

# Before School Starts

Please Work With Your Child On

- Saying his or her first AND last name.
- Write their first name or attempt to.
- Tell an adult if something is wrong.
- Tell an adult when they need help.
- Take care of basic needs on own (restroom, tissues.)
- Read often. (You read to them, they pretend read.)
- Sing or recite nursery rhymes.
- Use scissors and glue.
- Follow two step directions.
- Sing the alphabet.
- Tie their shoes on their own.
- Count to 10.
- Take turns and share.
- Know their phone number
- Know their teacher's name.



Thank You!

# Kindergarten Academic Expectations!

## Reading

- Understand features of print: left to right, top to bottom
- Identify the parts of a book
- Name and write upper and lower case letters and their sounds
- Rhyme identification and production
- Break words into syllables
- Isolate & substitute beginning, middle, and ending sounds in words
- Long and short vowel sounds
- Read high frequency (sight) words
- Read emergent level text for purpose and understanding
- Answer questions about and retell stories
- Identify character, setting, and major events in a story
- Identify author and illustrators roles
- Compare stories
- Spell simple words phonetically
- Write a variety of stories ranging from research papers to personal narratives
- Write multiple sentences with proper spacing, capitalization, punctuation and meaningful content
- Recognize appropriate uses for nouns and verbs and use singular and plural correctly
- Use inflections and affixes correctly (-ed, -ing, un-, -pre-, etc.)
- Read at a level D/E

## Math

- Count to 100 by ones and tens on from a given number
- Write numbers 0-20
- Represent a number of objects with a written number & count to answer how many
- Understand counting means one more and represent that with numbers and objects
- Identify sets as greater than, less than, or equal
- Addition and subtraction word problems within 10
- Take apart numbers to 10 in more than one way (ways to make 10)
- Find the number to make 10 when given a number
- Add and subtract fluently within 10
- Put together and take apart numbers up to 19 ( $18=8+10$ )
- Understand the concept of tens & ones
- Describe/compare/contrast measurable features of objects
- Put objects into categories and sort those categories by counting
- Name shapes no matter the orientation
- Use terms of position: below, beside, etc
- Identify 2 and 3 dimensional shapes
- Use language to describe shapes similarities and differences (corners, vertices, sides, etc)
- Create & model shapes in environment and in other shapes

# ABCs and 123s!

Here are some fun, hands-on, and engaging ways to help your child with their letters and numbers!

- Forming them with playdough
- Writing them in shaving cream
- Writing each letter/number on a note card and put them in order
  - Building them with blocks or Legos
- Counting sets of objects and placing the matching number next to the set
- Search and find letters taped around the house, on the wall, on a large piece of paper, on a small piece of paper, outside, etc.
- Letter Slap- use a fly swatter (new, not used) and have them slap the letter you call out (can be done with notecards, stickers, etc.)
  - Stamping letters/numbers
  - Piper cleaner letters/numbers

**Pinterest is a GREAT place for ideas and handwriting/coloring printouts!**

# Chant Your ABC's

Chant your ABC's with claps here to stop students from blending letters together!

a b c

d e f g 

h i j k

l m n 

o p q 

r s t 


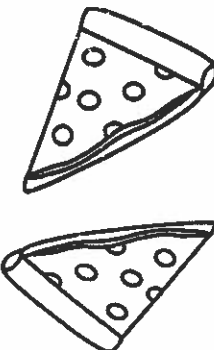
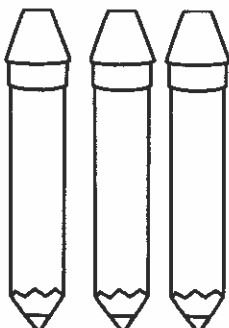
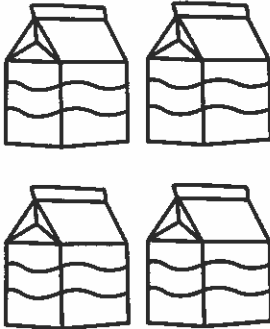
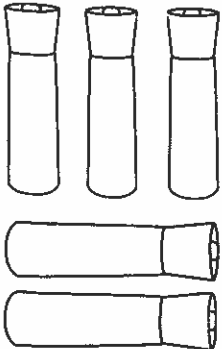
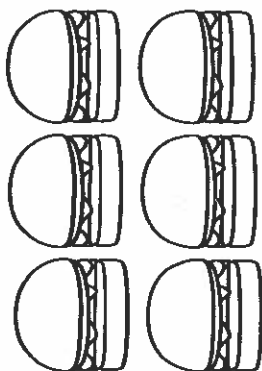
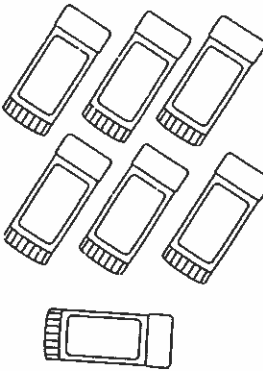
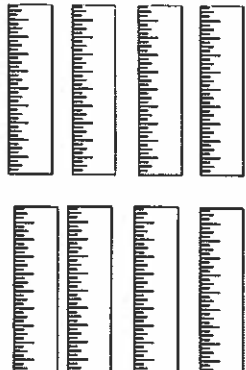
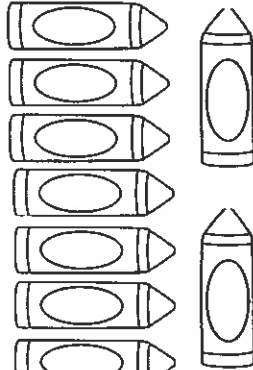
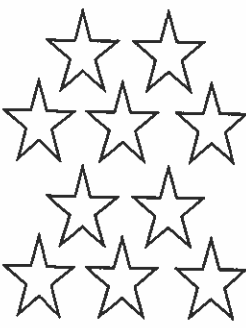
u v w 

