

2023 | Getting Ready for KINDERGARTEN

Family Activity Calendar



EPEL

Elgin Partnership for Early Learning

Help Me Get Ready For Kindergarten!



Talk

- » Tell me your stories; listen to mine.
- » Sing songs and nursery rhymes.
- » Talk about things we are doing.
- » Teach me new words.
- » Ask me 'how' and 'why' questions.

Play

- » Build with me.
- » Pretend with me.
- » Make time for me to play with other kids.
- » Be silly with me.
- » Teach me the rules.

Read

- » Read to me; listen to me "read" to you.
- » Point out meaningful letters in my world: J is for Jack, D is for Donut.
- » Point out the first letter in words and the sound it makes.
- » Use rhyming words with me.
- » Re-read books I love.

Do

- » Take me to the library.
- » Explore our community with me.
- » Count things with me.
- » Let me touch, taste and smell new things.
- » Play games with me.

Write

- » Use playdough with me.
- » Draw pictures with me.
- » Show me how to make letters.
- » Write down what I say.
- » Make lists with me.

Tips for Using the Calendar

The Getting Ready for Kindergarten Calendar offers daily activities that enhance developmental skills needed in school. Children develop at their own rate! It's up to you how to use this calendar; we give suggestions below. Calendar tips do not have to be done in order.

Parents

- » Use the daily activities to engage your child in learning opportunities in and outside of your home in the community.
- » Look for full and part-time birth to five early care and education programs and school registration (pg. 29).
- » Check out local resources, including local libraries (pg.30), community agencies (pg.31), and Ready for Kindergarten Skills (pg.34).
- » Read the "Children & Technology" page to discover tips and tricks for using media in the home and on the go (pg.33).

"Typical" development varies from child to child. Each month focuses on a different topic based on Illinois Early Learning Standards and strategies developed by experts.

Parents and Teachers

- » Enjoy the monthly tips and videos in the QR code in the [Parent and Teachers' Corner](#).
- » Use daily literacy activities as your question of the day, during transition times, and other times during the day.
- » Check out recommended books at the library and use them in the classroom.
- » Use the [Am I Ready for Kindergarten?](#) on pg. 28 to guide your teaching and monitor the children's development.
- » Make [Talk](#), [Play](#), [Read](#), [Do](#) and [Write](#) part of your daily routines at home and in the community.



QR Code Download Instructions

- » Look for **QR Code** to learn tips and tricks for interacting with your child and guide you to community early learning opportunities.
- » To access the QR Codes open your picture app on your phone and hold it over the code.



The children are our future. Enjoy the journey!

Recommended Books

Each month, look here for a list of books to read with your child.

Encourage your child to listen and use language to express ideas.

Take time each day to listen and to talk with your child.

While traveling or at home:

- Turn off the radio or CD player in your car and talk about where you are going or have been.
- Talk about what might happen when you get to where you are going.
- Turn off the TV and other electronic devices and talk with your child about things that interest him or her. **Talking is teaching!**

Involve your child in activities which require listening and following directions.

Give your child directions that involve two steps. Here are some examples:

- Take off your shoes and put them in the closet.
- Pick up your plate and put it in the sink.



Parent and Teacher Corner

Children come to school after many early-morning transitions from home. There is an emotion behind every action and meltdowns can come out of nowhere.



Small Children Have Big Feelings: There's an Emotion Behind Every Action
<http://bit.ly/2zMMS9m>




Separation Anxiety in Young Children
Separation anxiety is normal and eventually most young children will experience it. Tips for making this transition easier.
<http://bit.ly/2B25I3r>



Recommended Books

- The Whole World Inside Nan's Soup** by Hunter Liguore
- The Stack** by Vanessa Roeder
- Amah Faraway** by Margaret Chiu Greanias
- Lion Lullaby** by Kate Banks
- A Sled for Gabo** by Emma Otheguy
- When Langston Dances** by Kaija Langley
- Happy Sloth Day!** by April Pulley Sayre
- Abdul's Story** by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow

