



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Kindergarten! I am so excited to begin this wonderful journey with you and your child. Starting kindergarten is a very special milestone filled with excitement, curiosity, and sometimes a few nervous feelings for both children and parents. My goal is to create a classroom where every child feels safe, loved, valued, and excited to learn each day.

In kindergarten, we focus on helping children grow academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. We learn through hands-on activities, play, exploration, reading, writing, math, science, and creative experiences that encourage children to become confident and independent learners. I believe that every child learns at their own pace, and I strive to meet each student where they are while helping them reach their fullest potential.

As summer begins, I also want to share my philosophy on summer learning. I firmly believe that children deserve a break after working hard throughout the school year. Summer should be a time for family, outdoor play, adventures, and making memories. However, research shows that children can lose some of the skills they worked so hard to develop if they do not continue practicing during the summer months.

The summer activities included in this packet are not meant to be stressful or overwhelming. Instead, they are designed to be completed a little at a time throughout the summer. Even spending just a few minutes each day reviewing letters, numbers, counting, shapes, colors, and name writing can make a tremendous difference in helping children feel confident and prepared when school begins.

Most importantly, I encourage you to read with your child every day. Reading together is one of the best ways to build vocabulary, strengthen listening skills, develop a love of books, and prepare children for success in kindergarten. Trips to the library, storytelling, singing songs, playing games, and talking about everyday experiences are all wonderful ways to support learning at home.

Thank you for partnering with me in your child's education. Together, we can make your child's kindergarten year a joyful, successful, and memorable experience. I look forward to meeting each of you and getting to know your amazing children.

Wishing you a summer filled with laughter, fun, and wonderful family memories!

Blessings, Mrs. MacKay Kindergarten Teacher



Kindergarten Supply List

Please label the following items with your child's name:

- Backpack- large enough to hold the school issued folder and lunch box
- Lunchbox
- 2 Hard Pencil Cases
- 2 Boxes 16 Count Crayola Crayons
- 1 Box 12 Count Colored Pencils
- 2 Box 10 Markers
- 1 Clipboard (Preferably Plastic)
- 1 Crayola Associated 8 Color Washable Watercolor Paint Set
- 1 Coloring Book
- 1 Pair of Headphones (Labeled)
- Water Bottle Labeled with Your Child's First and Last Name

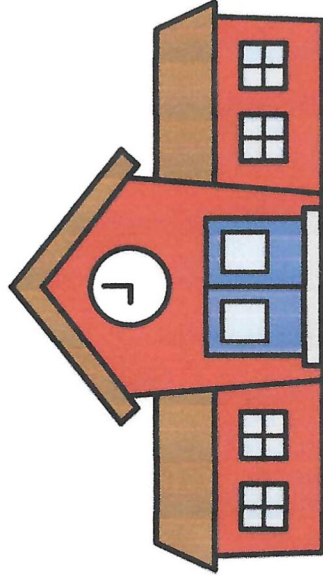
The items that do not need to be labeled:

- 3 Boxes of Pencils
- 1 Box of Elmer Glue Sticks
- 1 Bottle of Elmer Glue
- 2 Rectangular Erasers
- Dry Eraser Markers (black)

Classroom Wish List:

- White Drawing Paper
- Stickers
- Playdough
- Copying Paper

LET'S GET READY FOR kindergarten!



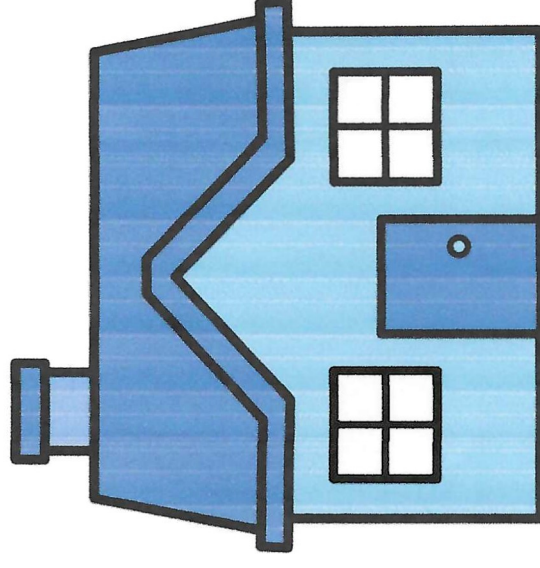
IMPORTANT SKILLS TO PRACTICE TO PREPARE FOR KINDERGARTEN.

Use these cards to practice the important skills your student needs to be successful in school. Keep them in your car or other convenient place so you can practice frequently!

In addition to the skills and activities in this pack, **reading to your child every day** is one of the best ways to prepare for school!



