

Pave the Way to a Successful Year in Kindergarten



presented by



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"Parents and families are the first and most important teachers. If families teach a love of learning, it can make all the difference in the world to our children."

Richard W. Riley

U.S. Secretary of Education

It's Your Turn

Board games are a great way to learn many of valuable skills. Games that use dice or move along spaces help children develop number sense. Matching and memory games help children develop their visual discrimination and strengthen their ability to see similarities and differences - an important pre-reading skill. Games also require taking turns, learning to deal with disappointment, and increase attention span.

Be a Bookworm

Books can be so exciting that it's hard not to learn more about them. Talk about the different titles and characters. Predict what kinds of stories might be in different books. When you read, point to the words so your child will make the connection that those little squiggly lines mean something. Discover that books have stories but also have fun things to learn about.

Play Outside

Whether it's your backyard or the park, it's important to get outside and move. Hopping, jumping, skipping, and running help build strength and coordination needed to support smaller movements such as writing. Play structures also offer opportunities to climb, slide, swing, and run. When children play with friends, they will be developing their communication and language skills while using their imagination.

Kids in the Kitchen

So many things can be learned from adventures in the kitchen. When following recipes and measuring ingredients, children get to experience numbers in action. Mixing and pouring develop motor skills. Cleaning up teaches responsibility. Putting away silverware can be a sorting task. Your kitchen can turn into a restaurant with a chef, server, and hostess - dramatic play builds language skills and confidence.

Seek New Sites

Visit a new park, take a trip to one of the many museums in our area, or hop on bus or train to explore new territory. Exposing your child to a variety of experiences not only expands their knowledge and vocabulary, it also increases independence and encourages eagerness to learn new things.

So You Think You Can Sing

Singing songs with your child provides many opportunities to hear and play with sounds, skills that help your child learn how to read. Listen for the words that rhyme and see if you can compose your own silly songs. Encourage your child to move to the rhythm to promote motor skill development. Even put on a show with costumes!

Play School

Playing school helps smooth the transition from preschool to Kindergarten. Read books about the first day of school, practice your morning routine, pack a snack and practice opening it. Take turns being the teacher so you can model raising your hand and completing tasks.

Games on the Go

Take advantage of learning opportunities while you are out and about. Count how long you are at a red light. Play "I spy..." in the restaurant - look for shapes, colors, or even letter sounds. Play rhyming games to promote reading readiness. Make a list for the grocery store to encourage sounding out words and handwriting development. Counting spare change teaches names and values of coins.

Find Your Inner Picasso

Encourage your child to tap into their artistic side with crayons, chalk, paint, play dough, clay, scissors, glue, etc. Besides the beautiful creations you will make together, you will be nurturing fine motor development, attention span, and independence, as well as increasing confidence.

I Can Do It Myself!

Put your child in situations that encourage independence. Whether it's picking out their own clothes or packing a bag to go the pool it is important for your child be assigned tasks that they can accomplish on their own. Try not to step in so that your child will learn natural consequences and how to cope with their disappointments.



The activities in this handout will help prepare your child to transition into Kindergarten. Spending time with your child in fun and meaningful ways will help you build a strong foundation for a successful Kindergarten school year.

Books to Read With Your Children

Reading stories about school will build excitement and can help ease first day jitters. Here is a small sample of the many wonderful books available at the Library or at any local bookstore.

Annabelle Swift, Kindergartner by Amy Schwartz

Froggy Goes to School by Jonathan London

First Day, Hooray! by Nancy Poydar

Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten by Joseph Slate

The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn

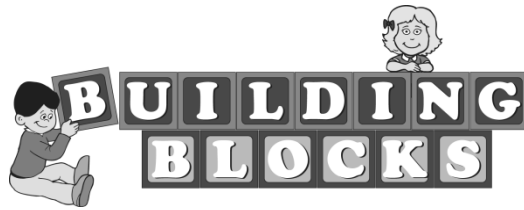
Tom Goes to Kindergarten by Margaret Wild and David Legge

We Share Everything! by Robert Munsch

Welcome to Kindergarten by Anne Rockwell

Will I Have a Friend? by Miriam Cohen





About Us:

Heidi Burton and Robin Treto have worked with preschooler through fifth graders in Bay Area public schools. They are dedicated to providing young children and their families fun and developmentally appropriate activities with hopes of inspiring the love of learning. Heidi and Robin are active members of Advocates for Kindergarten Readiness, an exciting grassroots organization in Pleasanton made up of parents, educators, and professionals in the field of education.

Building Blocks offers a variety of staff development workshops that may also include technical support and materials to implement new ideas in the classroom. We also offer parent education classes ranging from helping children transition into school to providing parents with fun ways to support their child's learning. Each workshop is custom built to support individuals, schools, and communities.

For more information, to order products, or to schedule a workshop at your school, please contact us at:

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