

Kindergarten

Building Reading Skills



Information for Parents

A strong foundation in reading will help set your kindergartener up for success in elementary school—and beyond. As your child works on these skills in school, there are a number of things you can do at home to help further develop your child's reading skills.

Kindergarten Reading Overview

Kindergarteners spend a good deal of time developing the skills they need to learn to read. Here are some of the skills kindergarteners typically work on.

- ▶ recognizing all the letters of the alphabet and their corresponding sounds
- ▶ reading words and short sentences
- ▶ being able to retell a story after listening to it
- ▶ recognizing and using rhyming words
- ▶ quickly recognizing *sight words* (words that appear frequently in books for new readers)

Kindergarteners have a wide range of reading skills, and their skills develop at varying rates. At this age, learning should be fun—and children should always feel good about what they are able to do.



VIDEO

For more about reading with your child, watch this video.

Kindergarten

Building Writing Skills



Information for Parents

Children spend a good deal of time in kindergarten learning how to write letters and words. As your kindergartener works on their writing skills in school, there are a number of things you can do at home to help further develop your child's skills.

Kindergarten Writing Overview

Kindergarteners start the year writing individual letters and progress to writing whole words and sentences. Here are some of the writing skills your kindergartener will be working on this year.

- ▶ gripping writing tools correctly and steadying the paper with the other hand
- ▶ writing from left to right and top to bottom
- ▶ forming upper and lowercase letters correctly
- ▶ printing numbers and their own first and last name
- ▶ correctly writing simple words, such as *cat*

Kindergarteners have a wide range of writing skills, and their skills develop at varying rates. At this age, learning should be playful and fun. Be encouraging and praise all of your child's writing efforts.



VIDEO

For more kindergarten success tips, watch this video.

Kindergarten

Building Math Skills



Information for Parents

As kindergarteners develop their budding math skills, they need their parents support and involvement. The information here will help you help your child develop basic math skills—and also have fun.

Kindergarten Math Overview

In kindergarten, children learn about numbers, counting, grouping, and sorting. Here are some of the specific skills your child is likely to work on this year.

- ▶ counting to 100
- ▶ writing numbers up to 20
- ▶ identifying and creating shapes
- ▶ counting objects and answering "how many" questions
- ▶ understanding relative terms, such as *more*, *less*, *smaller*, *bigger*, *heavier*, and *lighter*
- ▶ solving simple addition and subtraction problems

Math skills build on each other, which is why students need to master one skill before going on to the next. This is also why it's so important for young students to develop a strong math foundation.



VIDEO

For more kindergarten success tips, watch this video.

Kindergarten

Building Social Skills



Information for Parents

Some children are social butterflies; others are quiet and reserved. For all children, kindergarten is a new adventure, and it usually takes a little while for most to feel comfortable in this new environment. Here you will find information on how you can support your child's budding social skills.

Kindergarten Social Skills Overview

In kindergarten, children are sharpening their listening and speaking skills, making friends, and becoming more independent. Here are some social skills your child may be working on this year.

- ▶ sharing and taking turns
- ▶ listening to others without interrupting
- ▶ following rules
- ▶ verbalizing wants and needs
- ▶ understanding the difference between right and wrong
- ▶ making decisions independently

Be a good role model. If your child sees you valuing friendships and treating others with respect, they are likely to do the same.



VIDEO

For more on friendship, check out this quick video.

Kindergarten

Building Motor Skills



Information for Parents

Kindergarteners are on the go. They are able to do more physically, and their fine motor skills are improving. The following is a short breakdown of the motor skills your kindergartener is working on—and what you can do to help.

Kindergarten Motor Skills Overview

Gross motor skills involve movement of the muscles in the arms, legs, and torso.

Examples of gross motor skills include:

- ▶ catching a ball with two hands
- ▶ running, skipping, and jumping forward
- ▶ standing on one foot

Fine motor skills involve movement of the muscles in the hands and fingers.

Examples of fine motor skills include:

- ▶ holding and using writing tools correctly
- ▶ tracing lines and basic shapes
- ▶ cutting a straight line with scissors

Remember, children develop at different rates and there is a wide range of what's considered "normal" at this age.



VIDEO

For more kindergarten success tips, watch this video.

Kindergarten

Building Life Skills



Information for Parents

In kindergarten, children are expected to be able to take care of more things on their own. By teaching your child some basic life skills, you can help your little one be more independent and confident—and more successful in kindergarten.

Kindergarten Life Skills Overview

Young children become more self-sufficient by doing things for themselves, having more responsibilities, and making choices. Here are some skills your kindergartener will work on this year.

- ▶ drinking from a cup and using utensils
- ▶ using the restroom and washing hands
- ▶ using zippers, snaps, and buttons
- ▶ following simple directions
- ▶ taking care of their belongings, and respecting the property of others
- ▶ making decisions independently

As children take on new challenges, it's important for parents to show they have faith in their child's abilities—but to also be available to help if needed.



VIDEO

For more on teaching responsibility, watch this video.