I can recognize my full name in print.



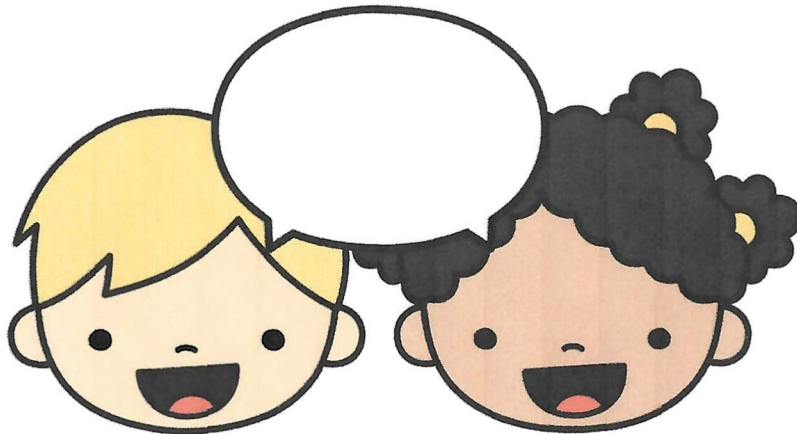
I know my address.



I know my phone number.



I can ask and answer simple questions.



I can speak clearly so that others can understand me.



I can use words to tell how I am feeling.



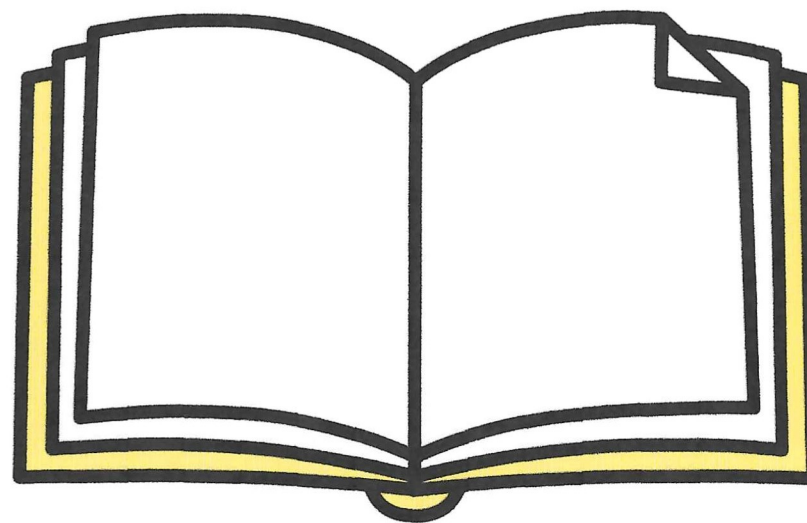
I can sing the alphabet song and recognize letters.



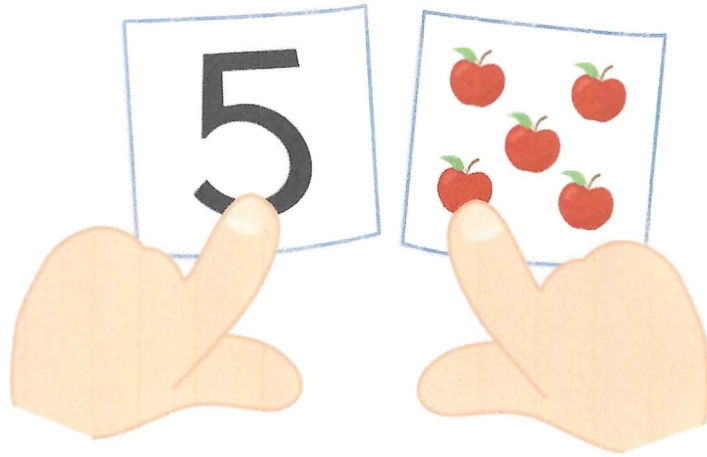
I know the difference between letters and numbers.



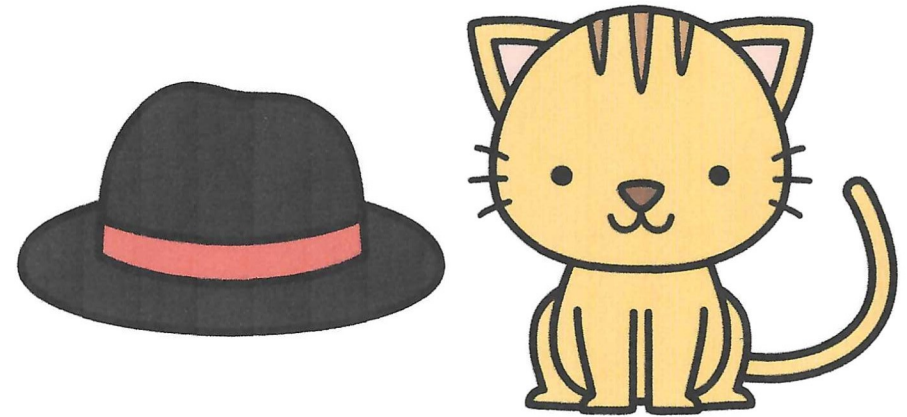
I can make patterns.



