

Readiness Activities

Alphabet Skills:

- Exposure to letters: (*Teach lowercase letters before uppercase letters!*)
- Start slow
- Experience is the goal, not mastery . . . yet
- Keep it fun!

Phonemic Awareness:

- Exposure to oral language
- Rhyming skills
- Play with words and language
- Dr. Seuss books

Read, Read, and Read Some More:

- Reading with your child is **SO IMPORTANT!**
- Discuss stories (predict what will happen next, ask questions, talk about the story and pictures)
- Remember that re-reading the same book is OK
- Visit the library on a regular basis

Oral Language Development:

- Talk to your child: Ask them questions about their day. Who did you play with? What did you do? Teach them to answer in complete sentences, i.e. I played with Joey and Susie today in the backyard.
- When reading - Have them retell the story or a part of it - using as much detail possible. Ask questions to get them to add more details, i.e. Where was the cat?

Writing Skills:

- Work on building up hand muscles to prepare for writing success
- Show your child how to use writing daily: making lists, writing thank you cards, labeling containers in the pantry, etc.
- Encourage your child to begin labeling or writing words to add to their pictures.

Tracing and Cutting Skills:

- Work on correct pencil and scissor grip
- Provide child-size scissors
- Work on cutting away from the body

Number Knowledge:

- Expose to numbers
- Count objects in environment

Colors and Shapes:

- 10 basic colors and 4 basic shapes
- Real world experiences

Social Development:

- Interact with other children
- Take direction from adults other than parents
- Focus on an activity for at least 10 minutes
- Have a positive attitude about school
- Make a non-tearful break from parents
- Handle bathroom activities by him/herself