x y z 

# Practice Numbers & Counting

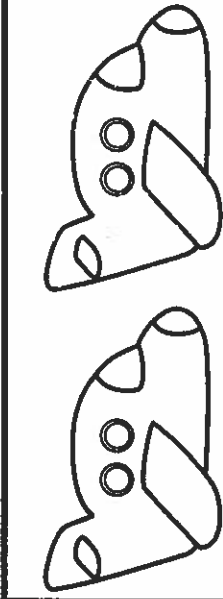
Cut these apart and match them together or use as flashcards.

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

Count and write how many.

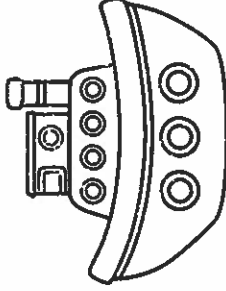
Name \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

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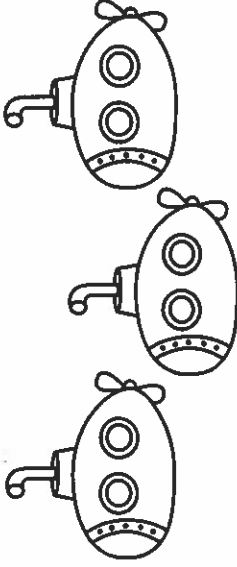
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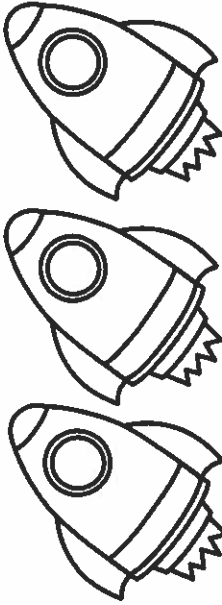
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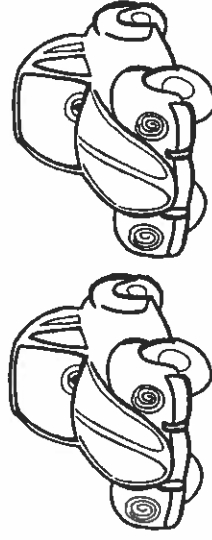
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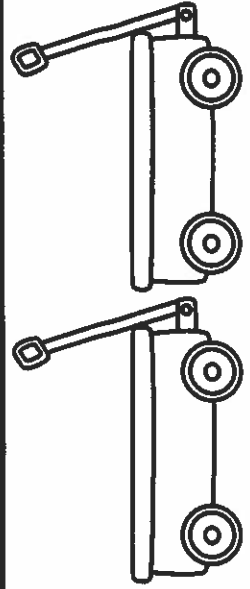
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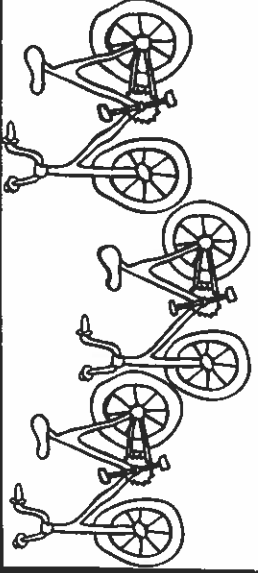
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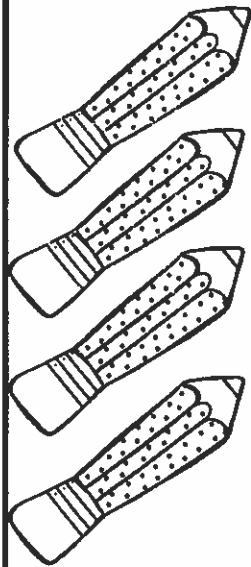
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\_\_\_\_\_

Count and write how many.

