

# Kindergarten Readiness Calendar



Dear Parents,

The activities in this summer calendar are designed to provide your child experiences with the academic, self-discipline, fine motor and social skills required in kindergarten. Please refer to it often over the summer and spend time with your child on the listed activities. In doing so, you will help develop your child's self-confidence and allow for a smoother transition to school.

Please substitute, modify or expand any of the suggested activities to best meet your child's needs. Include favorite activities that have worked successfully in the past with your child. The goal is to give your child exposure to and develop an awareness of skills, rather than mastery. It is very important to keep practice times playful and brief.

The fine motor skills activities, such as scrunching or ripping paper, are included to help your child develop the skills that are required to pick up a pencil and write. An important component of early writing development is building hand strength and other fine motor skills.

The home activity summer packet (available online) should be used in conjunction with the summer calendar. Please look through the summer packet carefully and read the article, "Preparing for Kindergarten". It includes good advice and tips for parents of incoming kindergartners, including suggestions for helping your child to separate from you on the first day of school.

Throughout the summer, please remember to read as much as you can with your child and visit the library. Research shows that the more you read to your child, the more successful your child will be at learning to read!

Thank you for providing a foundation that will allow your child to be a happy, confident and successful kindergartner. We look forward to seeing you in August!





# May

## Week 1

- Recite nursery rhymes and sing songs together.
- Sing the ABC song together and name letters that your child notices in the environment.
- Help your child develop fine motor skills: have him/her scrunch large pieces of paper, throw/catch a ball, and pick up small objects.
  - Give your child coloring experiences.



## Week 2

- Sing the ABC song.
- Give your child coloring experiences.
- Continue to practice fine motor skills: squeeze a ball or small flexible object, and use tweezers to pick up and move objects.

## Week 3

- Use magnetic, plastic, sponge or cookie-cutter letters to emphasize the alphabet.
  - Give your child coloring experiences.
- Help your child identify the basic colors red, blue, yellow, orange, purple, green, black, brown, white, pink, and gray.
  - Fine motor skills practice: rip paper for an art project and use Q-tips to glue.



## Week 4

- Have your child practice tracing on a dotted line.
- Play alphabet games and read alphabet books.
  - Give your child coloring experiences.
  - Review the color names.



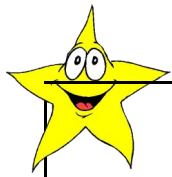
## Week 5

- Teach your child how to cut with child-sized scissors. Be sure to say encouraging remarks such as “thumbs up, fingers down, cut away from you and use your helping hand.”
  - Recite nursery rhymes and read rhyming stories. Point out words that rhyme.
    - Play the alphabet game.

## Every Week

- ⇒ Encourage small playgroups with emphasis on cooperative play and basic social skills.
- ⇒ Encourage use of “please, thank you, and excuse me.”
- ⇒ Read everyday to your child! Demonstrate that reading is important and enjoyable.
- ⇒ Read rhyming stories, play rhyming games and make up nonsense rhyming words.
- ⇒ Point out how you use reading and writing in your own life.
- ⇒ Convey a positive attitude about school to your child.





# June

## Week 1

- Make a game out of finding letters in the environment.
- Play games to encourage number recognition of 0 through 10.
- Have your child practice forming letters in sand or salt..



## Week 2

- Shape recognition practice. Can your child recognize the shapes in the summer packet? Go on a hunt for these shapes.
  - Scissor activity: Draw two lines on a piece of paper. Have your child cut between the two lines.
    - Look for numbers in the environment.

## Week 3

- Point out 3 dimensional shapes; cones, cubes, and spheres in the environment. Go on a hunt for these shapes.
- Continue practice with scissors: Draw two lines, making them closer together than in week 2. Have your child cut between the lines.
  - Practice writing first name in sand or salt.
  - Play alphabet games and read alphabet books.

## Week 4



- Review circle, square, triangle, and rectangle.
- Use the counting dot cards to give your child practice with counting.
- Continue practicing writing name. Make it fun!
- Review color names and give experience coloring.
- Encourage your child to include lots of details in drawings.



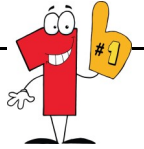
## Every Week

- ⇒ Encourage small playgroups with emphasis on cooperative play and basic social skills.
- ⇒ Teach your child to discuss problems that may occur to teach him/her social skills.
- ⇒ Read everyday to your child!
- ⇒ Demonstrate that reading is important and enjoyable, and point out how to use reading and writing.
- ⇒ Continue to play rhyming games, read rhyming stories and make up nonsense rhyming words.
- ⇒ Convey a positive attitude about school to your child.





# July



## Week 1

- Play alphabet games and read alphabet books.
- Try writing name on sidewalk with water and a paintbrush.
- Review basic shapes: circle, triangle, square, and rectangle. Point out cones, and spheres in the environment.
  - Read rhyming stories and recite nursery rhymes. Make up nonsense rhyming words with your child.

## Week 2

- Give your child one, and later two- and three-step directions. Example: "Pick up your jacket and hang it on the hook."
  - Play number games with the dot cards, or picture cards.
  - Practice first name writing. Write their name with chalk.
  - Draw lines on paper and help your child cut on the lines.



## Week 3

- Give your child one, and later two- and three-step directions. Example: "Pick out a book and sit down with me. Show me the cover "
- Play alphabet games and read alphabet books.
- Review basic shapes: circle, triangle, square, and rectangle. Point out cones, and spheres in the environment.

## Week 4

- Draw lines on paper and help your child cut on the lines.
- Read rhyming stories and recite nursery rhymes. Make up nonsense rhyming words with your child.
  - Play board games with numbers in them.



## Week 5

- Practice first name writing by writing name on carpet with index finger.
- Draw lines on paper and help your child cut on the lines.

## Every Week

- ⇒ Plan a bedtime that will allow your child to arrive at school well-rested.
- ⇒ Plan a morning routine that allows for a nutritious, relaxed breakfast and timely arrival to school. Discuss these routines with your child.
- ⇒ Continue to play rhyming games, read rhyming stories and make up nonsense rhyming words.
- ⇒ Speak of school with excitement and express confidence in your child's abilities.
- ⇒ Continue to provide your child with time to play with others.
- ⇒ Discuss problem solving sharing, and cooperative play.