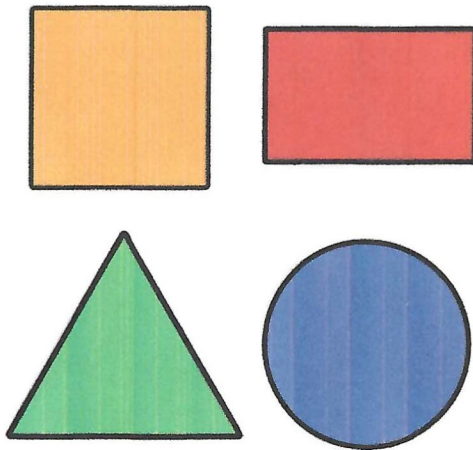
I can hold a book and turn the pages.



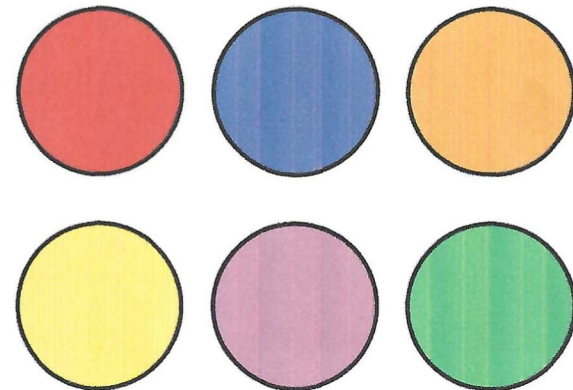
**I can count to 20 and
identify numbers 1 - 10.**



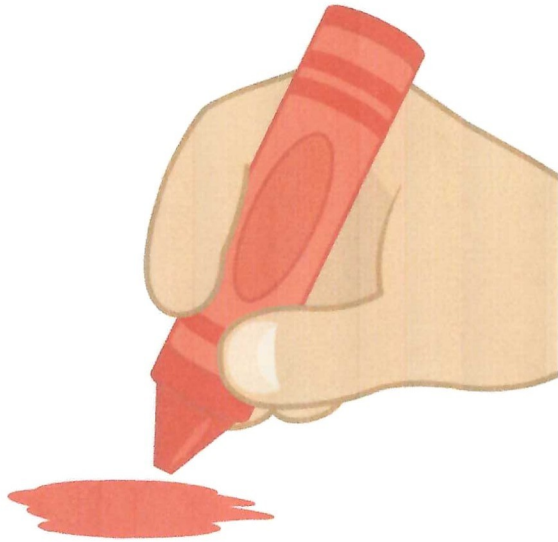
I can rhyme.



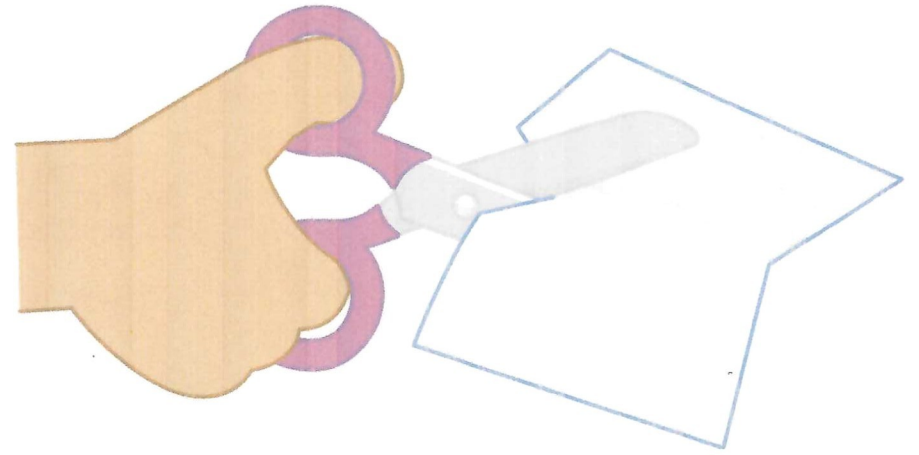
I can identify shapes.