Name \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

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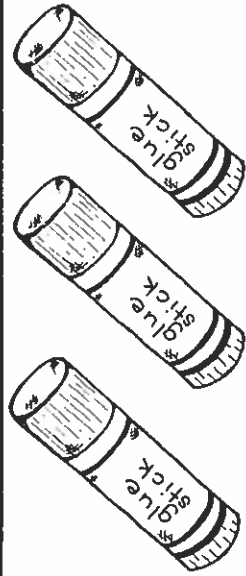
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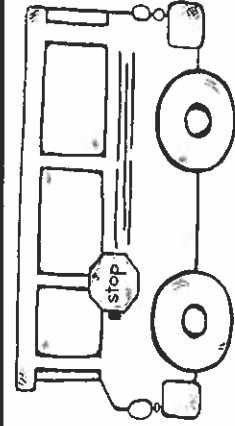
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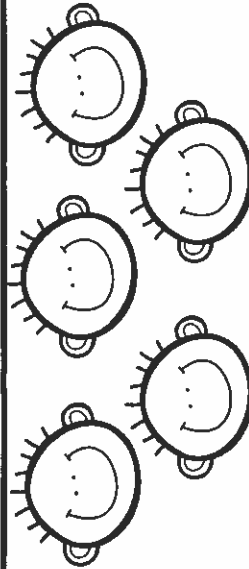
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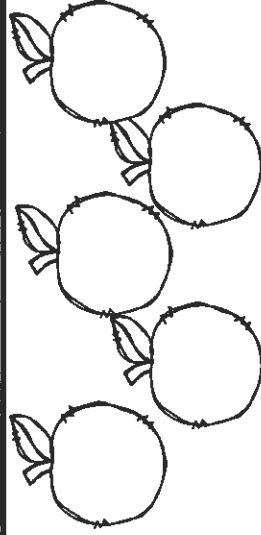
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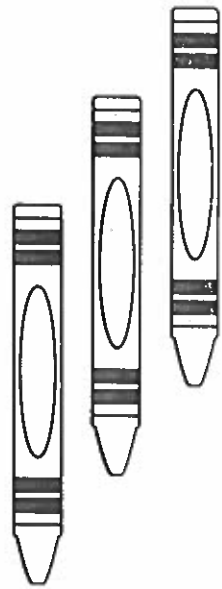
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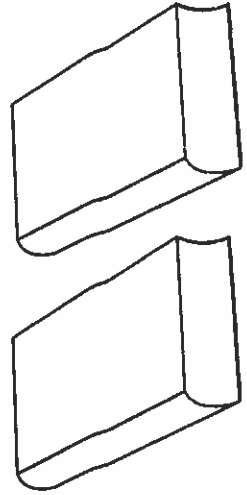
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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Cut and paste the numbers in the correct order.