January

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| New Year's Day 1 Use newspapers and magazines to make a New Year's crown or hat. | 2 Have your child look at pictures in a book and make up his/her own story. | Color Tuesday 3 What do you eat that is white? | 4 Ask your child to name four things that rhyme with "dog." | Library Day 5 Ask your child to draw a picture of a snowman | 6 Brush your teeth and talk about why they are important. | 7 Play I-Spy with the numbers on this page. "I-Spy number 4. Can you find 4?" | |
| 8 Count items in your kitchen. | 9 Do sit-ups and count to 10. | Color Tuesday 10 Look for white clothes. | 11 Count the windows in your house. | Library Day 12 Get a library card for your child. | 13 Practice putting on hats and gloves. | 14 Look for happy faces in a magazine. | |
| 15 Sing your child's favorite song. | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 16 Have your child help prepare a meal. | Color Tuesday 17 Look for the color white outside. | 18 Have your child practice writing his/her name using upper and lower case letters. | Library Day 19 Read your favorite children's book to your child. | 20 Ask your child to help set the table and count the items. | 21 Do 15 jumping jacks. | |
| 22 Cut shapes out of paper to make a picture. | 23 Have your child draw a picture of himself/herself playing in the snow. | Color Tuesday 24 Look for the color white in a book or magazine. | 25 Exercise with your child; hop in place, do jumping jacks and arm circles. | Library Day 26 Ask for a book about winter fun. | 27 Make a grocery list together. | 28 Look outside and ask your child about the weather. | |
| 29 Play a board game with your child. | 30 Start a nursery rhyme and have your child finish it. | Color Tuesday 31 Look for something white in the kitchen. | Eye Care Month  | | | | Remember: U-46 Kindergarten Registration February 7th-Feb 11th |

Play learning games with your child.



Play card games.

- Play "Old Maid" and "Go Fish" card games. Follow the directions on the back of the box.
- Play "Memory" game. Shuffle the cards and lay them face up. Invite your child to find the two cards that match.
- A deck of playing cards can be used to match numbers, shapes and introduce beginning math skills.

Have fun as you play "I Spy" color games.

- Play the game by spying different colored objects at home, outdoors, or in the car.
- Say, "I spy something yellow. You peel it and eat it. What is it?" (banana)

Play "shapes" and "sizes" games.

- Play hide-and-seek with different sized shapes.
- Grab shapes out of a bag and name.
- Make bath time a fun learning opportunity with foam letters, numbers and shapes to play with in the tub.

Play movement games.

- Play "Follow the Leader" and "Simon Says".



Parent and Teacher Corner



Easy Beginner Preschool Board Games
<http://bit.ly/2PtGjDy>



Check out this Website for Play Ideas
<http://bit.ly/2QDtXVH>

Sitting down and playing games with children is the way they learn to take turns, learn rules and spend quality time with you. This time also gives you the opportunity to observe skills that need to be worked on. The Dollar Store is a great place to grab matching, shape, color, letter and number games.

Recommended Books

- Home is Where the Birds Sing** by Cynthia Rylant
- Out of a Jar** by Deborah Marcero
- Black: The Many Wonders of My World** by Nancy Johnson James
- Change Sings** by Amanda Gorman
- The Winter Lullaby** by Dianne White
- Hush Little Trucker** by Kim Norman
- Some Bodies** by Sophie Kennen
- A New Friend** by Lucy Menzies

February

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p>Black Heritage Month</p> <p>Dental Care Month</p> | | | <p>Make shadows with your child using a flashlight. 1</p> | <p>Groundhog Day 2</p> <p>Say a word to your child and ask him/her to say words that rhyme.</p> | <p>Write down the names of family members. 3</p> | <p>Read your child a story and ask him/her to act it out with a sock puppet. 4</p> |
| <p>Have your child put a glove on his/her hand and count his/her fingers. 5</p> | <p>U-46 Kindergarten Registration 6-10</p> <p>List how many people you know that go to school. 6</p> | <p>Color Tuesday 7</p> <p>Look for pink clothes.</p> | <p>Play peek-a-boo with scarves. 8</p> | <p>Library Day 9</p> <p>Ask for an award-winning book.</p> | <p>Count fruit in the refrigerator. 10</p> | <p>Have your child think of words that start with the first letter in his/her name. 11</p> |
| <p>Lincoln's Birthday 12</p> <p>Read a story with your child and point to each word as you read.</p> | <p>Make a list of things that are really tall. 13</p> | <p>Valentine's Day 14</p> <p>Trace and cut heart shapes together.</p> <p>Color Tuesday</p> <p>Look for something pink in your kitchen.</p> | <p>Hide an object, give your child clues and have them find it. 15</p> | <p>Library Day 16</p> <p>Ask for rhyming books.</p> | <p>Have your child help prepare a meal. 17</p> | <p>Leap across your living room. 18</p> |
| <p>Count to 20. 19</p> | <p>President's Day 20</p> <p>Read your favorite children's book to your child.</p> | <p>Color Tuesday 21</p> <p>Think of things that you can eat that are pink.</p> | <p>Ash Wednesday 22</p> <p>Washington's Birthday</p> <p>Have your child wear something red today.</p> | <p>Library Day 23</p> <p>Read a book about love.</p> | <p>Count the number of hops your child can do on one foot. 24</p> | <p>Name a letter and have your child find items that begin with that letter. 25</p> |
| <p>Sort out toys by color. 26</p> | <p>Talk about what happens when snow melts. 27</p> | <p>Color Tuesday 28</p> <p>Take a walk and find things that are pink.</p> | | | | |

