

LANGUAGE 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!

LANGUAGE SKILLS

It's fun to monitor your child's physical growth with scales and a measuring stick, but how do you measure your preschooler's growth in other areas, like age-appropriate language skills? Children learn to communicate by listening to others speak to them, and by speaking on their own. The more you talk to your child and introduce new words and concepts, the more their vocabulary grows. As their vocabulary and language skills grow, your child will be able to use more descriptive language and complex grammar. A child ready for kindergarten should be able to speak clearly in complete sentences with an appropriate volume; express their thoughts, feelings, and ideas; understand most of what is said to them and follow directions with at least two steps. Language skills are a critical ingredient for success, both in learning skills and concepts, and in getting along with others. Encourage language development at home by reading books, singing songs, and by taking time each day to listen to and talk with your child.

ZINGO

It's not Bingo, it's Zingo! This matching game encourages pre-readers and early readers to match the pictures and the words to their challenge cards. The Zingo! Zinger dispenses tiles and your child will quickly race to be the first player with a full card and yell, "Zingo!" With two levels of play, this matching game will build language skills through fast-paced play.

HEAR MYSELF SOUND PHONE

This fun-to-use phone lets your child hear himself talk so they can really focus on every sound they say. Simply hold the handle like a telephone, with one end near your mouth and the other at your ear; whether you speak normally or whisper, you'll hear each word loud and clear. Ask your child open-ended questions and let them answer while they hear their own voice.

THREE BILLY GOATS GRUFF

Read aloud Three Billy Goats Gruff, by Jerry Pinkney then have your child recreate the story using the Story Telling Puppets. This activity enriches and expands your child's vocabulary. It isn't important that they retell the story precisely, let them use their imagination and own ideas and possibly create an entirely new story!

ROLL A STORY GAME

Help your child develop storytelling and oral language skills by playing Roll A Story. Simply roll the dice and let the pictures guide your child's imagination.

How to Play:

- 1) Roll the dice and look at pictures face up
- 2) Group dice together that are related
- 3) Choose the dice you want to use and the best dice to start your story. Categories include: people, animals, food, places, transport, feelings, weather, actions, sports, and objects.