3

9

6

4

10

5

1

8

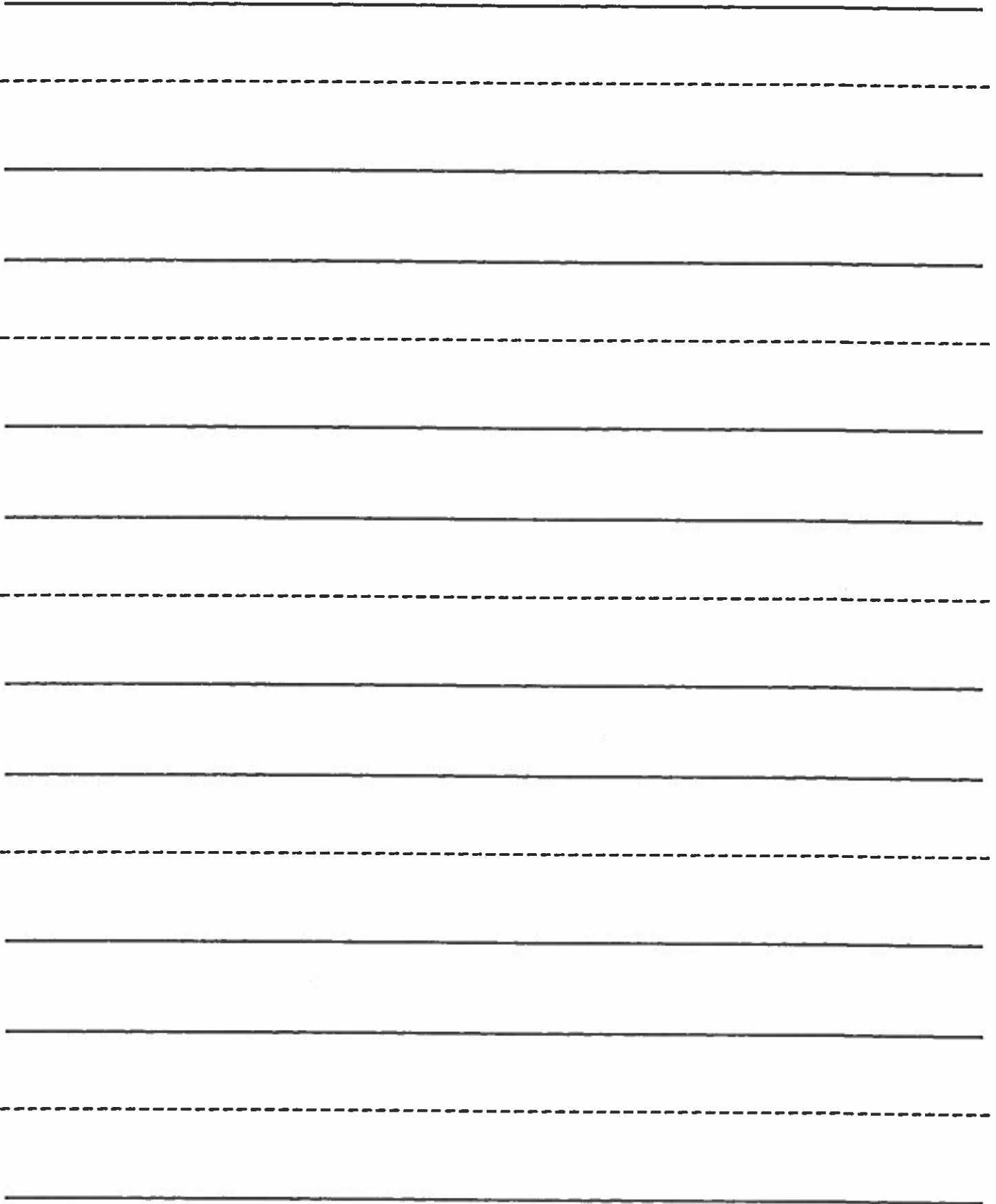
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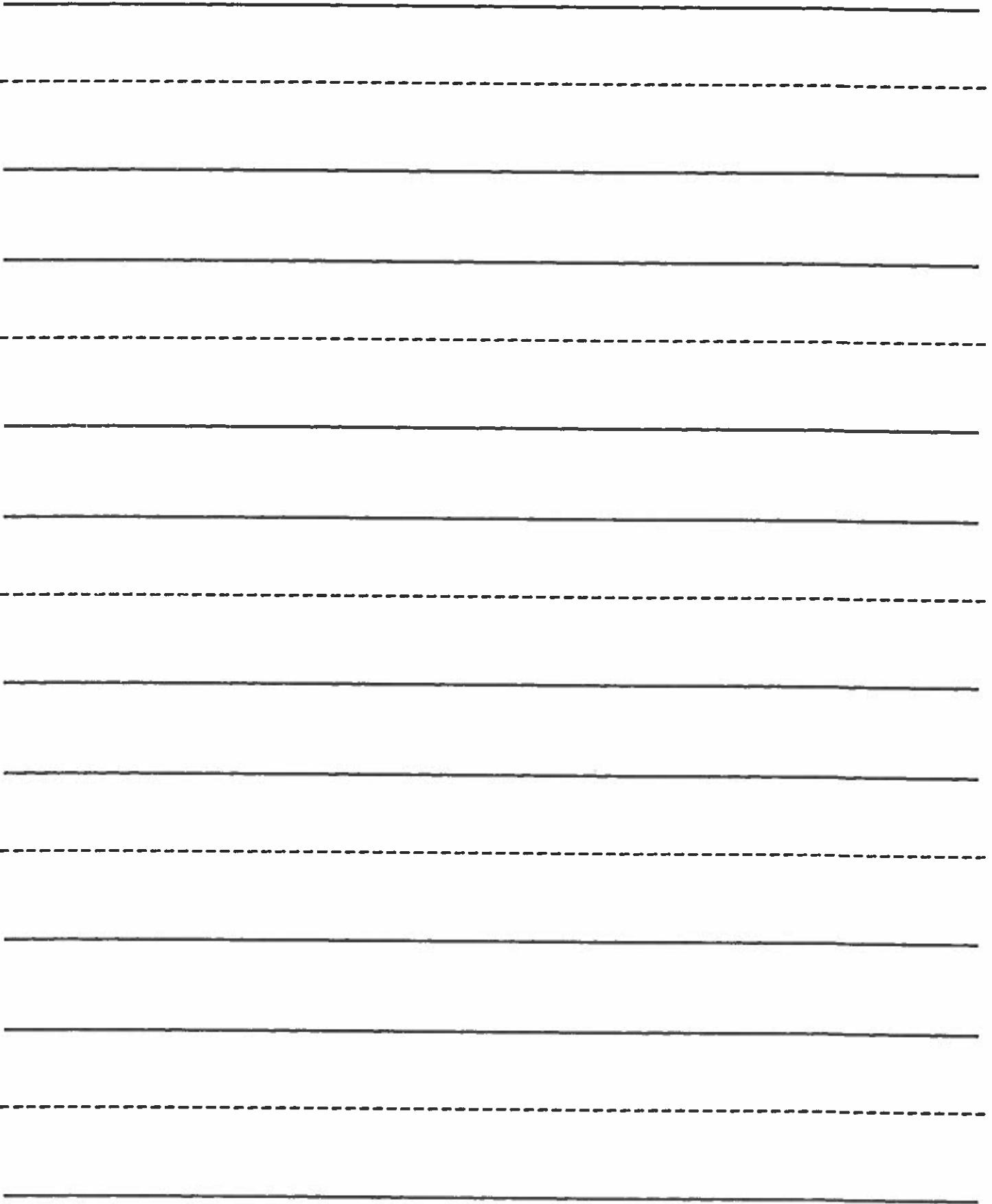


I can write my name!



