

10 Ways To Get Ready For Kindergarten

1. Create a routine over the summer. Give your child a bedtime (8:00 PM is great!) and stick to it.
2. Have your child practice writing their first name. If your child can do this, try the last name, or practice lower case letters.
3. Use counting in your daily activities. Count how many steps it takes to get to the mailbox or the park. Count out fruit, placemats, napkins, and so forth.
4. Take your child with you to the grocery store, post office, library, and other errands. Talk with them about what they're seeing, hearing and touching. *It's all part of learning!*
5. Visit your local library and help your child get a free library card. Then use the card to visit the library each week and borrow a book. Suggested readings can be found at: www.countdowntokindergarten.org/activities

Talk about the books you read.
Ask questions like:

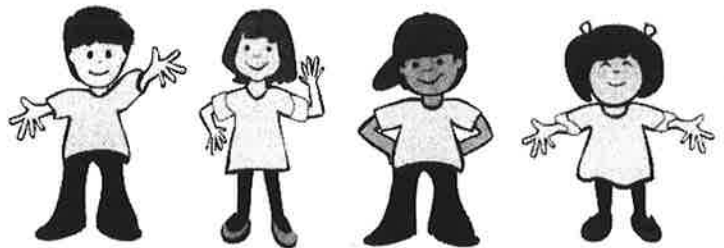
- What was your favorite part of the story?
- Which part did you like the least?
- Half way through, ask your child what they think will happen at the end?

Did you know that you can borrow FREE passes to area museums from your local public library?

This list is appropriate for children getting ready to enter K2 kindergarten. If your child is younger, be advised that he or she may not be ready to do all of these activities.

6. Let your child practice their independence by allowing them to make certain choices ("Do you want an apple or a banana?"), and by encouraging them to try new things and to problem solve.
7. Set a limit to the amount of TV your child watches (1-2 hours should be the maximum). When possible, watch TV with them and talk about what you see.
8. Prepare a "study spot" for your child and supply it with crayons, paper, scissors and other kindergarten "tools." Set aside a time each day for your child to draw there. Once school starts this can become the time and place where your child does their homework.
9. Help your child know or be able to do the following before they enter kindergarten:
 - Their name, address, and telephone number
 - Use the bathroom on their own and button and zip their clothes.
 - Share and play with other children. This will help them to adjust to their new kindergarten classroom.
10. Read, Read, Read!
(In English or any native language!)

For more helpful tips, visit
www.countdowntokindergarten.org



This tip sheet was prepared by a team of kindergarten and preschool educators as part of the Boston Making Connections project, sponsored by the Boston Children's Museum and Countdown to Kindergarten and funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



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