Welcome to Kindergarten

KINDERGARTEN READINESS SKILL

SHOWS CURiosity AND MotIvATION
Children love surprises! Guessing games provide a good opportunity to challenge your child’s thinking and help them learn to obtain information by asking questions.

What You Do
1. Choose objects that might be interesting to your child such as a seashell, new book, or play prop. Make sure to select a range of objects, including some that are simple and others that will be more challenging for them to guess as the activity is repeated.
2. Choose one object to begin the game and put it in a pillowcase or bag without showing it to your child.
3. Explain that they will ask questions to figure out what you have put in the bag. Encourage them to pose questions such as: “Is it round? Is it kept inside or outside?”
4. Comment on your child’s questions, and as the game continues, remind them of what information they already know. “You have asked about the shape and color of the object. Now you know that it is round and red.”
5. When your child correctly identifies the object, take it out of the bag and talk about all of the attributes they determined with their questions.

TAKES CARE OF OWN NEEDS APPROPRIATELY
When children are very young, they obviously depend on adults to take care of any personal needs. Over time, children notice that others do these things for themselves, so they become interested in gaining some of that independence. Finally, they come to realize that in taking care of their own needs, they are not only showing off their independence, but they are also keeping themselves safe and healthy.

What You Do
1. Look for opportunities to express appreciation when your child takes responsibility for their personal needs. “You do such a good job of washing your hands.”
2. Read books with self-help themes, such as Jesse Bear, What Will You Wear? by Nancy Carlstrom or On Your Potty by Virginia Miller.
3. Ask your child to model procedures for younger siblings or friends who might just be learning those skills. “I see that you put on your mittens to go outside. Can you show Tabitha how to put on her mittens?”
4. You can encourage your child’s development in other ways, such as by hanging photographs of them working on self-care tasks or inviting them to make a story using the pictures.
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MAKING MY NAME

For many young children, the letters in their names are the first letters they recognize and the most important to them. Activities built around your child’s name are meaningful and fun, and they promote their knowledge of the alphabet in a personal way. Below is a fun and engaging project you and your child can do together to practice identifying names and letters.

Materials You Will Need
Envelopes, markers, letter manipulatives or small cards with one letter on each that spells your child’s name.

What You Do
1. Place the letters inside the envelope. Write your child’s name on the outside of the envelope.
2. Invite your child to spell their name with you. Show them the envelope with their name printed on the front. Explain that the letters inside are the letters they will need to spell their name.
3. Have your child take the letters out of the envelope, one at a time. Encourage them to identify each letter they see.
4. After they have taken out all of the letters, explain that they can use their printed name on the front of the envelope as a guide to help them spell their name.
5. Encourage them to arrange the letters in the correct order. When they are finished, review the name and match it to the front of the envelope.
6. Let them know that they may use the envelope and letters to share the activity with a friend or family member at a later time.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CHILDCARE
Register for ISD 728 Community Education’s EdVenture Club childcare program! EdVenture Club features FUN enrichment activities such as reading, math, physical education, science, art and much more! With extended hours, part-time and full-time options, as well as flexible schedules, EdVenture Club is sure to meet everyone’s needs! Visit www.isd728.org/EdVentureClub.