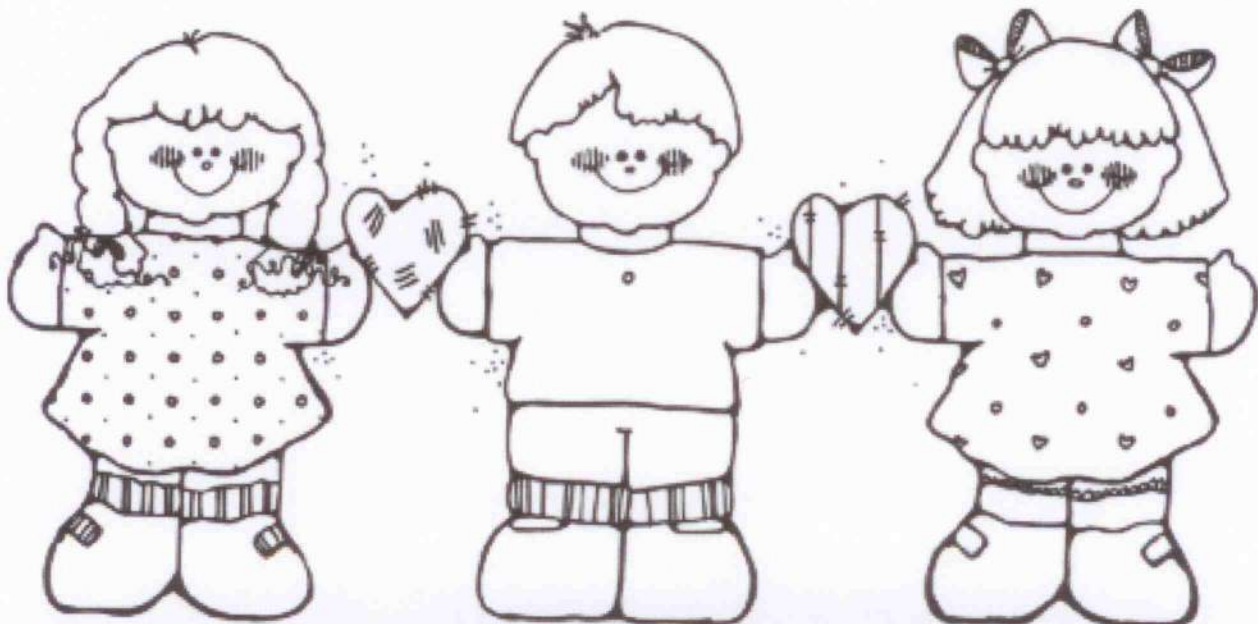


Preparing Your  
Child for  
Kindergarten

Teresa Vitelli & Jamie Grijalva



# Reading and Writing Expectations

Kindergarten students need to be able to recognize, read and write their first name. Students should begin to develop knowledge about the alphabet. Students should begin to have book handling skills. Students can tell a story by looking at pictures.

- My child can recognize his/her name.
- My child can tell a story by looking at pictures.
- My child can hold a book and turn the pages without squishing or wrinkling them.
- My child can listen to stories without interrupting.
- My child can predict what will happen next while I read a story to him/her.
- My child can recognize rhyming sounds and words.
- My child can identify some capital and lower case letters.
- My child is beginning to write some letters.
- My child can hold a pencil correctly.
- My child can write his/her name with a capital first letter and the rest lower case (Zachary).
- My child can draw a picture and talk about what is happening.

## Activities to support your child:

- \* Storytelling - tell stories based on pictures in books and magazines.
- \* Read to your child daily.
- \* After reading a story, have your child tell you what happened in the story.
- \* Have your child tell you the letters he/she sees in the world around him/ her (on the way to McDonalds, in a book on a cereal box. )

## As a parent, you can help your child get ready for Kindergarten by:

- \* working on any of the items you believe your child needs assistance with and cannot do independently.
- \* establish routines in your home ( wake up, get dressed, eat breakfast, leave for school the same time every day).
- \* set up a study area with all of the tools needed to be successful ( crayons, scissors, pencil, eraser, glue, glue stick).
- \* read with your child daily (set aside time as part of your routine).
- \* have your child be an active participant in home activities (choosing a book to read, setting the table, cleaning up their toys).
- \* talk "with" your child not "at" your child ( conversation builds vocabulary, knowledge, independence and self esteem).