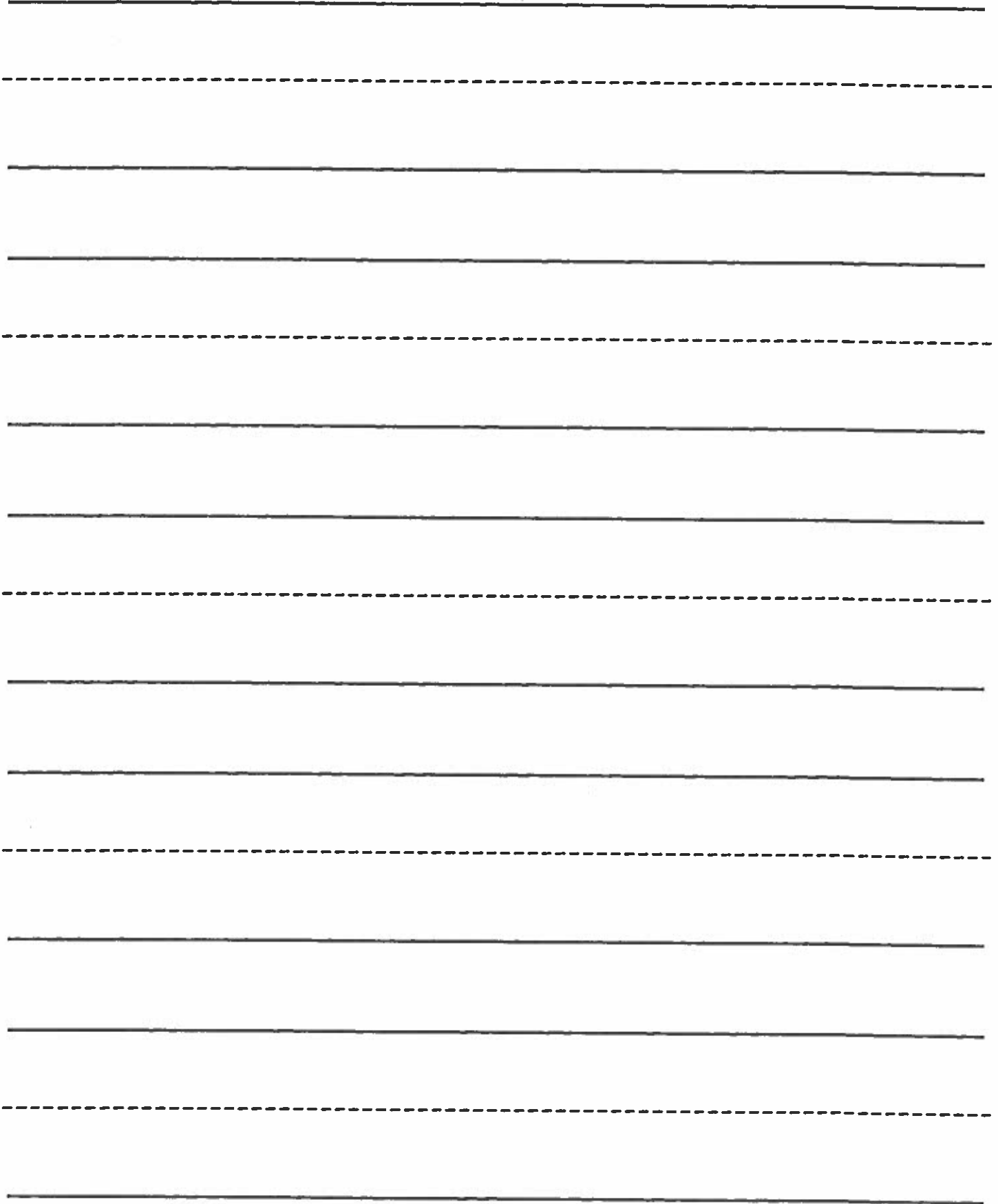
A series of horizontal lines for handwriting practice. Each row consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. There are ten such rows on the page.

I can write my name!



The page contains ten sets of handwriting practice lines. Each set consists of three horizontal lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. These lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page, providing a guide for letter height and placement.

I can write my name!



A series of ten horizontal lines for handwriting practice. Each line set consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.



# Why Are Scissor Skills SO Important?

## Build Fine Motor Strength

- Cutting allows a child to build up the little muscles in their hands with the open and close motion. These muscles are so important for writing, painting, and doing everyday things like brushing your teeth, eating with utensils, and getting dressed.

## Develop Eye-Hand Coordination

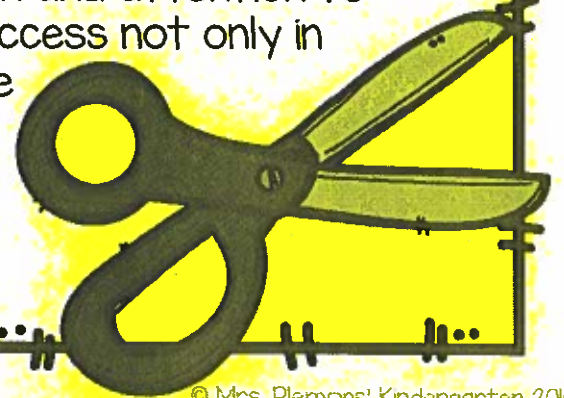
- Cutting requires kids to use their eyes and hands in unison to accomplish the cutting task. Eye-hand coordination is important for catching/throwing balls, eating with a spoon, and zipping a coat.