Read with your child each day.



Create a reading area for your child.

- Store your child's books in a special place that is easy to reach such as a basket, drawer, or on a low shelf.
- Place a small rug or pillow in the area to create a cozy and comfortable place for reading.
- Join your child and read together in this special place.
- Hold your child close to you when you read to help develop a bond and a positive attitude toward reading.
- Read your child's favorite books over and over as this builds strong reading skills.

Let your child participate in book reading with a variety of books.

- Visit your local library with your child and get a library card.
- Let your child look at the picture books in the children's section of the library and select several books to checkout.
- Attend a story time program at your library.
- While reading a book with your child, talk about the pictures and information on the cover of the book.
- Ask your child to look at the cover and guess what the book is going to be about.
- Show your child how to start at the beginning of the book and how to turn the pages from front to back.
- Ask your child questions throughout the story and to retell the story in his or her own words at the end.



Parent and Teacher Corner



**Building Print Awareness
By Sharing a Book**
<http://bit.ly/2PnqDkZ>



**The Importance of Reading
Aloud to Children**
<http://bit.ly/2Pphzff>

Reading aloud is so important to young children's learning. One of the most important skills a parent or teacher can teach a child is how to communicate. We communicate by speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

Children love hearing a story when you add different intonations and make the characters and story come alive.

Recommended Books

- Boogie Boogie, Y'all** by C.G. Esperanza
- Maybe** by Chris Haughton
- This Book is Not for You!** by Shannon Hale
- Walrus Song** by Janet Lawler
- ROAR-chestra!** by Robert Heidbreder
- That's Not My Name!** by Anoosha Syed
- Eggasaurus** by Jennifer Wagh
- Rafa Counts on Papá** by Joe Cepeda

March



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| | | | Count how many puddles you see outside. 1 | Read Across America Day Library Day Look for Dr. Seuss books at your library. 2 | Count fruits in the refrigerator. 3 | Put together a puzzle with your child. 4 |
| Have your child think of words that start with the first letter in his/her name.. 5 | Watch a movie with your child. 6 | Color Tuesday Look for the color green outside. 7 | Look for different shapes in your living room. 8 | Library Day Talk about the author Dr. Seuss and what an author does. 9 | Sort old socks by color. 10 | Practice the "ABC" song. 11 |
| Daylight Savings Time Begins Let your child help you change the numbers on the clock. 12 | Read a story with your child and point to each word as you read. 13 | Color Tuesday Find the color green in books or magazines. 14 | Hide an object, give your child clues and have him/her find it. 15 | Library Day Talk about animals. 16 | St. Patrick's Day Look in your closet and find clothes that are green. 17 | Count to 20. 18 |
| Point out street signs as you move through town. 19 | First Day of Spring Look outside for spring changes. 20 | Color Tuesday Look for the color green in the kitchen. 21 | Ramadan Begins Have your child write his/her name on a card and display it on the refrigerator. 22 | Library Day Find books about spring. 23 | Jump 10 times. 24 | Sing your favorite children's song together. 25 |
| Play a game that involves taking turns. 26 | Help your child practice zipping his/her coat. 27 | Color Tuesday Find the color green in your child's toys. 28 | What letter does March start with? Can you find other M's on the page? 29 | Library Day Ask for books that can be sung like a song. 30 | Have your child help prepare a meal. 31 | |

Let your child use school tools.

