

LITERACY/PHONEMIC AWARENESS

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!

LITERACY/PHONEMIC AWARENESS

Before your child learns to read and write, he or she needs to develop the building blocks for literacy; the ability to speak, listen, understand, watch and draw. One of the stepping stones to literacy is Phonemic Awareness.

WHAT IS PHONEMIC AWARENESS?

Phonemic awareness is the ability to notice, think about, and work with the individual sounds in spoken words. Manipulating the sounds in words includes blending, stretching, or otherwise changing words. Children can demonstrate phonemic awareness in several ways, including:

recognizing which words in a set of words begin with the same sound
("Ball, bat, and boy all have /b/ at the beginning.")

isolating and saying the first or last sound in a word
("The beginning sound of dog is /d/." "The ending sound of doll is //".)

combining, or blending the separate sounds in a word to say the word
("/c/, /a/, /t/ – cat.")

breaking, or segmenting a word into its separate sounds
("cup – /c/, /u/, /p/".)

Phonemic awareness and phonics are not the same thing. Phonemic awareness is the understanding that the sounds of our spoken language work together to make words. Phonics is the understanding that there is a relationship between letters and sounds through written language. Children who cannot hear and work with the phonemes of spoken words will have a difficult time learning how to relate these phonemes to letters when they see them in written words.

LITERACY & PHONEMIC AWARENESS SKILLS

Rhyming is a great phonemic awareness activity. Most children easily grasp the concept of rhyme, though some may need a little help. Using word-play with rhyming helps children notice that sounds in our language have meaning and follow certain patterns. The easiest way rhyming to your child is by reading lots of fun rhyming poems, songs, and books, like those provided in this kit. Act silly and have fun!

ABC COOKIES, MAGIC BOARDS & FLASHCARDS

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