

# Preparing for Kindergarten

## Reading and Math

Help your child build their reading and math readiness skills—and get ready for kindergarten! Here you will find some information about the skills your child will work on in kindergarten, as well as ways that you can help develop these skills at home.



### Reading in Kindergarten

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

- ▶ recognizing all the letters of the alphabet and their corresponding sounds
- ▶ being able to retell a story after listening to it
- ▶ recognizing and using rhyming words
- ▶ quickly recognizing *sight words*—words that often appear in books for beginning readers



### Math in Kindergarten

In kindergarten, children learn about numbers, counting, grouping, and sorting. Here are some math skills kindergarteners usually work on.

- ▶ counting to 100
- ▶ writing numbers up to 20
- ▶ identifying and drawing basic shapes
- ▶ understanding relative terms, such as *more*, *less*, *smaller*, *bigger*, *heavier*, and *lighter*

# Support Reading Skills

## Read to your child every day.

Reading aloud to your child is the best thing you can do to help build their reading skills.

## Talk about letter sounds.

Point out letter sounds in names, places, and things. *“That word starts with the same sound as your name. Can you think of any other words that start with that sound?”*

## Teach sight words.

Help your child look for these common words in everyday situations, and in the books you read.

Here are some examples:

a	can	here	look	see	up
am	come	in	me	so	we
an	do	is	my	this	you
and	go	it	no	the	
at	he	like	on	to	

*For more reading info and tips,  
watch this short video.*



# Support Math Skills

Increase your child's interest in math by showing how important numbers are.

- ▶ Look for counting opportunities throughout the day. For example, help your child count the number of peas on their plate or ask them to bring you a specific number of objects, such as four spoons.
- ▶ Practice grouping and sorting items. Match socks or put coins into categories (pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters).
- ▶ Play board games that require moving a number of spaces and card games that deal with numbers, such as Go Fish.