Ave.  
Elgin, IL 60120  
847-742-2411

### Rakow Branch

2751 W. Bowes Rd.  
Elgin, IL 60124  
847-531-7271

### South Elgin Branch

127 S. McLean Blvd.  
South Elgin, IL 60177  
847-931-2090

## Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library

[www.ellajohnsonlibrary.org](http://www.ellajohnsonlibrary.org)

109 S. State Street  
Hampshire, IL 60140  
847-683-4490



 **Gail Borden**  
Public Library District

## Algonquin Area Public Library

[www.aapld.org](http://www.aapld.org)

### Main Library

2600 Harnish Drive  
Algonquin, IL 60102  
847-458-6060

### Branch Library

115 Eastgate Drive  
Algonquin, IL 60102  
847-658-4343

## Fox River Valley Public Library

[www.frvpld.info](http://www.frvpld.info)

### Dundee Library

555 Barrington Avenue  
East Dundee, IL 60118  
847-428-3661

### Randall Oaks Library

500 N. Randall Road  
West Dundee, IL 60118  
847-428-3661

## Bartlett Public Library

[www.bartlettlibrary.org](http://www.bartlettlibrary.org)

800 S. Bartlett Road  
Bartlett, IL 60103  
630-837-2855

## Poplar Creek Public Library

[www.pclib.org](http://www.pclib.org)

### Main Library

1405 S. Park Avenue  
Streamwood, IL 60107  
630-837-6800

### Sonya Crawshaw Branch

4300 Audrey Lane  
Hanover Park, IL 60133  
630-837-6800

## St. Charles Public Library

[www.scpld.org](http://www.scpld.org)

1 South Sixth Avenue  
St. Charles, IL 60174  
630-584-0076

# Community Agencies



## School physical, eye, and dental exams

### Aunt Martha's Carpentersville Community Health Center

Provides medical, dental and mental health services for children and adults. Health care services include: sick care, routine check-ups for well children, lead and health screenings, immunizations, school and sports physicals, serving both insured and uninsured individuals.

» [www.auntmarthas.org](http://www.auntmarthas.org)

» 3003 Wakefield Drive  
Carpentersville, IL 60110  
(847) 851-8600

### Familia Dental

Provides dental care for children and adults. All Medicaid plans accepted.

» [www.familiadental.com](http://www.familiadental.com)

» 47 Clock Tower Plaza  
Elgin, IL 60120  
(847) 695-8780

### Greater Family Health

Provides quality, affordable, health care services including pediatrics, family practice, psychiatry, WIC, obstetrics/gynecology, dental care and health care benefits enrollment. School-based services are also provided at numerous area schools.

» [www.greaterfamilyhealth.org](http://www.greaterfamilyhealth.org)

» **Summit Health Center**

373 Summit Street  
Elgin IL 60120  
(847) 608-1344

» **Seneca Health Center**

450 Dundee Avenue  
Elgin IL 60120  
(847) 608-1344

» **Streamwood Community Health Center**

135 E. Irving Park Road  
Streamwood, IL 60107  
(630) 313-5300

» **Greater Family Health**

1515 E Lake Street  
Suite 202  
Hanover Park, IL 60133

### VNA Health Care Center

Provides quality health care services to everyone. Accepts Medicaid/All Kids, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Harmony and most PPOs.

» [www.vnahealth.org](http://www.vnahealth.org)

» 620 Wing Street  
Elgin, IL 60123  
(847) 717-6455

» 801 Villa Street  
Elgin, IL 60120  
(847) 717-6455

### Well Child Center

Provides dental services to youth between the ages of 1 and 18 years old who are either underinsured or uninsured, promoting good oral and preventive healthcare as a way of life.

» [www.wellchildcenter.org](http://www.wellchildcenter.org)

» 620 Wing Street  
Elgin, IL 60123  
(847) 741-7370

### Quality Eye Care Clinic

Provides eye examinations for all family members including infants and kids of all ages.

» [www.qualityeyeclinic.com](http://www.qualityeyeclinic.com)

» 502 Waverly Drive  
Elgin, IL 60120  
(847) 697-7771.

## Developmental Screenings

All children develop in unique ways and at different rates. Screenings are a fun and comfortable way to learn how a child is developing, and to address developmental questions parents and caregivers may have. Call your local school district to learn more about developmental screenings in your area.