## Increase Bilateral Coordination

- Cutting encourages your child to use both sides of the body at the same time while each hand is performing its own task. When cutting a shape, a child must hold the paper with one hand while the other hand is opening and closing the scissors and moving forward to cut. This is essential for tasks like zipping up a coat or pants, washing dishes, and opening an envelope.

## Improve Focus and Attention

- Cutting out shapes takes concentration and attention to detail. Both skills are necessary for success not only in the classroom but in everyday life. The ability to sustain focus is essential to being able to read books, listen to instruction and complete many other classroom tasks.



# You're on your way to K!

The transition to kindergarten is respected as a major milestone not only for the child, but for his or her family as well. The attitude towards school and learning that the child carries with them for life is often determined by this very first experience with school. A smooth transition to kindergarten can help make sure your child is successful in school!

**The information below is designed to help you prepare your children for their first school experience!**

**Flip over to the back for the rest.**

## **Personal needs without help, can they:**

- Put on and take off coat?
- Tie their own shoes?
- Wash their hands?
- Snap, button, zip, and buckle?
- Use the restroom independently?

## **Social Skills, can they:**

- Listen to an adult?
- Follow simple instructions?
- Cooperate with other children?
- Sit for short periods of time?
- Follow simple 2-3 step instructions?
- Show respect to objects and people?

## **Intellectual/Academic Skills can they:**

- Sit and listen to a story?
- Hold a book upright and turn the pages?
- Know their first and last name?
- Tell and retell familiar stories?
- Know colors, shapes, and sizes?
- Say the ABCs?
- Count from 1-10?
- Recognizes and writes first name? (**First letter capital, the rest are lowercase, not all capital or mixed upper and lower case**). Ex: Jessica vs. JESSICA or JESSICA
- Recognize letters in their name?
- Hold pencil and scissors appropriately?

**To help with this transition to kindergarten, you can follow these additional ideas:**

- Have conversations with your child everyday.
- Let your child try to entertain themselves for periods of time (Don't always have them on electronics).
- Play board games and card games with your child.
- Provide opportunities to play with other children.
- Teach your children socially acceptable ways to disagree.
- Encourage social values such as helpfulness, cooperation, sharing, and concern for others.
- READ, READ, READ! :)



# Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten

Let's face it: Kindergarten isn't what it used to be. Right or wrong, it is the world we live in. The following list is intended to help prepare your child in a variety of developmental areas to make the transition into kindergarten as smooth as possible. Believe it or not, just 15-20 minutes of playing and learning with your child can make a world of difference!

## Social/Emotional Development

- Encourage your child to persist in tasks when encountering a problem by giving him tasks slightly above his current ability level. When your child cannot find a solution on his own, encourage him to calmly ask for help.
- Play board games to practice taking turns.
- Set up several play dates with friends of various ages.
- Allow your child to stay with other trusted adults for a few hours at a time prior to kindergarten (especially if she has rarely been in the care of someone other than mom and dad).
- Tell your child you expect her to clean up after play. You could implement a ransom box for toys left out like this one:  
[www.madsmemories.blogspot.com/2009/08/moms-ransom-rubbage.html](http://www.madsmemories.blogspot.com/2009/08/moms-ransom-rubbage.html)

## Language Development

- Verbally give your child specific one-step and two-step directions and encourage him to follow through.
- Read to your child for a combined total of at least 20 minutes each day.
- While reading, point out how to hold a book (right-side up with the spine on the left) and the orientation in which we read the words and look at the pictures (left to right).
- After reading, ask your child what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the story.
- Give your child plenty of opportunities to draw (without coloring books). Ask her to draw the things she sees around her.
- Teach your child the uppercase and lowercase letters and, most importantly, the sounds each letter makes through play and games. Need some ideas? Go here:  
[www.icanteachmychild.com/alphabet](http://www.icanteachmychild.com/alphabet)

## Cognitive Development

- Have your child help you sort items according to color, size, and shape (laundry, blocks, silverware, toys, and other household items work well).
- Teach your child to make various patterns (red, blue, red, blue). Garage sale dot stickers or craft pom-poms are great for this purpose.
- Practice counting aloud to 20 while driving in the car.



- Teach your child numerals 1-10. Need some suggestions on how to do this: Go here: [www.icanteachmychild.com/numbers](http://www.icanteachmychild.com/numbers)
- Count objects in your home. Have your child point to each object as she counts.
- Go on a shape hunt. Point out circles, triangles, squares, and rectangles to your child while you are taking or walk or grocery shopping.
- Talk about positional and directional concepts like up/down, over/under, in/out, behind/in front of, top/bottom, beside/between, off/on, stop/go.
- Talk about opposite words (big/little, empty/full, slow/fast).

