

Knox County Schools

expect more
achieve more

Targets for Kindergarten Entry

A five-year-old with these skills is **READY** to succeed at school.

Letters and Sounds:

- Enjoys being read to and can retell a story
- Recognizes letters (upper and lower case) and some letter sounds
- Repeats the first sound in a word
- Speaks in complete sentences
- Prints his or her first name

***Reading together every day
helps your child
master these skills.***

Math:

- Counts in order from 1-20
- Recognizes numbers and quantities to 5
- Names and sorts items by color, shape and size
- Understands concepts such as more, less, same, above, below, big, small

Social:

- Settles in to new groups or situations
- Can concentrate on a task for 5 minutes
- Follows simple directions
- Shows kindness and concern for others

What is the most important way to ensure my child has these skills?

Read aloud, read aloud, read aloud ...every day together with your child. Studies show children must hear and share in hundreds of stories and Nursery Rhymes before they are ready to learn and read in school. It is also important for them to talk and talk and talk about what they see every day and say the sounds of the letters they are learning.

"The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is **reading aloud to children**. This is especially so during the preschool years." *The Report of the Commission on Reading*

What are some simple activities parents can do at home to teach their child these skills?

Whenever you are working with your child, it should always be **fun!** Early childhood advocates call it *playing with a purpose*. Some ideas are:

- **Snack Time** - Look for letters on food boxes or cans, and say them together
- **Driving** – Sing songs and read signs, such as McDonald's or Walmart – pointing out various letters

- **Preparing Meals** – Put magnetic letters on the refrigerator for play
- **Shopping** - Talk about beginning letters of food, clothes, or toys
- **Nap Time** – Read a story and talk about what's happening on each page. Let children predict what is going to happen next, or "read" the story to you.
- **Doing Chores** – Put sign on a few objects at home, such as "bed" and make a game of saying letters aloud
- **Play Time** – Point to an object and ask children to say words that rhyme, including silly words: ball, wall, tall, dall, jall, nall
- **Eating** – Say nonsense rhymes such as *Hey Diddle, Diddle*
- **Lesson Time** – Spell personal names with letter cards. Let children match each capital letter with its lowercase form, or put the letters in order. Draw a letter and find objects that begin with the same sound. (ball, boy, bike)
- **Library Time** – Make weekly trips to the library part of your family's fun time together. Books about going to school help build children's confidence about kindergarten. A librarian can help you find them.

80 Skills to Help Ease Transition into Kindergarten

READING READINESS		LISTENING & SEQUENCING		
Remembers pictures from a printed page	Follows simple directions	Hop	Identifies other children by name	
Repeats a 6 to 8 word sentence	Pays attention	Alternate feet walking down stairs	Can take care of toilet needs immediately	
Pretends to read (has been read to often)	Recognizes common sounds	March	Cares for own belongings	
Identifies own first name in writing	Retells a simple story in a sequence	Stand on one foot 10 seconds	Dresses self	
Attempts to write own first name	Repeats a sequence of sounds	Walk backwards for 5 feet	Brushes teeth	
Answers questions about a short story	Repeats a sequence of numbers heard	Throw a ball	Can be away from parents for 2 to 3 hours	
Looks at pictures and tells a story	SIZE, POSITION, & DIRECTION		Joins a family conversation	
Understands words are read left to right	Big and little	Clap hands	Carries a plate of food	
Familiar with the letters of the alphabet	Long and short	Button clothes	Maintains self-control	
Knows some nursery rhymes	Up and Down	Build with blocks	Gets along well with others	
Knows the meaning of simple words	In and out	Complete simple 5 piece puzzle or less	Talks easily	
TIME		Draw or color beyond simple scribble	Meets visitors without shyness	
Understands day and night	Front and back	Zip clothes	Puts away toys	
Knows age and birthday	Over and under	Control pencil and crayon well	MY CHILD KNOWS...	
RECOGNIZES COLORS & SHAPES		Handle scissors	Body parts	
Recognizes primary colors	Empty and full	Cut and draw simple shapes	Own first name	
Recognizes triangles, circles, squares, and rectangle	More and less	SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL		
NUMBERS		Expresses self verbally	Parents' names	
Counts to 10	Fast and slow	Looks forward to going to school	Home address	
Can count objects	Top and bottom	Recognizes authority	home phone number	
	MOTOR SKILLS		When to use a tissue	
	Run	Shares with others	Own gender	
	Walk a straight line	Helps with family chores		
	Jump	Works independently		

This list, which was compiled by researchers for World Book, Inc., on the basis of a survey of 4,500 kindergarten teachers, represents the ideal—something parents can aim for.