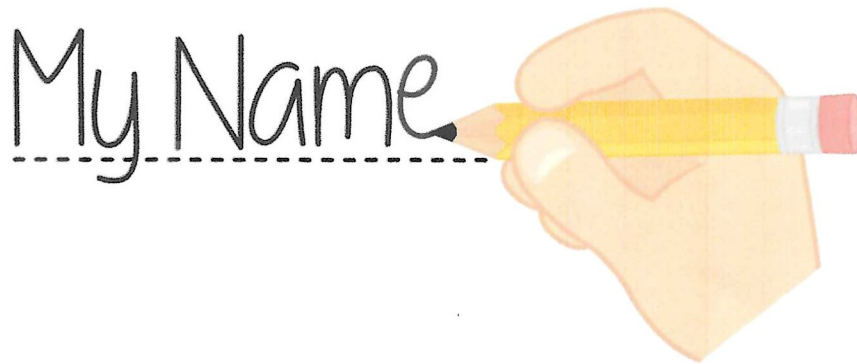
I can identify colors.



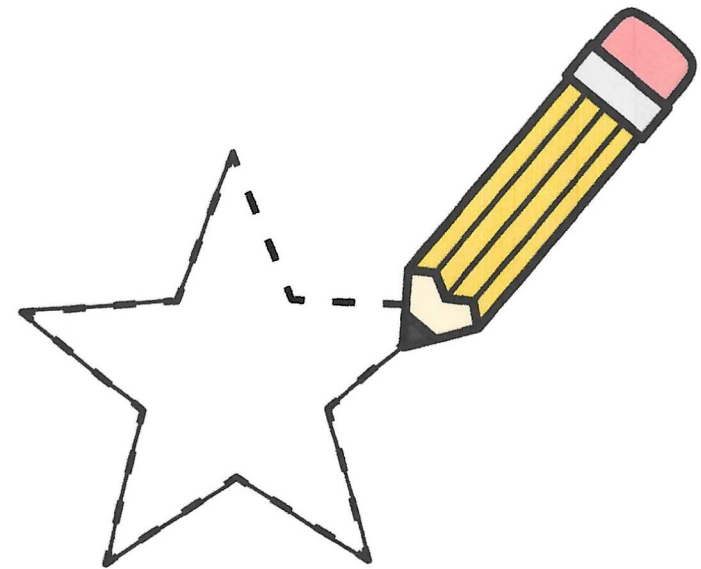
I can hold crayons and color on paper.



I can use kid scissors to cut paper.



I can hold a pencil. I can write my name.



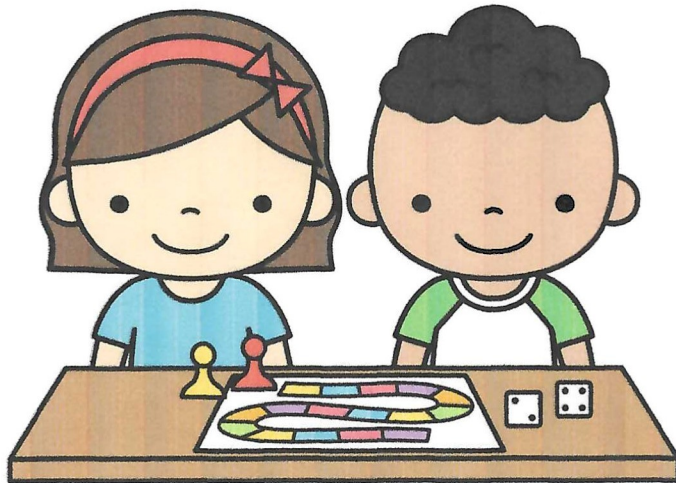
I can trace lines and shapes.



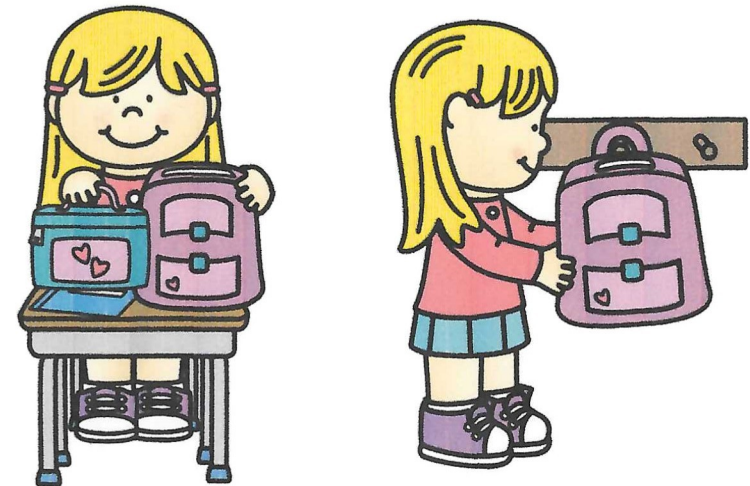
I can pack and unpack my backpack. (folders, papers, lunchbox, etc.)



