

PREPARING MY CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN

Fun Things to Do with your Child



Granite United Way
in Carroll County

Ask your child questions that can't be answered by just "yes" or "no".
Instead of asking "Do you see that pretty bird?" ask "What other things fly?"

TALK, SING and **READ** to your child.
Your child learns words by hearing them.
The more you talk, the more they learn!

Read with your child every day,
whether it's a book, traffic sign,
cereal box, grocery list.

Notice what excites your child!
Is it animals, planes or dinosaurs? Follow up their interest with a book, song, rhyme, game or visit somewhere.

Encourage your children to play.
Let them sort, stack and match stones, blocks or socks.

Play games together:
Candy Land, Memory, Go Fish, etc.

Provide creative materials
to encourage music, drawing, painting and writing.

Talk positively about Kindergarten and school.
Your child picks up on your feelings about school.

Turn grocery shopping into learning fun.
Ask your child to look for items, find colors, count things.

Choose screen and TV time wisely:
PBSkids.org, starfall.com and Sesame Street.

Take a walk outdoors.
Explore and talk about what you see, hear and feel.



For more resources to help you prepare your child for Kindergarten, call your local school, visit your local library, go to the NH Department of Education's website at www.education.nh.gov/instruction/curriculum/kindergarten-toolkit.htm or SparkNH, NH's Early Childhood Advisory Council website at sparknh.com. This document can be copied and distributed as needed.

GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN

Your child was born ready to learn. You are your child's first and best teacher. Raising an eager learner is the goal and can be achieved easily through play and day to day activities. Here are the top skills that kindergarten teachers are looking for.

Physical

- Mostly dresses independently, including shoes, buttons, zippers, coats and jackets
- Independently use toilet and wash hands
- Use pencils, crayons and scissors
- Practice hop, skip, and jump

Intellectual/Academic

- Sing simple songs, like ABC song
- Use numbers and counting to express quantities
- Sort objects by color, size or shape
- Understands time sequences – day/night and today/tomorrow/yesterday
- Understand up/down, over/under, in/out, different/alike, more/less
- Notice, copy and create patterns
- Express ideas with drawings and/or symbols/letters
- Recognize and practice own name using capital and/or lower case letters
- Show an interest and awareness of books and stories
- Identify some letters of the alphabet
- Understand that letters represent sounds
- Recognize and say simple nursery rhymes
- Recognize words within the environment (ex: stop sign)

Emotional/Social Development

- Can be away from parents/family
- Follow routines, rules and multi-step directions
- Express his/her own wants and needs appropriately
- Express concern for other peoples' feelings
- Respect self, others and learning environment
- Understand how their actions effect others
- Play cooperatively; take turns with others
- Can sit at the table and can feed self
- Participate in large and small group activities
- Use words to resolve conflicts



If you are concerned that your child is having difficulty with several of these skills, call your local elementary school or superintendent's office.