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Learning Letters and Sounds



Dear Parents,

Letters and sounds are the foundation of reading. Having a strong understanding of both help children become outstanding readers. Both are also skills that we begin learning the first day of kindergarten.

Attached you will find a copy of the alphabet cards that we use in the classroom, as well as, some activities you could do with your child to give them practice with these skills.

When beginning to use these cards in the classroom we focus on 3 things: say the name of the letter, the picture associated with that letter, and the sound. Having your child practice these will give him/her a jumpstart on the skills we will be learning in the fall. Below are the chants we use when learning the letters and sounds.

Please be careful. Regionally we tend to add the /u/ sound to many letter sounds. **Do not say /bu/, /du/, /hu/ etc.**

A astronaut /a/

B butterfly /b/

C carrot /c/

D dime /d/

E elephant /e/

F firefighter /f/

G game /g/

H helicopter /h/

I insects /i/

J jacket /j/

K kite /k/

L ladder /l/

M mountain /m/

N nurse /n/

O octopus /o/

Q quilt /qu/

R rocket /r/

S submarine /s/

T tomato /t/

U umbrella /u/

V volcano /v/

W waterfall /w/

X like at the end of fox /ks/

Y yoyo /y/

Z zebra /z/

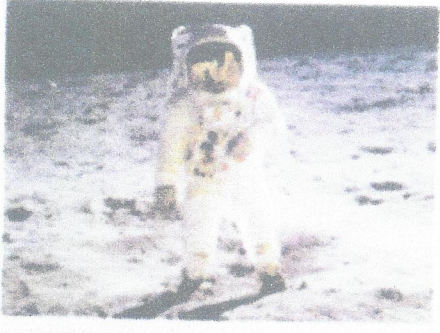
Ideas for Letter & Sound Practice

- Play-Doh- choose a letter, roll the Play-Doh into a tube (snake), use the Play-Doh to make the letter, then say the letter name and sound.
- Sand or Salt- pour sand or salt onto a small tray, use a stick like object (pencil, straw, chopstick, toothpick, or even a real stick) to write the letter, say the name and sound, gently shake the tray to "erase" the letter and start again.
- White/ Dry erase board- say the letter, write it on the board while saying the sound 3 times (use the cards to look at if necessary)- as they get better just give the sound and have them write the letter.
- Magnadoodle/ magic board (the ones with the magnetic pen attached that you slide to erase) use the same way as the dry erase board
- Fiddle Sticks- write all the letters (capital & lowercase) on popsicle sticks, draw a colorful dot on a few of the sticks, place all the sticks in a can/cup, take turns pulling out sticks and say the letter name/sound, the person who draws the stick with a dot has to say the letter name/sound but has to put all their sticks back in the container, the person with the most sticks after a set amount of time wins.
- Magnet letters- put all the letters on one side of the refrigerator, slide them to the other side as you say the letter name/sound.
- Use fun items to write and say the letter name/ sound- sidewalk chalk outside (maybe letter hopscotch), paint, water on the sidewalk, bathtub crayons, with a stick in the mud/dirt, make them with Legos/blocks, draw a road and use cars to drive around the letter
- Letter I Spy- while walking through the store, driving, reading, etc. Say I spy the letter _____. See if they can find it. As they get better change it to I spy the letter that make the sound _____.
- Letter Hop- write a letter on a sticky note, place on a wall or door frame just a little higher than your child can reach, if they can say the letter/ sound they can jump and smack/touch it.
- What's the password? - have letters at various places in your home (doorways are a good place), when you walk by the letter you must say the "password" letter name/sound before you can continue on. This works well with the letters they then to get "stuck on" or struggle with by providing repeated practice.

There are tons of other ideas for a fun way to practice letters and sounds online. Pinterest, drjean.org, makinglearningfun.com and many other websites will have ideas that will peak your child's interest.

Have them help you pick an activity that sounds FUN. They will be much more willing to practice if it is FUN or seems like a game. When they start to lose excitement about the activity stop for the day. When they are tired of practicing with one game, try another. Novelty is your friend, even if it is just writing with a new kind of pen marker, or a new fancy paper.