### School District U-46

For developmental screenings.

» [www.u-46.org/earlylearners](http://www.u-46.org/earlylearners)

» (847) 888-5000 X 6094

### Central CUSD 301

Provides screenings for developmental delays for children ages 3-5.

» [www.central301.net/early-childhood/](http://www.central301.net/early-childhood/)

» 275 South St.  
P.O. Box 396  
Burlington, IL 60109  
(847) 464-6005

### St. Charles CUSD 303

» [www.foxridge.d303.org](http://www.foxridge.d303.org)

» Fox Ridge School  
1905 Tyler Road  
St. Charles, IL 60174  
(331) 228-4834

## Food Resources

### Food for Greater Elgin

Choice food pantry for Elgin, South Elgin, and Dundee Families

» [www.foodforgreaterelgin.org](http://www.foodforgreaterelgin.org)

» 1553 Commerce Dr.  
Elgin 60123  
(847) 931-9330

### DayOne PACT - Child & Family Connections

Early Interventions provides services for children under the age of 3 with developmental delays.

» [www.dayonepact.org](http://www.dayonepact.org)

» 1551 E. Fabyan Pkwy.  
Geneva, IL 60134  
(630) 879-2277  
Toll Free (888) 282-0997

### Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley

Provides services to help children and adults with disabilities and/or special needs as well as support to their families.

» [easterseals.com/dfv](http://easterseals.com/dfv)

» 1135 Bowes Rd., Suite B  
Elgin, IL 60123  
(847) 742-3264

### Centro de información

Provide services for immigrants and refugees, immigration and naturalization services, emergency food, educational classes, and more to Kane and northwest Cook County suburbs.

» [www.centrodeinformacion.org](http://www.centrodeinformacion.org)

» 1885 Lin Lor Ln  
Elgin, IL 60123  
(847) 695-9050

# Discover the Path of Early Learning

Children learn best through experiences in the community. Visits to the grocery store, laundromat, bank, library, park, doctor's offices and car/bus rides are opportunities for your child to learn. Talking, playing, reading and singing with your child builds the brain preparing them for school and life.

**Here are a few free activities to participate in:**

## Born Learning Trail

Born Learning Trail is a series of learning activities that any adult can play with young children outdoors in nature's classroom. There are 10 early learning signs, that include activities that encourage caregivers to spur the child's imagination and storytelling skills. The activities build letter and sound recognition through word play and rhymes.



**Did you know that 85-90% of your child's brain is full grown by the age of five?**

## Born Learning Trail Locations:

- » **Channing Park**  
35 Rugby Trail, Elgin
- » **Copper Springs Park**  
380 Copper Springs Lane, Elgin
- » **Illinois Park School**  
1350 Wing Street, Elgin
- » **Willard Elementary School**  
370 W Spring Street, South Elgin



## Early Learning Laundromats

Laundromats offer books and learning opportunities while caregivers do everyday chores.

- » **Blue Kangaroo Laundry**  
464 Summit St, Elgin, IL
- » **Everything Clean Laundry**  
145 S Randall Rd, Elgin
- » **JetXpress Laundry**  
425 Dundee Avenue, Elgin

## Move, Play and Talk Signs

Visit Festival Park, 132 S. Grove Street in downtown Elgin to build readiness skills while Learning Through Play.

**Visit your local library for story time and early learning fun activities!**

<b>Gail Borden Public Library</b>	<b>St. Charles Public Library</b>	<b>Poplar Creek Public Library</b>	<b>Bartlett Public Library</b>	<b>Ella Johnson Public Library</b>



## Elgin Partnership for Early Learning (EPEL)

You will find:

- » Community Resources
- » Connections to early care and education programs
- » Parent/Caregiver Resources

[www.elginpartnership.org](http://www.elginpartnership.org)

**1-844-KID-INFO**

**1-844-543-4636**



**Free  
Community  
Playgroups**



# Children and Technology

## From the Experts:

### Children Younger Than 18 Months:

Digital media (computers, tablets, & TV) should be limited to video chatting only (FaceTime, Skype).

### Children Ages 18-24 Months:

Digital media introduced should be high quality and it should be viewed with a parent or caregiver.

### Children Ages 2-5 Years:

Digital media should be high quality, co-viewed, and limited to 1 hour a day.



