



Countdown To Kindergarten Activities To Do Over The Summer

Children adjust to change differently. Some may be ready to run out of the door and head right into their kindergarten classroom, while others may want their parents to be in school with them. Regardless of where your child is on this continuum, your child's teacher is ready to help him/her adjust to their new classroom and the school setting.

Here are some things you can do as you help your child prepare for kindergarten.

11. Read to your child every day. The local library has a wonderful selection of picture books for kindergarten children. There are several good books that focus on kindergarten you might want to read. Some favorites are *Miss Bindergarten*, *Kindergarten books*, *Countdown to Kindergarten*, and *The Night Before Kindergarten*.
10. Over the summer, visit and play on the school playground with your child. It will help him/her begin to feel comfortable with his/her school (especially since many children say recess and play time are their favorites!).
9. Set up play times with other children so your child has opportunities to practice important social skills.
8. Play games together like *Candyland*, *Uno*, *Memory Game*, *Go Fish*, etc. to help your child learn how to play cooperatively, take turns, and lose gracefully.
7. Sing the alphabet song together.
6. Make up silly rhymes, or sing rhyming songs so your child begins to develop an ear for rhyming. This is an important pre-reading skill.
5. Count everyday objects together. For example, when sorting the cleaned laundry, have him/her count the socks.
4. Encourage your child to color, draw, and create using a variety of tools (pencils, crayons, scissors, glue, glue sticks, etc.) while holding the paper with their opposite hand to stabilize it.

3. Copy shapes - vertical, horizontal, t-shaped, and diagonal lines, circles, squares, and triangles.
2. If your child is expressing an interest, show him/her how to write his/her name. If your child is not yet interested in writing his/her name, help him/her learn to recognize his/her name by labeling things that belong to him. This can be as simple as labeling his/her spot at the dinner table!
1. Practice self-help skills with your child: using the bathroom, washing hands, blowing his/her nose, sneezing and coughing into his/her arm (not hand), and dressing (buttons, zippers, snaps, and buckles).

