

FINE MOTOR SKILLS

WHAT ARE KINDERGARTEN READINESS KITS?

As a parent, you are your child's first teacher and you play an important role in your child's readiness for school. Preschool and other kindergarten readiness programs are great stepping stones for many children, however you as a parent have the biggest impact on whether a child starts school ready to learn.

Some of the most important abilities when children start school are not necessarily the academic skills that we think of, but social-emotional abilities like getting along with other children and teachers, and working on their own without disrupting the classroom.

Skills like naming letters and counting are important and your child learns those and other skills best through play and everyday hands-on experiences such as reading together daily, playing at parks and playgrounds, shopping together, and visiting museums, zoos, and libraries.

In this and other Kindergarten Readiness Kits we've carefully cultivated resources and activities that will provide hours of education and entertainment for your preschooler. We're so thrilled for your child as they navigate their journey from a preschooler to a real Kindergarten All-Star!

FINE MOTOR SKILLS

Gross Motor skills are the coordination of movements that are required for large movements: running, jumping, throwing, kicking, climbing, etc. Typically these are the skills that develop before fine motor skills. Fine Motor Skills require the use of smaller muscle groups to perform tasks that are more precise in nature: cutting, writing, tying laces, zipping, etc. A child ready for kindergarten should be able to hold and cut with scissors correctly, use glue properly, run/hop/skip, stand on one foot, throw/catch a ball, and begin to hold writing tools with fingers instead of with a fist.

THUMBPRINT ART

Discover how easy it is to create whimsical thumbprint art in Ed Wemberley's, *Funprint Drawing Book*. Use the included stamp ink and paper and have your child use their fingers and a few simple squiggles to create fun art that will also make them giggle!

FINGER FLEXIBILITY

Read aloud these interactive books: **Through the Town**, by Katie Howarth; **Dear Zoo**, by Rod Campbell; and **Press Here**, by Herve Tullet. Encourage your child to follow along with their fingers, lift the flaps, press the dots, and shake the pages! Zip, button, buckle, lace, and tie on the Quiet Board, then twist out those fingers with the included Wooden Spinning Tops!

CUTTING WITH SCISSORS

Many children reach kindergarten and have never used scissors before. Encourage your child to correctly hold and practice cutting with included child-size safety scissors. They can cut up old magazines, scraps of paper, ribbon, or playdough. For an added challenge draw lines on a sheet of paper that are straight, curved, and zigzagged, and have them practice cutting.

BUTTON ART

The Button Art Kit is designed for preschoolers to develop hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills, and creative thinking. All your child has to do is match and snap the chunky buttons to complete the included pictures.

THE SNEAKY SNACKY SQUIRREL GAME

Sneak in the fun of learning colors, develop strategic thinking, and reinforce hand-eye coordination with **The Sneaky Snacky Squirrel Game**. Be the first to fill your log with delicious acorns and you win!

HOW TO PLAY:

- 1) Spin the spinner.
- 2) Squeeze the matching colored acorn with your Squirrel Squeezer, and place it into your log.
- 3) Be the first to fill your log with delicious acorns and you win.
- 4) You could also spin 'pick an acorn,' 'steal an acorn;' or 'lose an acorn,' so be strategic, little squirrel.