## Tips & Tricks

### You are the bridge between the digital and physical world.

Ask questions! Point to pictures, talk about colors and shapes, and sing!

### Create a Technology Plan.

Designate screen-free zones, screen-free times, and place device curfews.

### Be your child's technology mentor!

Technology is great when used appropriately. Be a model by reading together, viewing together, and engaging together in any media.

## Websites

### Moms with Apps:

[www.momswithapps.com](http://www.momswithapps.com)

### Common Sense Media:

[www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org)

### American Academy of Pediatrics:

[www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)

### How to Make a Family Media Use Plan:

[www.healthychildren.org](http://www.healthychildren.org)

### Child Mind Institute:

[www.childmind.org/article/media-guidelines-for-kids-of-all-ages/](http://www.childmind.org/article/media-guidelines-for-kids-of-all-ages/)

## Recommended Free Apps



PBS Parents Play & Learn



Doodle Buddy



Animal Antics



Endless Alphabet



Endless Numbers



Toca Tailor Fairy Tales



Small Wonders for Families



Finger Paint With Sounds

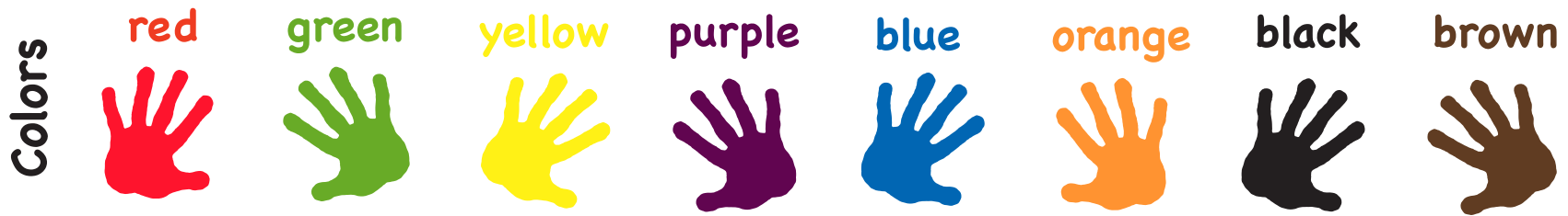


Khan Academy Kids



MiniMath by Bedtime Math

# Ready for Kindergarten Skills



## Alphabet Linking Chart

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

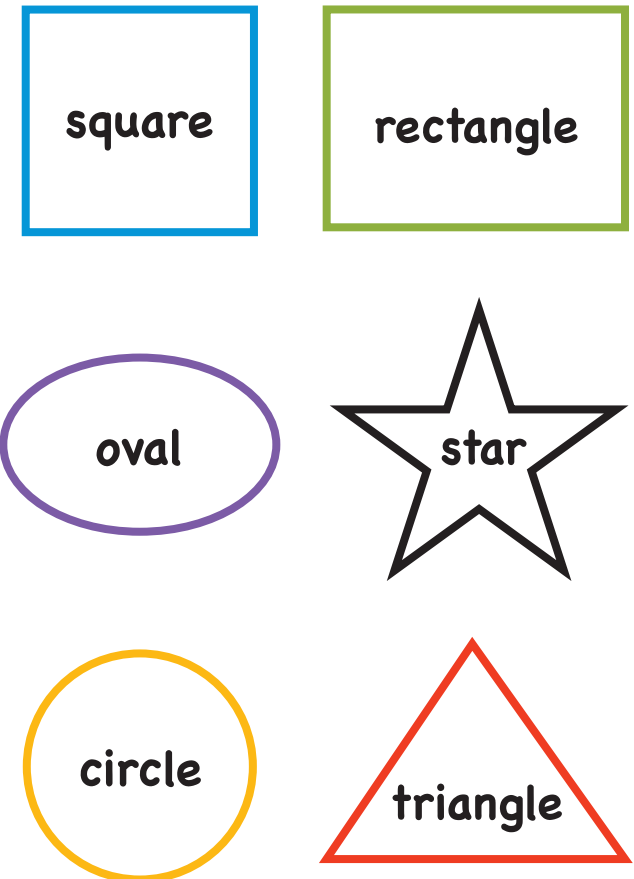
<b>Aa</b> apple acorn	<b>Bb</b> bear	<b>Cc</b> cat celery	<b>Dd</b> dog
<b>Ee</b> egg eagle	<b>Ff</b> fish	<b>Gg</b> goat giraffe	<b>Hh</b> hat
<b>Ii</b> iguana ice	<b>Jj</b> jar	<b>Kk</b> kite	<b>Ll</b> leaf
<b>Mm</b> mouse	<b>Nn</b> nest	<b>Oo</b> octopus ocean	<b>Pp</b> pig
<b>Qq</b> queen	<b>Rr</b> ring	<b>Ss</b> socks	<b>Tt</b> turtle
<b>Uu</b> umbrella unicorn	<b>Vv</b> violin	<b>Ww</b> window	<b>Xx</b> x-ray
<b>Yy</b> yarn	<b>Zz</b> zebra		

