

Kindergarten...

It's not all about ABCs and 1,2,3

What Many Parents Ask

- Do you practice letters?
- Do you practice counting and number concepts?
- Do you practice writing?
- Do children read at the preschool?

CT Early Learning Standards Birth to Five

Curriculum Areas Include

- Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development and Health
- Language and Literacy
- Creative Arts
- Math
- Science
- Cognition
- Social Studies

So what can you do at home to support your child in the transition to Kindergarten

Encourage:

- Play
- Persistence
- Problem Solving
- Exposure to Literacy and Math
- Independence and Responsibility



Board Games to practice
turn-taking
and
sportsmanship



Encourage the use of your
child's imagination through
pretend play!



Invite others over for playdates of
various ages to enhance cooperative
play and negotiation skills

Encourage Persistence

- *Allow TIME for a child to attempt a task independently.*
- *Talk through a task*
- *Use Backward Chaining Technique:
Start the task..let your child finish the final step.*



Problem Solving: Use Verbal Coaching

What can you do next?

Think about what to do.

When that happened
to me I tried to..

Can you try another way?



Literacy: Not Just Reading

Front and Back of Book

Moving finger from left to right of the page

One to One Correspondence

Rhyming

Sounds Versus Letters

Segmentation/Beats

Encourage Noticing Signs and Symbols in the Environment

Ask Questions About the Book

There is a hierarchy to questions:

- “What” and “What doing” questions are the easiest
- “Who” and “Where” are next in the developmental sequence
- “Why:” and “How” are more difficult and require higher level reasoning skills and can also tap into prediction skills, “Why do you think the girl chased the dog?” “let’s find out!”
- Ask your child, “What happened in the beginning of the book”?
- “What happened in the middle of the story”
- “What happened at the end of the story”

Anything With Numbers Is Math!



Using a calendar can teach:

Left to right sequencing

Number ordering

Number recognition

Time Concepts



Use parts of puzzles, or other objects that can be assembled to teach one to one correspondence using dice.

Encourage counting the number of plates when setting the table

When in the grocery store ask your child to retrieve a certain number of like items,
e.g.: 5 Apples

Use the clock to teach numbers and concepts of time

Promote Independence and Responsibility

Expect your child to complete a task daily:

Select his/her own clothes

Put belongings away upon arriving home.

Have a designated “spot” for belongings

Expect that our child will clean up after they play

Help with household tasks

Allow Time for Drawing and Crafts

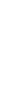
Use a variety of materials to let your child paint, draw and explore

- For example: Use shaving cream for children to draw or experiment with letter formulation
- Wiki sticks, finger paints, play dough with objects or coins hidden inside.
- Use “Thumbs up” for cutting paper and to orient hands
- Use short writing instruments to promote a pincer grasp.
Broken crayons work well!

Developmental Sequence of Drawing Shapes

Before Writing Letters and Numbers... Drawing Shapes is the Foundation.

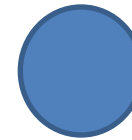
The Vertical Line



The Horizontal Line



The Circle



Lines that Bisect



The Diagonal Line



The Square



Have Fun

- Keep activities fun and interactive
- Keep activities meaningful to a child's life
- Engage in activities for an appropriate amount of time
- Try not to drill and test

Remember:

Enjoy and anticipate your child's success!



- Children are amazingly competent!
Even our youngest ones!