A a



B b



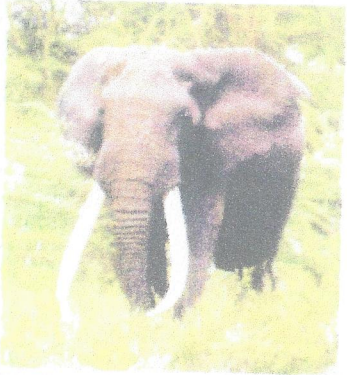
C c



D d



E e



F f



G g



H h



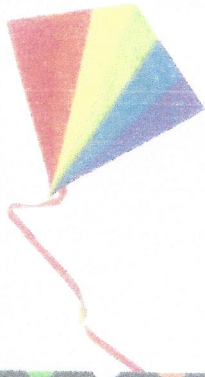
I i



J j

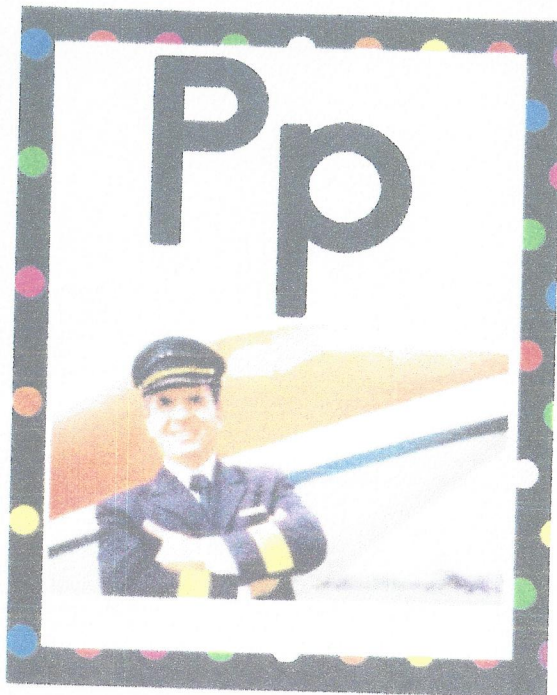
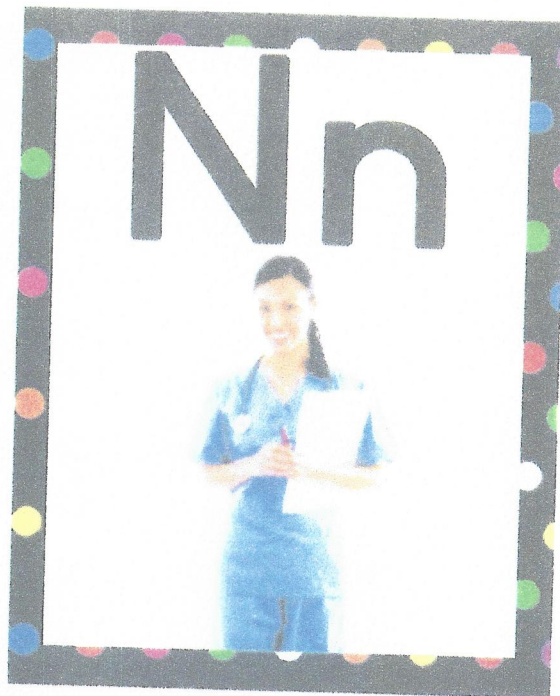


K k



L l





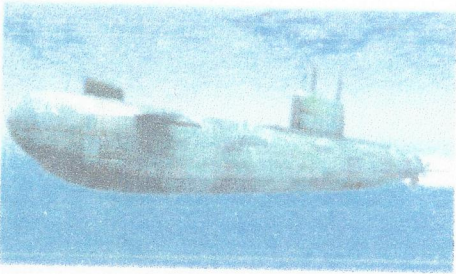
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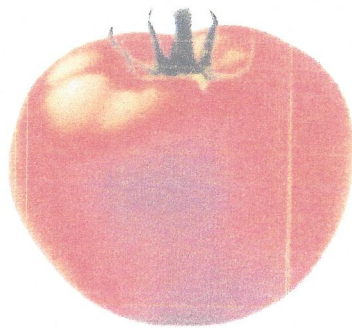
Rr



Ss



Tt







Please help your child learn to write their first name before the first day of school. Be sure to use only one capital letter and all others will be lowercase, unless their name legally has additional capital letters. Ex: LoShawn This is the writing style that we will be using.

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg

Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn

Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu

Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

1234567890