## Numbers

www.worksheetfun.com

<b>1</b> One	<b>2</b> Two	<b>3</b> Three
<b>4</b> Four	<b>5</b> Five	<b>6</b> Six
<b>7</b> Seven	<b>8</b> Eight	
<b>9</b> Nine	<b>10</b> Ten	

## Shapes



# You Are Your Child's First and Best Teacher

Children learn best through the experiences you provide and interactions within the community.

Here are some recipes you can make at home with your child. Talk to your child while you make the recipe as they are all learning opportunities.

## Homemade Playdough

### Ingredients Needed:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup salt
- 4 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 2 cups water
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- Food coloring (liquid or gel) in your choice of colors

**Directions:** Let your child help you measure, count, stir and learn!

1. In a medium pot, stir together flour, salt, and cream of tartar.
2. In another bowl, mix water, vegetable oil, and a few drops of food coloring.
3. Pour the liquid mixture into the pot with the dry ingredients and stir well to combine.
4. Place the pot over low to medium heat and continue stirring constantly. The mixture will start to thicken and eventually form a dough-like consistency.
5. When the dough pulls away from the sides of the pot and clumps together, remove it from the heat.
6. Let the playdough cool for a couple of minutes, then knead it on a clean, flat surface until it becomes smooth. Be careful, as it may still be warm.
7. Once the playdough is cooled and ready, store it in an airtight container or a plastic bag to prevent it from drying out.

This playdough is safe, non-toxic, and can provide hours of fun for children. Strengthens hands for writing and cutting, use cookie cutters, roll in shapes, numbers, letters and even cut the playdough with safety scissors.



## Homemade Bubbles

Making homemade bubbles is a fun and easy activity.

### Ingredients Needed:

- 4 cups of warm water
- 1/2 cup of Dawn dish soap
- 1/2 cup of sugar, corn syrup or glycerin

### Directions:

1. Combine the water, sugar or corn syrup or glycerin and dish soap.
2. Gently stir the mixture to mix the water and soap together. Be careful not to create too many bubbles during this step.
3. Let the bubble solution sit for about an hour before using it. This allows the solution to settle.
4. After it has rested, you can use the bubble solution with various bubble wands.

**No bubble wands? No problem...make your own!**

**Plastic cup:** Punch a hole in a paper cup. Dip the large end in solution and blow through hole.

**Pipe cleaners:** Create the shape you like but leave an end to hold. Dip in bubbles and blow.

**Drinking Straw:** Use a straw and blow the bubbles in the cup.

**HINT:** Sit the cup on a cookie sheet to contain the bubbles.

## Sidewalk Chalk Paint

Sidewalk chalk paint is a fun and creative way for kids to express themselves on sidewalks and driveways.

### Ingredients Needed:

- 1 cup cornstarch
- 1 cup water
- Liquid food coloring in various colors
- Plastic cups or bowls
- Paint brush

### Directions:

1. Add cornstarch to water.
2. Stir well until the mixture is smooth and free of lumps.
3. Divide into smaller containers or bowls, one for each color of chalk paint you want to create.
4. Add a few drops of food coloring to each container and mix until well blended.
5. When sidewalk chalk paint is ready, use paintbrushes or foam brushes on sidewalk or driveway.
6. Let the chalk paint dry, which may take a few hours.
7. To clean up, wash away the paint with water or wait for it to rain.

**HINT:** This sidewalk chalk is washable and a great outdoor activity. Kids can have fun creating colorful designs, drawing shapes, letters, numbers or art.



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