



**Jackson Local
School District**

Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten



<http://jackson.stark.k12.oh.us>

Personal Needs

- Help your child to become independent when taking off and putting on clothes (e.g. jackets, shoes, snap pants, or clothes with zippers).
- Encourage your child to go to the bathroom without help. Teach your child to flush the toilet and wash his/her hands every time.
- Label your child's belongings and allow your child to be responsible for them (e.g. by putting clothes away, completing simple chores, picking up toys).
- Establish a regular schedule for meals, bedtime and daily activities.



Social Skills And Self - Help

Working with Others

- Help your child to understand that other people have rights and feelings.
- Have your child practice sharing and working with others.
- Talk with your child about different ways to settle problems (e.g. talking first, going away to do something else, taking turns, asking for help from an adult).

Building Self Confidence

- Help your child to feel comfortable being away from a parent or caregiver. Plan times for your child to be with other adults and children. (e.g. going to a birthday party without a parent, play times with friends).
- Provide time for your child to play alone as well as with others.
- Encourage your child to continue working on something even when it starts to get hard. Acknowledge all efforts.
- Encourage your child to do things alone that he/she is capable of doing (e.g. brushing teeth, tying shoes, simple chores).
- Remember it's not a good idea to compare your child to another child. Children develop at their own pace and have their own interests. Faster isn't always better.

Listening and Speaking

Speaking

- Talk to your child as you would in a conversation with an adult. PLEASE DO NOT USE BABY TALK.
- Talk to your child in complete sentences. Encourage your child to do the same.
- Encourage your child to use language to express his/her feelings, ideas, dreams, wishes and fears.
- Encourage your child to pretend play (e.g. playing house and being the parent).
- Pick an object and have your child describe the object with as many words as possible.
- Have your child draw a picture and tell you about it.

Listening

- Play listening games that require your child to:
 - follow directions (e.g. Simon Says, I Spy).
 - listen for sounds. Have your child tell you what he/she hears.
 - play echo games (e.g. say something short and funny, clap a pattern, say a series of words and have your child repeat whatever you did).
- Set aside time daily to talk and listen to your child.
- After hearing a story or watching a program or movie, have your child retell in his/her own words what was said, what it was about or the order of events.
- Help your child to be a courteous listener when others are speaking.
- After giving your child 2-3 simple directions, have him/her repeat each direction and then complete the tasks.



Early Reading Experiences

Story Retelling

- Have your child tell a story back to you in his/her own words. Ask what happened first, next and how the story ended.
- Have your child act out a favorite story using puppets or stuffed animals.
- Have your child draw a favorite part or character of a story and tell you about it.

Other Activities

- Help your child label items around his/her room (e.g. bed, dresser, window).
- Read different versions of familiar stories and compare how they are alike and different.

Reading At Home

- Let your child see you reading.
- Have a special place for your child to keep books.
- Make a list of your child's favorite stories.

Daily Reading

- Read different types of books with your child.
- Read with your child daily. Talk about the pictures before reading.
- Let your child select books. Expect to read favorites many times!
- Help your child recognize/read familiar notices, signs and labels (e.g. on road signs, cereal boxes, stores, restaurants).
- Read patterned stories as well as your child's favorites (e.g. Gingerbread Man).
- Discuss each story as you read (e.g. "What do you see? What do you think will happen?").



Ideas About Books

- Talk about the book with your child (e.g. cover, title, author/illustrator).
- Help your child to realize that print goes left to right and top to bottom (e.g. point or have your child point to each word as it is read).
- Have your child look at pictures as a way to help him/her understand the story.

Reading and Writing Skills

Writing

- Encourage and accept all forms of writing (e.g. scribble writing, random letters, invented spelling).
- Set up a writing area with paper, pencils, crayons and envelopes.
- Write daily in a writing journal. This could include picture drawing, all forms of your child's writing or writing down what is told to you.
- Use everyday activities to encourage writing (e.g. birthday cards, grocery lists, thank-you notes).
- Have your child recognize and practice printing his/her name correctly. Only capitalize the first letter (e.g. David).