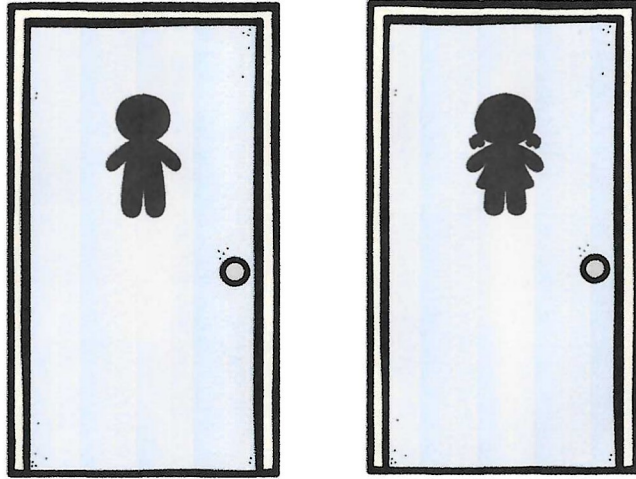
I can open my lunchbox and food containers.



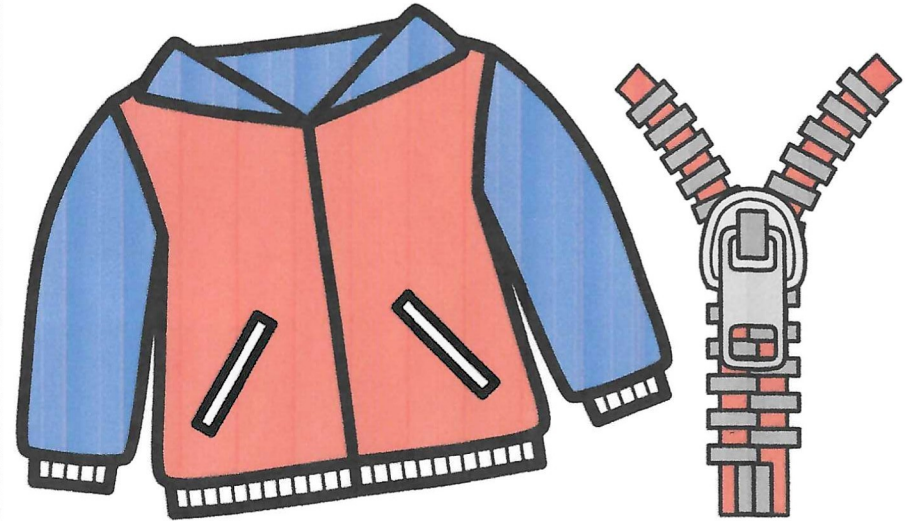
I can take turns during a game or activity and accept winning or losing.



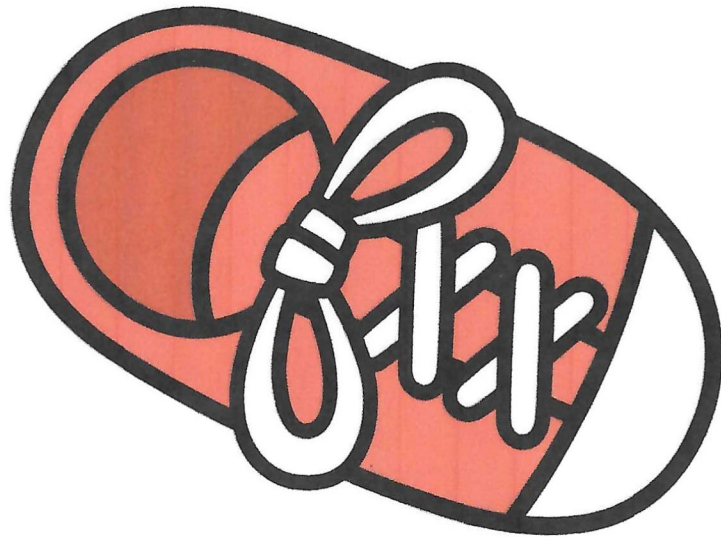
I can follow 2-step directions.
(Example: Take out your lunch and hang up your backpack.)



I can use the restroom independently.



