

Getting Ready for Kindergarten:

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO



ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

Oral Language and Vocabulary

- Talk with your child about daily routines and experiences.
- Read books with your child and talk about the story or information.
- Ask your child questions.
- Answer your child's questions.
- Encourage your child to speak in sentences.
- Encourage your child to play and talk with other children.
- Talk about how objects look, smell, and feel.
- Provide opportunities for your child to do and see new things. Go for walks in your neighborhood; visit the zoo, library, and other places of interest.
- Provide opportunities for your child to draw, dance, listen to music, and make music. Talk about it.
- Provide opportunities for your child to have hands-on experiences. **FOR EXAMPLE:** *touch objects, pet animals, observe bugs, help with cooking, smell and taste foods, watch cars and trucks move.*
- Ask your child to follow simple directions; encourage your child to do many things independently, such as getting dressed, setting the table, or preparing a snack.



Concepts About Print

As you read with your child:

- Point to and read the title on the cover.
- Talk about the picture on the cover.
- Point to where the story starts and later where it ends.
- Let your child help to turn the pages.
- When you start to read a new page, point to where the words of the story continue.
- Follow the words by moving your finger underneath the words.
- Encourage your child to move a finger underneath the words as you read.



Phonological Awareness

- Sing rhyming songs with your child.
- Read and recite nursery rhymes with your child. As you read, stop before a rhyming word and encourage your child to fill in the blank. **FOR EXAMPLE:** *Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great _____.*
- Around your home, point to objects and say their names. **FOR EXAMPLE:** *ball.* Then ask your child to say words that rhyme. **FOR EXAMPLE:** *tall, call, fall, wall.*
- Say three words such as cat, dog, and sat and ask your child which words rhyme.
- Say silly tongue twisters with your child. **FOR EXAMPLE:** *Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.*
- Help your child make up and say silly sentences with lots of words that start with the same sound. **FOR EXAMPLE:** *Betty bought a big, blue balloon.*

Letter Identification

- Sing the Alphabet Song with your child.
- With your child sitting next to you, print the letters of your child's name on paper and say each letter's name as you write it.
- Help your child use letters to spell and write your child's name. At first, your child may use just a few letters. **FOR EXAMPLE:** *Jenny might use the letters JNY.*
- With your child, make a name sign for your child's room.
- Point out and name individual letters in signs, posters, food containers like cereal boxes, menus, posters, and magazines.
- Read ABC books with your child.
- Give your child a page from a magazine. Circle a letter on the page and have your child circle matching letters.



Word Recognition

- Read books with your child and point out common words. **FOR EXAMPLE:** *the, I, go, a, and, see, like, me, you.*
- Place alphabet magnets on your refrigerator. Encourage your child to make simple words. **FOR EXAMPLE:** *cat, dog, mom, dad.*

Phonics

- Look at pictures or objects. Ask your child to say the sound the picture or object begins with. Have your child find another picture or object that begins with the same sound.
- As you read a story or nursery rhyme, ask your child to listen for and say words that begin with the same sound. Then have your child think of and say another word that begins with the same sound.
- Play games using the alphabet. **FOR EXAMPLE:** *I spy something that begins with the letter M.*
- Write letters on pieces of paper and put them in a paper bag. Have your child pull out a paper from the bag and say the name of the letter on the paper and the sound it represents. Then have your child say a word that begins with the same sound.
- Cut pictures from magazines or draw pictures to help your child make an alphabet book.
- Let your child have fun writing the alphabet letters, your child's name, and stories. Let your child share the writing. Praise your child's efforts to write.