Gather and organize materials for coloring, drawing, writing, and cutting.

- Help your child select a durable container to hold drawing/writing materials such as: crayons, markers, and pencils.
- Show your child how to use markers and scissors appropriately.
- Decide on some simple expectations for your child using the drawing and writing materials.
- Provide crafts that require your child to use markers, crayons, and scissors.

Encourage your child to explore with drawing materials.

- Draw a picture with your child about family events and experiences and talk about the picture.
- Praise your child's efforts by displaying his or her work in a special spot.



Developing fine motor skills is important for learning to hold a pencil in the future. You can strengthen your child's hands by giving him or her the opportunity to play with playdough as well as using their "pincer" grasp (index finger and thumb) to pick up little objects like beans, beads, or small pasta.

Scan the QR codes for some easy tips for teaching your child to cut with scissors.



How to Teach a Preschooler to Cut with Scissors
<http://bit.ly/2z6jV91>



How to Teach Your Child to Use Scissors Correctly
<http://bit.ly/2PrI583>

Support your child as he or she practices using scissors.

- Be sure that your child knows how to hold the scissors, how to open and close the blades, and how to hold the paper. "Chomp the paper like an alligator mouth."
- Snipping playdough snakes, strips of construction paper or paint strips from the hardware store is good practice.

Let your child see that written words are a part of daily life.

- Involve your child in making lists together, writing notes and names.



Recommended Books

- Frog vs. Toad** by Ben Mantle
- Our Planet** by Stacy McAnulty
- Rectangle Time** by Pamela Paul
- Chirp!** by Mary Murphy
- Hello Puddle!** by Anita Sanchez
- Cat and the Rat and the Hat** by Em Lynas
- Wait—and See** by Helen Frost
- Fly** by Brittany J. Thurman

April

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| <p>Week of the Young Child: April 2-8</p> <p>Visit our website for Week of the Young Child activities at www.elginpartnership.org</p> | | | | | | <p>April Fools Day 1</p> <p>Together find things around the house that begin with letter "P."</p> |
| <p>Palm Sunday 2</p> <p>Autism Awareness Day</p> <p>Use a ruler to measure your hands and feet.</p> | <p>Make a collage of shapes together. 3</p> | <p>Color Tuesday 4</p> <p>Find something blue in your clothes.</p> | <p>Sing the "ABC" song. 5</p> | <p>Passover Begins 6</p> <p>Library Day</p> <p>Read a story and ask your child what his/her favorite part was and why.</p> | <p>Good Friday 7</p> <p>Measure rice with a measuring cup or spoon.</p> | <p>Draw and cut out circles and triangles. 8</p> |
| <p>Easter 9</p> <p>Sing your child's favorite song.</p> | <p>Use crayons to draw a picture for a parent. 10</p> | <p>Color Tuesday 11</p> <p>Find something blue outside.</p> | <p>Find some squares in your house. 12</p> | <p>Last Day of Passover 13</p> <p>Library Day</p> <p>Ask for books about bugs.</p> | <p>Count the stairs as you climb them in your house. 14</p> | <p>Act out a favorite story or song. 15</p> |
| <p>Orthodox Easter 16</p> <p>Play a board game or card game with your child.</p> | <p>Tax Day (Taxes Due) 17</p> <p>Have your child count all the doors and windows in your house.</p> | <p>Color Tuesday 18</p> <p>Find something blue in a book or magazine.</p> | <p>Have your child invite a friend over to play. 19</p> | <p>Library Day 20</p> <p>Together read a book about feelings.</p> | <p>Pick up litter to help keep your neighborhood clean. 21</p> | <p>Earth Day 22</p> <p>Print your name – use a different color for each letter.</p> |
| <p>World Book Day 23</p> <p>Count from 0 to 10.</p> | <p>Have your child draw a picture. Let him/her tell you about it. 24</p> | <p>Color Tuesday 25</p> <p>Cut out pictures that are blue from magazines and glue them on paper.</p> | <p>Put together a puzzle with your child. 26</p> | <p>Library Day 27</p> <p>Ask for books about trees.</p> | <p>Arbor Day 28</p> <p>Take a walk and find small new trees that are growing. Talk about "tall" trees compared to "small" trees.</p> | <p>How high can you count? Count the numbers on this page. 29</p> |
| <p>Talk about patterns. 30</p> <p>Can you find a shirt you have that has a pattern?</p> | | | | | | |



Enjoy the sounds of language.