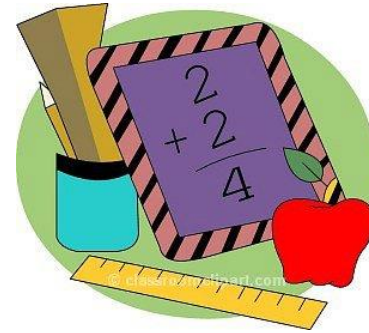
Letters and Sounds

- Sing the alphabet.
- Practice naming letters and placing them in ABC order.
- Explore a variety of letter activities (e.g. writing letters in sand, salt or shaving cream; using magnetic letters).
- Make letters out of clay or playdough.
- Listen for words that start with the same sound (e.g. fork, food, fun, family).
- Play an alphabet game in the car, spotting objects that begin with different letters or sounds (e.g. find something that starts with "s" such as a stop sign).
- Play games using the alphabet (e.g. alphabet bingo, concentration, matching capitals and lowercase letters).
- Have your child search for certain letters or words in books and magazines.

Playing with Words

- Read/recite nursery rhymes and riddles.
- Make silly words that rhyme (e.g. silly, willy).
- Have your child listen for words that rhyme as you read (e.g. Dr. Seuss books).
- Play reading games at the store, at home or anywhere. Select items that begin with the same letter or sound (e.g. "T" as in toothpaste, tomatoes).

Math Skills

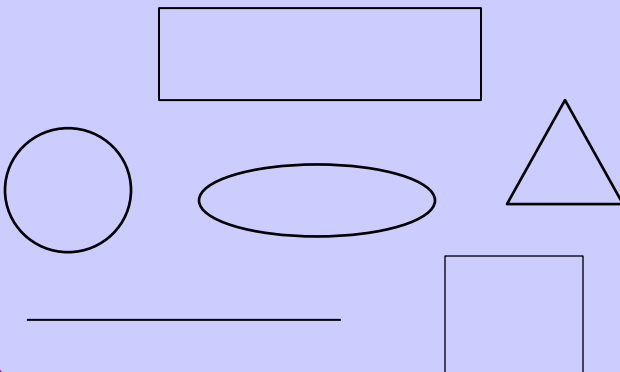


Sorting and Patterning

- Sort items by color and name the groups by their colors.
- Have your child sort a variety of items (e.g. sort socks by size or color).
- Look for patterns everywhere (e.g. stripes on clothing, tiles, wallpaper).
- Create a pattern for your child and have your child continue it (e.g. fork, spoon, fork, spoon...).

Shapes and Sizes

- Encourage your child to find and compare objects of different size, length and shape.
- With supervision, let your child explore filling and emptying containers of different sizes and shapes (e.g. cans, bottles, cups, bowls, boxes).
- Play games using words...on, in, on top of, under, next to, in front/back of, and over (e.g. "Simon says stand next to the table").
- Help your child identify these shapes and look for them everywhere :



Problem Solving

- Use everyday activities to create math problems (e.g. "Grandma and Grandpa are coming for dinner tonight. How many places do we need to set at the table?" "Using these two shirts and these two pants, how many different outfits can we make?").

Numbers

- Have your child count a variety of objects, touching or moving each one as he/she says the number.
- Play counting games (e.g. count the number of doors in your house, buttons on your shirt, people in line at the grocery store).
- Discuss ideas of more, less and same (e.g. "I have two cookies. You have four cookies. Who has more? Who has less?").
- Have your child look for numbers everywhere (e.g. license plates, addresses, phone numbers).

Physical Development

Small Movement Skills

- Provide your child with materials and opportunities to practice using hands and fingers.
- Create a box of crayons, pencils, markers and round-tipped scissors and playdough. Allow time for drawing, cutting and creating.
- Let your child cut out pictures from old newspapers and magazines (e.g pictures of cars, blue things or pictures to tell a story).
- Involve your child in safe cooking activities that require stirring (e.g. making pudding).
- Have your child practice opening and closing containers with screw tops.
- Involve your child in household cleaning activities (e.g. sweeping, dusting, putting things away).
- Have your child string buttons, cereal, or beads using string or yarn.
- Encourage your child to button, tie, snap and zip his/her own clothing.
- Encourage and monitor your child cutting with scissors.

Playdough Recipe

2 cups of flour
1 cup of salt
2 tsp cream of tartar
1-2 tbs oil
1 cup boiling water

Mix, knead and store in a sealed plastic bag or container.

Large Movement Skills

- Provide time and space for your child to run, jump, climb, balance and throw.
- Visit your local park and playground.
- Go up and down stairs, counting as you go.
- Jump over cracks in the sidewalk.
- Kick a ball back and forth.
- Ride a tricycle.
- Play catch with balls of all sizes or pat a balloon back and forth.
- Jump rope.
- Let your child help you carry small packages and bags or unpack groceries.