### **Physical Development (Gross & Fine Motor)**

- Give your child plenty of opportunities for outdoor play: running, jumping, and climbing.
- Play catch on a regular basis.
- Practice skipping.
- Stack blocks together.
- Let your child use child-safe scissors to cut out a variety of shapes.
- Teach your child to write his name (capital for the first letter and lowercase for the remaining letters). To start, write his name using a highlighter and encourage him to trace over it. Be sure that he forms the letters from the top to the bottom.
- Ensure your child is holding her pencil correctly:  
[www.icanteachmychild.com/2012/06/correct-pencil-grip/](http://www.icanteachmychild.com/2012/06/correct-pencil-grip/)
- Play with playdough regularly. Roll, squish, stamp, and even cut it!
- Encourage your child to cut out various shapes using child-safe scissors.
- String large beads to make a necklace.
- Play with an interlocking puzzle together.

### **Creative Arts**

- Always encourage pretend play...occasionally join your child in his fantasy world.
- Teach your child to recognize the following colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, black, white, brown, and pink. For help, go to:  
[www.icanteachmychild.com/colors](http://www.icanteachmychild.com/colors)
- Use a variety of materials to let your child paint, draw and explore!

**This list was created based upon the following:**

**<http://www.icanteachmychild.com/2012/03/71-things-your-child-needs-to-know-before-kindergarten/>**



# Speech Sound Development

Below are the ages that sounds typically develop.

Early (18 months-3 years)

- m n y b w d p h

Middle (2-6 years)

- t ng (talkING) k g f v ch j

Late (3-8 years)

- sh zh (measure) r s z th (think) th (that)

## What should my child be able to do?

**Speech/Language:** Language is one of the main ways children learn when they're in school. It is important that children have these skills in order to succeed in school.

- Says all speech sounds in words. May make mistakes on sounds that are harder to say, like *l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh, th*
- Responds to "What did you say?"
- Talks without repeating sounds or words most of the time
- Names, letters, and numbers
- Use sentences that have more than one action word, like *jump, play* and *get*. May make some mistakes, like "Zach got two video games, but I got one."
- Tells a short story
- Keeps a conversation going
- Talks in different ways depending on the listener and place. May use short sentences with younger children or talk louder than normal outside.
- Talks in sentences

- Retells a story that was just read to him/her
- Identifies at least five or six colors
- Uses past and present tense verbs
- Recites/sings common nursery rhymes and songs
- Combines two ideas in sentences

### Hearing and Understanding:

- Understands word order, like *first, next, and last*
- Understands words for time, like *yesterday, today, and tomorrow*
- Follow longer directions, like "Put your pajamas on , brush your teeth, and pick out a book."
- Follow classroom directions, like "Draw a circle on your paper around something you eat."
- Hears and understands most of what is said at home and in school

### Social Skills:

- Uses words to solve problems and conflicts
- Follows one step directions
- Follows simple rules
- Ask for help
- Interacts inappropriately with adults and other children
- Participates in clean up activities
- Takes responsibility for his/her own items and respects those of others
- Demonstrates increasing self-control
- Is able to express feelings in words and begins to regulate emotions
- Adjusts to new situations
- Use "please" and "thank you"

**Concepts:** While in preschool, children may learn and begin to understand even more concepts about time, categories, and objects in space, to name a few. Specifically, these skills include:

- Sort by categories (color, shape, size)
- Identifies objects that are the same and different
- Understands some prepositions (in/out, over/under, on/off)
- Understands concepts such as yesterday, today, and tomorrow

**Phonological Awareness and Reading Skills:**

- Recognizes letter sounds
- Blends sounds into words
- Pretends to look at a book on their own
- Recognizes some upper and lowercase letters
- Answers questions related to the main characters and plot line of the story
- Sequences main event
- Identifies title on the cover (location, not necessarily the words)

### What can I do to help?

- Talk about spatial relationships (first, middle, and last; right and left) and opposites (up/down, big/little)
- Offer a description or clues and how your child identify what you are describing (I spy)
- Work on forming and explaining categories (fruits, furniture, shapes)
- Follow your child's directions as he or she explains how to do something
- Give full attention to your child when he or she is speaking, and acknowledge, praise, and encourage him or her after.

- Before you speak to your child, be sure to get his or her undivided attention. Pause after speaking, allowing him or her to respond to what you said.
- Build on your child's vocabulary. Provide definitions for new words, and use them in context. "The vehicle is riding on the highway. It is a car. A bus is another kind of vehicle. So are trains and airplanes."
- Encourage your child to ask for an explanation if he or she does not understand what a word means.
- Point out things that are the same or different. Play games incorporating these concepts that he or she will encounter later in the classroom in reading activities.

Mrs. Romanini, SLP  
tanya.romanini@trumbullesc.org

# **Helpful Hints to Improve Receptive and Expressive Language Skills**

**Receptive language is listening and language comprehension.**

- Have your child repeat and explain directions that are given at home to make sure he or she heard and understood you.
- Have your child complete simple and multi-step verbal directions .
- Have your child remember 3-5 items in a list when going shopping. This will also help improve his or her memory skills.
- Provide your child practice with vocabulary games such as “Hedbanz” and “Blurt” to improve his or her comprehension of word meanings.