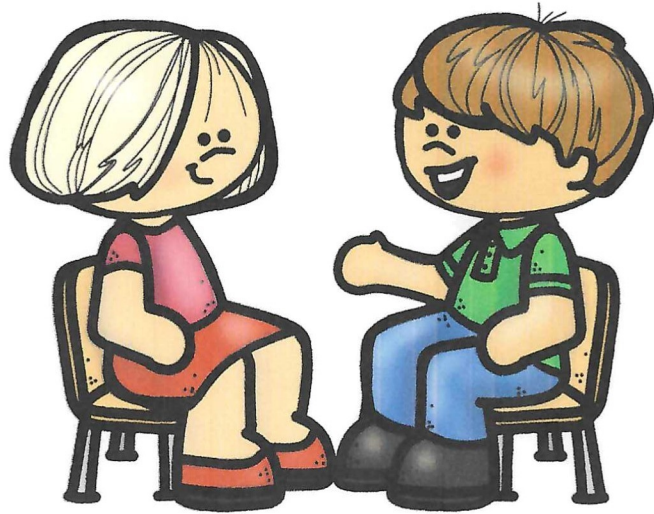
I can put on and zip my coat or jacket.



I can put on my shoes (and tie if they have laces).



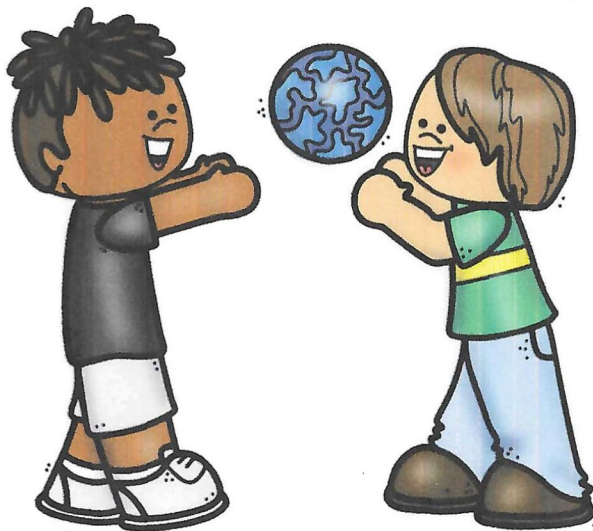
I can dress myself.



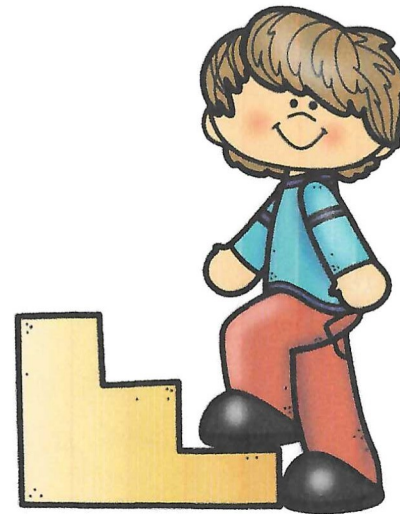
I can use words to solve conflict.



I can ask for help when I need it.



I can interact and play appropriately with other kids.



I can run, jump, and climb stairs independently.

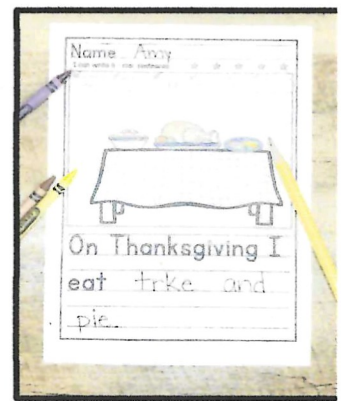
BEST WAYS TO HELP AT HOME

Read, read, and read some more. Reading has incredible benefits and it is fun! Reading to your student helps to develop language skills. What if your student wants to hear the same books over and over? That's okay. Repeated reading helps children to improve reading comprehension, retain vocabulary, and learn new words. Studies have shown that reading together at home is one of the best ways to set your student up for success later in school.



Allow your students to think for themselves and make mistakes. Children need to learn how to be independent thinkers. They also need to be able to learn from their mistakes. Mistakes are a big part of the learning process. We learn a lot from our mistakes and kids need to learn that it is okay to take risks even if they don't get the correct answer right away. We work hard to make sure that school (even virtually) is a safe place to take risks and learn.

Inventive spelling is part of learning. A big part of learning to spell and write is using inventive spelling. For example a child spelling the word dream may write jrem based on the sounds they hear. Spelling this way does not always result in correct spelling, but it helps them to learn. It also helps teachers to see what sounds students have mastered and what sounds and spelling patterns to teach. We do not expect perfect writing and the imperfections help us to best teach your student.

