



Countdown to Kindergarten Calendar

Play-based Activities to Get Ready for Kindergarten!

The Franklin Lakes Public Schools are excited to open our doors to your almost **Kindergartners!** In their time with us, your children will develop into mathematicians, scientists, readers, writers, artists, historians, musicians, and athletes, and we look forward to that growth!

In preparation for Kindergarten, we suggest families use the following summer calendar for guidance on simple, yet impactful activities to support and prepare them for what's ahead! These play-based activities encourage positive interactions between children and families while also supporting early experiences with literacy, numeracy, thinking, language, fine and gross motor skills, and other areas that will ready students for Kindergarten!

We suggest displaying each monthly calendar on the refrigerator or on a pinboard, and have your child countdown to Kindergarten one activity at a time! Also included in this Kindergarten Orientation bag are special items from the Franklin Lakes Education Foundation to support your child's school transition: *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn, Appletters, and a pencil case!

See you in September!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Steiner".

Supervisor of Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development

*Kindergarten Orientation Bag and Contents courtesy of The Franklin Lakes Education Foundation www.flef.net

*Countdown to Kindergarten Calendar courtesy of The Collaborative for Educational Services



June



TIP

Nursery rhymes help children hear the smaller sounds that make up words. This is important for learning to read.



TIP

Bouncing a ball develops finger muscles, eye-hand coordination, body control and visual tracking skills.

TIP

Developing number sense helps lay the foundation for learning math.



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| | Ask your child to say words that begin with the first letter of her name. | | | | At the grocery store, ask your child to find a fruit or vegetable that's round. | Read a book together and have a conversation about what you liked about it. |
| Teach your child a nursery rhyme.  | | Cut a postcard or magazine photo into jigsaw puzzle shapes. Ask your child to fit the pieces back together. | | Make a picnic lunch with your child and eat it outside. | | Have your child help fold clothes and count how many things he folded. |
| | Ask your child to tell you a story. Write it down and read it back to her. | | Make play dough together. | | Share a wordless picture book. Ask your child to tell you a story based on what he sees. | Encourage your child to practice bouncing a ball with you.  |
| Ask your child what might happen if it rains today. | | Make a "paper chain" using three colors. | | Follow a new recipe together and encourage your child to try the food. | | Take a walk outside, and listen very closely. Count how many sounds you can hear. |
| | Together, count groups of 10 using cereal like Cheerios.™  | | Play one of your favorite songs and dance together! | | Ask your child to say words that rhyme with "cake." | |

July



TIP

Games like “Simon Says” support focus, attention and memory skills.



TIP


Helping children notice that letters represent sounds will help them learn to read.



TIP

An understanding of patterns allows children to make predictions about what will come next.



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| | Encourage your child to draw a picture using red, white and blue. | Ask your child to say words that rhyme with “pig.” | | Play with water together, inside or out! | | Go outside and play “Simon Says” with your child.  |
| Have your child use shoes to measure a room. How many shoes across is it? | | | Take a walk and see how many different textures you can find (slimy, slippery, smooth). | | Ask your child to name things that begin with the sound of the letter “B.”  | Take a walk with your child and count the birds you see. |
| | Sort a handful of coins together. | Have your child say words that rhyme with “me.” | Create a list of three simple tasks for your child to complete today. | Encourage your child to draw a picture of your family. | | Visit a local library together. |
| Visit a playground and climb together. | | Have your child count pennies. How many are there? | | Read a book together and have a conversation about what you liked or didn’t like. | Have your child name things that begin with the sound of the letter “D.”  | Act out a familiar story together using simple props that you make or find. |
| | Go outside with your child and practice a step-step-jump pattern.  | Talk about your family. How many boys are there? Girls? Who’s the oldest? | | Ask your child to count the number of steps from her bed to the bathroom. | | Help your child identify opposites such as in-out and up-down. |

August







TIP
Exploring unfamiliar foods develops observation skills, curiosity and sensory awareness. And when your child sees different fruits and vegetables in the kitchen, she might want to try them!



TIP
Learning to identify and express emotion in a healthy way helps lay the foundation for future success and well-being. Talk about positive (and not-so-positive) ways of expressing emotions.



TIP
Practicing a skill like opening a lunch bag without help will help ease the transition to the busy school lunch time.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| Have your child help set the table. | | Together, look for things that begin with "P." Point out the letter "P" in print. | | Put a note to your child on her pillow telling her how much you love her. Read it to her when she finds it. | Pretend it's the first day of school. Practice ways to say goodbye to each other. | |
| | Ask your child to say words that rhyme with "can." | | Explore an unfamiliar fruit or vegetable together and talk about its smell, feel, taste.  | Ask your child to name letters found on cereal boxes, cans, etc. | | Practice skipping, galloping, and marching with your child. |
| When preparing a snack, cut a fruit in half. Show your child that two halves make a whole. | | Ask your child to count the spoons and forks in the silverware drawer. | | Visit a local library. | Practice bouncing a ball with your child. Count the number of bounces. | Talk with your child about his feelings as the start of the school year nears.  |
| Have your child practice opening and closing her lunch bag and food containers.  | | | Add with your child. Say, "I have 1 cracker and you have 2 crackers. That makes 3 crackers." | Help your child begin to organize what he will need for the first day of school. | | Take time to play with your child in her new school playground. |
| Read a book about going to school. Move your finger under the words as you say them. | | Give your child simple tasks that involve sorting or matching (socks, toys, or buttons). | | | Have your child tell you about his favorite part of the day. | Play a card or board game that involves taking turns. |