

Ways to Get Ready for Kindergarten this Summer

1. **Read.** A lot! Go to the library. As you read stories with your child, ask questions including:
 - a. What do you think will happen next?
 - b. What would you do if you were the main character?
 - c. Why do you think he/she did that?
 - d. How does the illustration help tell the story?
2. **Write.** Write your child's name in yellow highlighter or marker using a Capital first letter and lowercase for the rest. Have them trace it with a pencil, making sure to start each letter at the top. When they are ready, have them write their name on their own. You could have them write it on the driveway or patio with water and a brush or with chalk.
3. **Play.** Help your child practice social skills by setting up playdates with friends. Before they begin, talk about what being a good friend looks and sounds like. Being clear about what you expect will set your child up for success.
4. **Draw.** Give your child blank paper and crayons. Drawing straight lines, curvy lines and shapes will help them strengthen their hand muscles for writing letters and words. Color in pictures too. I tell them to try to cover most of the white and stay inside the lines.
5. **Cut.** Kindergarten is filled with art projects. Get your child ready now by giving them a pair of kid-sized scissors. Have them practice cutting paper, play-doh and straws.
6. **Give directions.** Help your child get ready to follow their teacher's directions by giving 2-3 step directions. For example, "Please put on your shoes and zip up your coat." Or play Simon Says, "Simon says jump on one leg and touch your nose." You can change the name to a superhero or princess. Cinderella says or Spiderman says.
7. **Count.** Have your child practice counting to 20 and beyond when they're being pushed on a swing or when adding chocolate chips to the recipe, or counting cars as you drive. There is a YouTube video that we used in class that is a song "Count to 20!"
8. **Solve Puzzles.** Placing puzzle pieces together build fine motor and spatial skills. As a bonus, it's also a great way to build perseverance they'll need when they are tackling kindergarten activities later.
9. **Sing.** Sing the alphabet, Nursery Rhymes, and other chants or songs. Talk about letters in the names of family and friends; name the letter and its sound. The more they understand the sounds of the letters, the better prepared they'll be for future reading instruction.
10. **Climb.** Build those gross motor skills by going to parks and climbing, joining a sport, or swimming. At home, play hopscotch or have races. Children today aren't tumbling, jumping, swinging, skipping and spinning as much as they should at a young age. Strong motor skills help with focus and learning in school.

11. **Build.** Give them recyclables, some glue or tape and let them build whatever they want. It's the process of figuring things out that is important, not the end product.
12. **Create.** Have them play with Play-Doh, play with shaving cream on the patio table, finger-paint, use chalk or other art mediums. This builds those fine motor muscles in a way other than writing or drawing.
13. **Explore.** Go for a walk around the neighborhood or at a park and notice nature, collect rocks, use a magnifying glass to observe nature up close, take pictures and make a nature book, or use a bird book to find out what you're seeing.
14. **Have fun.** Above all else, have fun with your child, and let them have fun by themselves sometimes; they are very creative and have great imaginations!

Enjoy your summer.

Ms. Reith

Websites:

<http://safeshare.tv/w/dOvyTvhUNr> - Learning My Letters Song

<http://safeshare.tv/w/URxMigAwKD> - Count to 20 song

www.abcya.com - K-5th grade learning activities and games

www.starfall.com – early reading activities and some math

www.pbskids.org - TV show character games

<http://illuminations.nctm.org/Activity.aspx?id=3565> - Ten frame activity