**SELF-HELP SKILLS: TAGS AND TOES**

When your child willingly repeats an effort in order to accomplish a task, he displays the patience and persistence necessary for problem solving. What you do:

- Demonstrate to your child how they can put on their indoor/outdoor clothes by themselves. As an example, lay a coat at their feet with the tag touching their toes. Have them put their hands in the sleeves and flip the coat over their head. Your child should now be wearing the coat.
- Offer several demonstrations if necessary. Talk about the steps as you show them: “Now I will keep my hands in the sleeves and flip the coat up and over my head.”
- Allow your child time to practice this skill for as long as they choose.
- Offer positive feedback for any repeated attempts they make, with or without success. If they choose to try a different way to put on their coat, encourage to explore that, too.
- If your child feels frustrated or loses interest, do not force him to continue. Encourage them to try again at a later time when an opportunity arises.

**USING 5-6 WORD SENTENCES: TALKING, WALKING COLLAGE**

Engaging your child in conversations about their surroundings is a good way to develop vocabulary and make them more aware of their immediate environment. By making a collage from materials relevant to the conversation, you give your child an opportunity to recall the details of your talk and make it easier to share the memory with others. For the collage you will need paper, glue, tape and a paper bag. What you do:

- Invite your child to join you on a “talking walk.” Explain that you will explore outside and see what you can find. As you walk together, talk about what you see. Point out insects under stones and squirrels in trees. Observe the weather, clouds, people and passing cars.
- Encourage your child to use the paper bag to collect leaves, sticks and other materials. Wonder aloud and ask questions that prompt them to describe what they find. “I wonder why some leaves are green and some are brown.” “I hear a bird singing high up in the tree. What do you hear?”
- When you return from the walk, encourage your child to talk about what they saw and heard. Provide them with paper and glue to make a collage using the objects they collected.
- When finished, display the collage and description and encourage your child to share it with other family members or friends.
HELPING YOUR CHILD BECOME A READER

Reading books with preschoolers is a great way to engage their literacy skills. By now, these 3, 4 and 5-year-olds know a lot more about the world around them. They can often relate books to their own life. They tell funny stories about their experiences. Reading with preschool kids helps them to recognize familiar words, and letters. They learn that stories have clear structure and specific elements. They also learn that all stories have a beginning, middle, and end. Children will begin to predict what might happen next, or what a story might be about based on illustrations and book covers.

Encourage your preschooler to “pretend” to read by looking at pictures and telling the story to you or to their dolls or toys. Reading and rereading your children’s favorite books can help them to remember certain phrases and memorable refrains. (For example, Brown Bear, Brown Bear what do you see?) Also, reading rhyming and nonsense books with children will make reading fun. Making kids laugh while reading will keep them interested. Another important activity parents and caregivers can do while reading with a preschooler is to point to each word with your finger. This demonstrates to your child(ren) that there is a one-to-one match between the spoken and written words. Pointing as you read introduces and reinforces the idea that we read from top to bottom and from left to right. Ask lots of questions when you are reading, both open ended and closed. This really gets kids thinking and involved in the reading.

Starting early will set the foundation for children to love books and reading. The skill of understanding basic book and print rules will follow kids into school and help them become successful readers.

HAS YOUR CHILD BEEN SCREENED?

Early Childhood Screening is a required program used to guarantee your child is ready for Kindergarten. It is a simple check of your child’s physical, developmental and emotional growth. If your child hasn’t been screened, visit www.isd728.org/screening or call 763-241-3525 to schedule an appt.

NEED TO REGISTER YOUR STUDENT?

Registration is easy! Visit www.isd728.org/RegisterForK and follow the simple instructions. After submission, your application will be routed to your child’s school office and you will be contacted with the next steps.