



Let's Work Together to Support Your Child's Success!



Here are some ways you can support your Pre-Kindergartner or Kindergartner's learning and development at home.

Tips when reading to your child

- Ask your child questions about the story that start with “Why?,” “How?,” and “What if...?”
- Point to pictures and name the objects for your child.
- Ask your child to help name objects and praise them for doing so.
- Connect the story to real events in your child's life. For example, “Do you remember when we went to the zoo?”
- Discuss the story and encourage your child to tell you what happened.

These tips will help your child take an active role in reading, process the story, learn new things, and set them on a path for a lifelong love of reading!



Teach your child about science and the world around them

- **Encourage your child to ask questions and find answers together.** Ask them what they think and then include them in finding answers. For example, look up information together or find activities to help answer questions.
- **Use items around the house to experiment.** For example, “How does changing the position of a block change how fast a ball can roll off of it?” Grab a block and ball and play around with different angles to answer the question.
- **Encourage your child to write down what they observe.** They can keep a journal for writing notes or drawing pictures about what they've learned.

These activities can encourage your child's scientific thinking and curiosity about the world.

Help your child learn numbers

- Help your child recognize the number of objects around your home. Start by modeling this for them. For example, “I have two books.”
- Ask your child “how many?” during mealtime or playtime. Work with them to point to each item while counting.
- When your child is comfortable counting small sets of items, help them compare two groups. For example, “Do you have more carrots or more grapes?”
- Help your child recognize numbers by pointing them out in your everyday environment, such as the numbers on food packages or addresses on homes.
- Help your child understand how numbers can change. Encourage simple addition and subtraction during an everyday activity. For example, “If you eat one more cracker, how many will you have left?”



Incorporating early math concepts into everyday activities can help prepare your child for later mathematics.

Support your child's well-being



- **Identify and talk about emotions.** Take turns with your child making different faces and guessing what you are feeling. Then talk about the times you felt that way, such as “I felt happy when Grandma visited.” Praise your child when they talk about their mood. When your child is feeling a strong emotion, help them describe the emotion and explain why they might be feeling that way.
- **Teach them cooperation and responsibility.** Include your child in simple household chores so they can become more independent, cooperative, and helpful. For instance, they can pick up their toys or bring in the mail.
- **Keep them moving.** Doctors recommend 60 minutes of physical activity each day. Make movement and exercise a lifelong habit by incorporating it into your child's daily routine. For example, go on a walk together every day and provide toys such as balls and jump ropes that encourage playful movement.



Tips for communicating with your child's teacher



Stay connected with your child's learning in the classroom. This will help you support their learning at home. Ask your child's teacher to share ideas about how you can support classroom learning. Here are some example questions:

1. What is my child learning in the classroom right now?
2. Why is this important for them to know?
3. How can I support this learning at home?
4. What can I look for to help us both know if my child understands?
5. What is the best way to communicate with you about what I learn?

Share your experiences with your child's teacher. Your participation matters!

Let's work together to build a learning partnership to support your child's success!

The information in this handout comes from the following sources:

Reading: Dowdall, N., Melendez-Torres, G. J., Murray, L., Gardner, F., Hartford, L., & Cooper, P. J. (2020). Shared picture book reading interventions for child language development: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Child Development*, 91(2), e383–e399. <https://srcd.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cdev.13225>;

Learning numbers: Regional Educational Laboratory Central. (n.d.). *Teaching math to young children for families and caregivers*. <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/central/resources/teachingearlymath/index.asp>; What Works Clearinghouse. (n.d.). *5 evidence-based recommendations for teaching math to young children*. https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/practiceguide/wwc_empg_numbers_020714.pdf

Science: Lan, Y.-C. (n.d.). *10 tips to support children's science learning*. National Association for the Education of Young Children. <https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/support-science-learning>

Well-being: Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning. (n.d.). *Resources: Family tools*. <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/family.html>; <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/healthy-living/fitness/StopWatch-Tool/Pages/default.aspx>

For more information:

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<https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/askarel/index.asp>

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