

Is Your Child Ready for Kindergarten?



Fun Things to Do with Your Child

Turn chores like laundry into learning activities. Ask your child to identify colors, or count the number of socks.

Develop Language, Math & Social skills

Play the "I Spy Game." Say "I spy something red." Let your child guess what it is.

Develop Listening, Math & Social skills



Encourage your child to play. Let them sort, stack and match, whether it's silverware, buttons, stones or socks.

Develop Math skills

Talk, sing and read to your child. Your child learns by hearing sounds and words at any age. The more you talk, the more they learn.

Develop Listening & Comprehension skills

Take a walk together and then follow it up with a book, song, or rhyme about what you experienced.

Develop Listening, Comprehension, Letters/Words & Physical skills

Read with your child every day, whether it's a book, traffic sign, grocery list, newspaper or a cereal box.

Develop Listening, Comprehension & Letters/Words skills

During the next grocery trip, have your child assist you in matching the coupon with the item.

Develop Math, Health/Wellness & Social skills

Using a paper plate, encourage your child to draw different faces, or use face parts cut from magazines, and then glue them to the paper plate.

Develop Writing, Creative Thinking & Physical skills

Ask your child questions that can't be answered by just "yes" or "no." Instead of just asking "Do you see that pretty bird?" add "What other things fly?"

Develop Listening & Speaking skills



Visit www.ErieTogether.org to download the "My Path to Kindergarten" progress chart and for more ideas and resources designed to help you prepare your child for kindergarten.

The Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

During children's early years, families and child care providers can ensure children are prepared for school by helping them develop the skills listed here.

Language and Literacy Development

Listening and Speaking

- ☐ Follow multiple step directions
- ☐ Listen and respond to conversations with others
- ☐ Speak clearly using multiple word sentences
- ☐ Ask and answer questions

Story Sense/Comprehension

- ☐ Make predictions based on pictures and background knowledge
- ☐ Retell stories with some understanding of sequence (beginning, middle, and end)
- ☐ Understand the concept of an author and an illustrator
- ☐ Make personal connections and answer questions about stories
- ☐ Understand the difference between real and make-believe
- ☐ Identify characters, setting, and main events
- ☐ Ask questions about unfamiliar words
- ☐ Repeat sentences/phrases in books

- ☐ Draw a recognizable picture
- ☐ Explain pictures
- ☐ Form letters from top to bottom

Book Handling/Directionality

- ☐ Hold books appropriately
- ☐ Understand that print contains a message
- ☐ Understand that print moves from left to right and top to bottom
- ☐ Identify the front, back and title page of a book

Letters and Words

- ☐ Recognize and write their name (upper case followed by lower case)
- ☐ Recognize some upper and lower case letters
- ☐ Link some letter names with sounds
- ☐ Name rhyming words
- ☐ Clap syllables with assistance
- ☐ Identify and say beginning sounds of words (initial sounds)
- ☐ Recite rhymes and songs
- ☐ Understand the difference between letters and words
- ☐ Recognize everyday print (traffic signs, cereal boxes, etc.)

Writing

- ☐ Label pictures and objects
- ☐ Attempt to write words
- ☐ Understand that words are connected to print

Mathematical Thinking and Expression

- ☐ Understand the difference between letters and numbers
- ☐ Identify colors, shapes, and repeating patterns
- ☐ Show some sense of different and alike
- ☐ Match and sequence objects and pictures
- ☐ Count to twenty

- ☐ Identify and write some numbers 0-10
- ☐ Point to objects and count each one up to 10
- ☐ Solve puzzles
- ☐ Understand simple graphs
- ☐ Sort objects by shape, size and color
- ☐ Describe the position of objects (behind, in front, above, below)

Scientific Thinking and Technology

- ☐ Recognize the difference between living and non-living things
- ☐ Identify basic needs of plants and animals
- ☐ Identify the parts of a person

- ☐ Make a prediction and investigate
- ☐ Name the four seasons
- ☐ Name some technologies used at school and home (phone, computer, TV, camera)

Social Studies Thinking

- ☐ Awareness of rules and consequences for breaking a rule
- ☐ Identify basic American symbols (American Flag, bald eagle, state flag, etc.)
- ☐ Identify a problem and discuss possible solutions
- ☐ Identify needs and wants
- ☐ Make a choice and explain the reason

Creative Thinking and Expression

- ☐ Initiate music and movement activities
- ☐ Use a variety of art materials (crayons, pencils, markers, paint, chalk, play-dough)
- ☐ Draw a self-portrait

Health, Wellness, and Physical Development

- ☐ Hop, skip, and jump
- ☐ Button, tie, snap, and zip
- ☐ Hold writing, cutting, and eating utensils
- ☐ Use scissors and glue
- ☐ Dress independently (coat, shoes, boots, etc.)
- ☐ Participate in games and songs

- ☐ Point to body parts when asked
- ☐ Identify healthy and non-healthy foods
- ☐ Practice basic hygiene routines with reminders (hand washing, tooth brushing)
- ☐ Follow basic safety rules

Social and Emotional Skills

- ☐ Greet others and say please, thank you, and excuse me
- ☐ Share and take turns with others
- ☐ Show respect for self, others, and authority

- ☐ Share feelings, thoughts, and needs
- ☐ Follow classroom routines at home and in the classroom