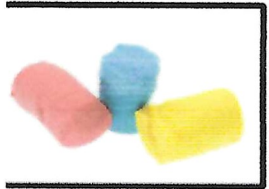
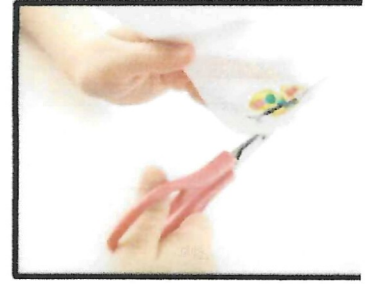


Encourage a growth mindset and independence. In the classroom we spend a lot of time learning about perseverance and to never give up. When kids know it's okay to make mistakes and that they can keep trying, they gain the confidence they need to be independent and successful. It is powerful to know that if something doesn't work well the first time, they can keep trying until they get it.

BUILD FINE MOTOR SKILLS AT HOME

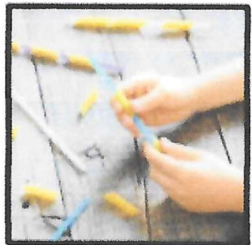
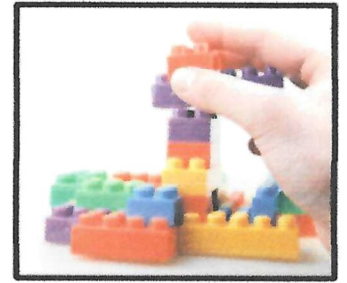


Do a craft! If your student enjoys arts and crafts, use tools that help to develop fine motor skills. Q-tips make great paint brushes. Broken, small crayons are great to use for coloring. Fun shaped scissors can make cutting more fun. Be creative!



Play with play dough or clay! This can really help to strengthen fine motor skills. Create a masterpiece or just practice making balls and squishing them. You can practice making numbers and letters, too.

Build, explore & create! – Build with LEGOs or other small blocks. Can you create a castle or a pirate ship? You can have contests to see who can build the highest tower.



String some beads! Use some beads and string to make a necklace or bracelet. Don't have beads at home? You can use noodles and straws or cereal and pipe cleaners, too.

Zipper, button, snap! Encourage your student to practice important self-help skills by using zippers, buttons, snaps and other fasteners.



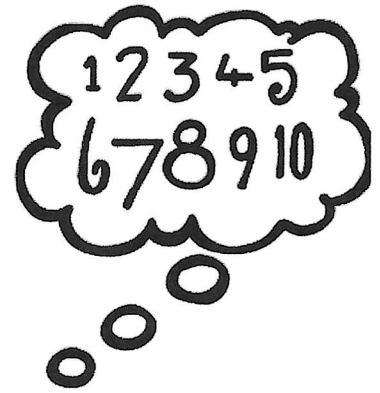
Use materials you have at home- You can use cotton balls with kid-safe tweezers or clothespins. Have a contest to move the cotton balls from cup to cup only using a clothespin or use the clothespin to dip the cotton ball in paint to make a picture.

Play a game! Many kids' "board" games have fine-motor practice built in. Look for games with tweezers and other manipulatives.



BUILD NUMBER SENSE AT HOME

Count, count, and count some more! Make counting part of your daily routines. Count how many steps it takes to get from the kitchen to the family room or how many pairs of pants are in the drawer. You can practice counting on, too. Give your student a number and have them count up. If you say 6, your student will say 7, 8, 9, etc.



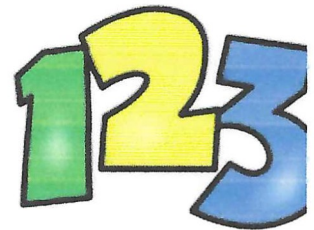
Make groups of things: Make a group of cereal, shoes, your favorite toys, rock collection, etc. and practice counting them.

Play cards games- Playing cards games like Go Fish or War with regular playing cards are a great, fun way to build number sense. To play the games, students will need to identify numbers, know which is greater, etc.



Write Numbers: You can use fun markers or smelly crayons to practice writing numbers and drawing pictures to show how many. You can also use fun materials like sand, shaving cream or finger paint!

Practice saying which number comes next - This is a simple activity that requires no materials. Simply say a number and ask your students what number comes next. For example if you say 4, your students will say 5. Start with smaller numbers and work your way up to 100.



Play games - Board games are a great way to practice with numbers. Learning the numbers on a dice or spinner and moving a game piece to match the numbers help to build number sense.

BUILD PHONEMIC AWARENESS AT HOME



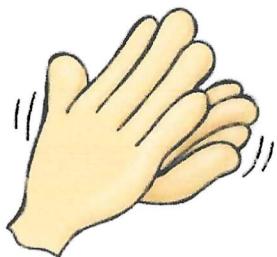
A Note About Phonemic Awareness: Phonemic Awareness is working with sounds and words without print or writing. You can practice phonemic awareness skills with your eyes closed. A strong foundation in phonemic awareness is important to help students as they begin to work with phonics and learn to read.