**Expressive language is also known as oral language or verbal communication. Children need to be able to verbally express their ideas about everyday events and academic information with ease.**

Here are some ways that you can encourage your child to practice improving these skills:

- Have your child describe what he or she did during recent family events (e.g. going to the park, going to a birthday party, etc.). This will help your child explain the sequence of events.
- Have your child retell information about a fiction story by answering 5 WH questions: 1) Who was in the story? 2) What did the characters do in the story? 3) Where did the story take place? 4) When did the story happen? 5) Why did the main events happen?
- Have your child retell 5 facts from a non-fiction academic short passage.
- Provide your child an opportunity to verbally define curriculum language arts vocabulary. For example, he or she should be able to explain the meanings of story elements vocabulary such as character, setting, introduction, rising action, climax, falling action, conclusion, problem, and solution.
- Provide your child an opportunity to practice common word relationships or associations by naming synonyms, antonyms, and completing verbal analogies.

# Interactive Websites to Improve Receptive and Expressive Language Skills

## Basic Concepts

### What are basic concepts?

[http://www.superduperinc.com/handouts/pdf/52\\_Teaching\\_Basic\\_Concepts.pdf](http://www.superduperinc.com/handouts/pdf/52_Teaching_Basic_Concepts.pdf)

### **do2learn.com**

- [http://do2learn.com/games/whatsdifferent/main\\_thingtoridein.htm](http://do2learn.com/games/whatsdifferent/main_thingtoridein.htm) (What Doesn't Belong?)
- <http://do2learn.com/games/wordpairs/index.htm> (spatial concepts)
- <http://do2learn.com/games/whatcolor/pages/index.html> (colors)

### **jacobslesson.com**

- <http://jacobslessons.com/cm/categorymatching.htm>
- <http://jacobslessons.com/matchcolor1.htm>
- <http://jacobslessons.com/iobf/function.htm>
- <http://jacobslessons.com/prepositions/prepositions.htm>

### **pbskids.org**

#### Following Directions

- <http://pbskids.org/clifford/games/buried-treasure.html>

#### Spatial (Location) Concepts

- <http://pbskids.org/clifford/games/whichclifford-game.html>

### **cookie.com**

- <http://www.cookie.com/kids/games/go-together.html> (What Goes Together?)

**Misc. worksheets** <http://www.kidslearningstation.com/preschool/basic-concepts.asp>

## **Vocabulary Comprehension**

### **jacobslesson.com (basic labeling)**

- [http://jacobslessons.com/touch/touch\\_bas.htm](http://jacobslessons.com/touch/touch_bas.htm)

### **cookie.com (basic labeling)**

<http://www.cookie.com/kids/games/labeling.html>

### **spellingcity.com**

#### **Homophones & homonyms video lessons and games**

- <https://www.spellingcity.com/homophones-and-homonyms.html>

#### **Antonyms & synonyms video lessons and games**

- <https://www.spellingcity.com/antonyms.html>
- <https://www.spellingcity.com/synonyms.html>

#### **Analogies video lessons and games**

- <https://www.spellingcity.com/analogies.html>

#### **Figurative language video lessons and games**

- <https://www.spellingcity.com/figurative-language.html>

### **henryanker.com**

#### **Homophones, synonyms, antonyms, analogies**

- Click on grade level, then different vocabulary tabs

### **jacobslessons.com**

- <http://jacobslessons.com/opposites/oppositesPreSet1.htm>

## **Pragmatics**

### **myeverydayspeech.com**

- <http://myeverydayspeech.com/free-social-skills-videos-6-videos-for-elementary-through-high-school-students/>

## **Grammar Comprehension**

### **Pronouns**

<http://jacobslessons.com/heshe/heshe.htm>

<http://jacobslessons.com/boygirl/givehimher.htm>

<http://jacobslessons.com/boygirl/hishers.htm>

### **Parts of speech**

<https://www.spellingcity.com/parts-of-speech.html>

[http://www.henryanker.com/Language/Language\\_Skills/Possessive\\_Nouns/Possessive\\_Nouns\\_Set\\_01.swf](http://www.henryanker.com/Language/Language_Skills/Possessive_Nouns/Possessive_Nouns_Set_01.swf)

<http://www.cookie.com/kids/games/simple-sentences.html>

<http://www.cookie.com/kids/games/describing-words.html> (adjectives)

<http://www.cookie.com/kids/games/opposite-adjectives.html>

## **Story Sequencing, Comprehension & Retell**

- <http://www.jacobslessons.com/sequencing/seqBegSet2.htm>
- <http://www.quia.com/pages/sequencingfun.html>
- <http://www.kidslearningstation.com/sequencing/>  
(worksheets)
- newsela.com (online articles)
- readworks.org (worksheets)

### **henryanker.com (2<sup>nd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade text)**

- click on grade level, then reading comprehension tab

## **Critical Thinking**

### **Basic Inferences (Use clues to name objects and make predictions)**

- [http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/in\\_the\\_bag/bag.swf](http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/in_the_bag/bag.swf)
- <http://www.pspb.org/blueribbon/games/detective/DetectiveGame.html>
- <http://www.quia.com/rr/332704.html>