## Definitions:

By the end of Kindergarten, the students are expected to meet the state standards ( <http://www.cde.ca.gov/> ). The students are expected to be at the emergent to early emergent stages of reading, to write sentences on their own using sight words and inventive spelling, and to possess math skills needed for first grade.

Learning begins at home. Your child's success in school depends on what happens at home. The love and support you provide will aid your child from Kindergarten through high school.

Most children at the early Kindergarten level are considered to be emergent readers. They continue to make rapid growth in literacy skills if they are exposed to literacy-rich environments. Children at this age continue to "read" from books they've heard repeatedly. Gradually, these readings demonstrate the intonation patterns of the adult reader and language used in the book. Emergent readers are just beginning to control early reading strategies such as directionality, word-by-word matching, and concepts of print. They use pictures to support reading and rely heavily on their knowledge of language.

An early reader is someone who can use many early strategies such as looking at pictures, re-reading for meaning, and substituting similar words while maintaining the meaning. He/She can read appropriate text independently. He/She will use multiple reading strategies in order to make meaning.

# Basic Skills:

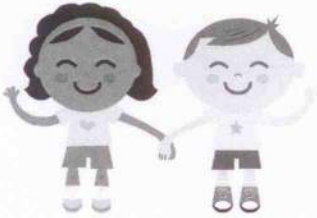
Kindergarten students should be able to recognize colors of the rainbow. Students should be able to recognize basic shapes. Students should know how to hold a pencil properly. Students should know how to hold and use scissors properly. Students should know how to open and close clothing independently. Students should know when his/her birthday is.

- My child can recognize and name the colors of the rain bow.
- My child can recognize basic shapes.
- My child knows how to hold a pencil properly.
- My child knows how to hold scissors properly.
- My child knows how to open and close scissors for use.
- My child can button and un-button his/her own clothing.
- My child can zip and un-zip his/her own clothing.
- My child knows when his/her birthday is.

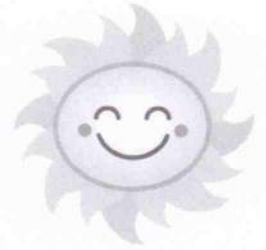
# Math Skills:

Kindergarten students should be able to begin counting objects. Students should be able to begin recognizing numerals. Students should have a basic understanding of numerals and what each number represents. Students should be able to sort objects by similar attributes. Students should be able to make simple patterns ABABABAB.

- My child can count objects.
- My child can recognize numerals 0-10.
- My child when given a set of objects can count them and verbally respond with appropriate amount.
- My child can sort objects.
- My child can make simple patterns.
- My child can identify simple shapes.
- My child can tell the difference between letters and numbers.



# We Learned It all in Kindergarten



Condensed from Kansas City Times by Robert Fulghum

Most of what I really need to know about how to live, and what to do, and how to be I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate-school mountain, but there in the sandbox.

These are the things I learned: Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Live a balanced life. Learn some and think some, and draw and sing and dance and play and work every day some.

Take a nap in the afternoon. When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, Hold hands, and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup. The roots go down and the plant goes up, and nobody really knows why, but we are all like that.

Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the plastic cup—they all die. So do we.

And then remember the book about Dick and Jane and the first word you learned, the biggest word of all: *Look*. Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The golden rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and sane living.

Think of what a better world it would be if we all had cookies and milk about three o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankets for a nap. Or if we had a basic policy in our nation and other nations always to put things back where we found them and cleaned up our messes. And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.