Sing Songs Singing silly songs and nursery rhymes is a great way to practice rhyming, rhythm, syllables, and more. Sing songs like the ABCs, The Wheels on the Bus, Mary Had a Little Lamb and more. Watching silly videos with songs like Coco Melon or Super Simple Songs is a fun way to practice, too.



Play "I Spy" Playing "I Spy" is a fun way to practice with sounds in words. Take turns giving clues based on beginning sounds or things that rhyme. For example, your clue might be "I spy something that begins with /m/" and your student might guess milk or marker. Or give a rhyming clue, "I spy something that rhymes with hat." Your student could say cat or bat.

Play with Words Practice adding and deleting parts of words. Say cupcake without cup, cake. Add house to bird, birdhouse. You can do this with compound words or even beginning and ending sounds. As your student gets better, you can try changing middle sounds. Like change the /a/ in cat to /u/...cut.



Clap & Count Practice clapping syllables and parts of words. For example, say the word flower. Flower gets 2 claps, flow-er. When your student masters syllables, move on to sounds in words. For example the word ship gets 3 claps, /sh/ /i/ /p/.

PRACTICING SIGHT WORDS AT HOME



A note about sight words: Sight words are words that students should know and recognize quickly without sounding them out. Many of these words do not follow the spelling patterns we teach but they show up often in the books we read. Below you will find some fun ways to practice these words at home.

Search for Sight Words. While driving in the car, watching TV or reading books and magazines, search for sight words your student knows how to read. You'll be surprised how many different places these words show up. You can make it a friendly competition to see who can find the most words.



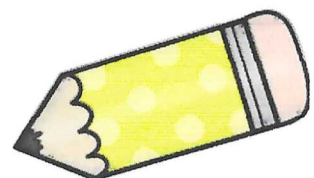
Make secret passwords. Write a sight word on a sticky note or small piece of paper and hang it on doors around the house. Before entering the room, everyone needs to read the secret password.

Create a Memory Game. Write each of your sight words on 2 index cards. Mix up the cards and place them word down on the table or floor. Then take turns flipping words over 2 at a time to try to find matches. You only get to keep the words if you can read them.



Move to the word. Write sight words on cards and spread them around the house or outside. Call out a word and have your student jump, hop, or any other movement to get to the word you say.

Write silly sentences. Practice writing sentences with as many sight words as you can.



PRACTICING PHONICS AT HOME

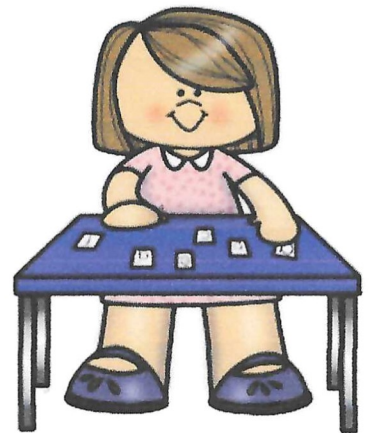


Practice identifying letters. While you are watching TV, in the car, and reading books practice naming letters. This is great review and repetition to reinforce that letters are everywhere. You can also practice saying the letter sounds.



Practice decoding words. When beginning to learn to read, decoding words is so important. Students will point to each letter in a word and say the sounds, then blend the letters together to read the words. Write a short list of CVC words like cat, dog, rug, etc. and practice decoding sound by sound.

Practice building words. Create letter cards with one letter per card on index cards or paper. It is helpful to make the vowels (a, e, i, o, & u) red so that your student can be sure to put a vowel in each word. Then you and your student can take turns building 3 letter words (with a vowel in the middle of 2 consonants) and sounding them out. It is okay if the words are silly or made up, decoding nonsense words is helpful, too.



Try to spell words. Kids learn a lot by doing, so practice using sounds to make words is a great exercise to improve phonics skills. Look at a picture or a TV show and practice writing the words for the characters or things you see. Encourage your student to tap out the sounds they hear and write a letter for each sound they tap. Remember inventive spelling is part of learning!

Play a game. Play a game like Boggle Junior or Spelligator to practice spelling and making words.



GREAT GAMES FOR NUMBER SENSE



Playing Cards

Dominoes

Hi Ho Cherrio

Sorry!

Count Your Chickens

UNO

Shelby's Snack Shack

Yahtzee

Skip-Bo Junior

Monopoly Junior

Acorn Soup

Mini Muffin Match Up

Zingo 123

Farkle