Read rhymes with your child.

- Read Mother Goose Rhymes with your child. Encourage your child to listen and complete the sentence with the rhyming word such as, "Hickory, Dickory, Dock. The mouse ran up the (clock)."
- Read books with rhyming words like *Jeep in a Sheep*, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* and *Wocket in My Pocket*.

Remember that children grow and develop at different rates, but you may be surprised to see how your child has progressed in the past few months.



Parent and Teacher Corner

- Children need to hear books with rhyming words to develop their language.
- Read books with predictable endings to the sentences.
- Did you know you can check out children's CD's from the library?



How to Teach Your Child Key Reading Skills: Phonological Awareness -Talk, Sing, Rhyme!
<http://bit.ly/2Ffm4Vc>

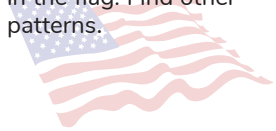
Play with rhyming sounds

- Play a game of naming rhyming words. (Silly, Billy, Sock, Rock)
- Silly, nonsense words count, too.
- Sing, dance, and listen to songs with your children that have rhyming words. CD's have rhyming songs.



Recommended Books

- How to Say Hello to a Worm** by Kari Percival
- Frances in the Country** by Liz Garton Scanlon
- Goodbye, Old House** by Margaret Wild
- It's a Mitig!** By Bridget George
- Song of Frutas** by Margarita Engle
- Kick Push: Be Your Epic Self** by Frank Morrison
- A Synagogue Just Like Home** by Alice Blumenthal McGinty
- A Seed Grows** by Antoinette Portis

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| Asian Pacific American Heritage Month | May Day Children's Book Week May 2 - May 8 Make a parade with your stuffed animals. Count how many animals in the parade. | 1 Color Tuesday Find something yellow in your child's toys. | 2 Hide an object. Have your child look for it by giving him/her clues. | 3 Library Day Share a nursery rhyme with your child. | 4 Cinco de Mayo Talk about summer plans. | 5 Help your child get the mail. Count the pieces together. |
| 7 Make up silly words that rhyme with your child's name. | 8 Find things that begin with the letter "B." | 9 Color Tuesday Find something yellow in your clothes. | 10 Talk about the weather. "April showers bring May flowers." Is it rainy or sunny? | 11 Library Day Ask about summer reading programs. | 12 Make animal noises. Have your child guess the animal. | 13 Sing the "ABC Song." |
| 14 Mother's Day Take a "rainbow walk." Find all the colors of the rainbow. | 15 Listen to a story, cassette tape or CD with your child. | 16 Color Tuesday Find something yellow outside. | 17 Buy a packet of flower seeds - plant some in a paper cup. | 18 Library Day Read two books today. Have your child tell which is his/her favorite and why. | 19 Take a walk and talk about the different sounds you hear. | 20 Armed Forces Day Draw some flowers. Color them. |
| 21 Name a letter and have your child find items beginning with that letter. | 22 Write your child's name. Have them trace the letters. | 23 Color Tuesday Find something yellow in a book or magazine. | 24 Cut out shapes and play a matching game. | 25 Library Day Ask a librarian to recommend new children's music. | 26 Visit Festival Park in Elgin and play. | 27 Practice opposites with your child (up/down, in/out, over/under). |
| 28 Sing songs with rhyming sounds. | 29 Memorial Day Discuss the pattern in the flag. Find other patterns.  | 30 Color Tuesday Find something yellow in the kitchen. | 31 Bake cookies together. Count the number on each tray. | | | |

Give your child daily opportunities to use large muscles.

Let your child spend time inside and outdoors and have space and freedom to use large muscles. Join your child in active play.

- Have a safe outdoor place for your child to run and play.
- Let your child pedal a tricycle outdoors.
- Take music outside to enjoy and dance to.
- Hang a basketball hoop low enough so your child can successfully “make a basket.”
- Toss bean bags into a basket or a tape circle on the floor.
- Create an obstacle course in your house. Use words like crawl “over” the chair. Slide “under” the table. Slither “through” the door like a snake.



Parent and Teacher Corner

What are gross motor skills?

Gross motor skills are the abilities required to control the large muscles of the body for walking, jumping, skipping, and more. Gross motor skills help a child gain strength and confidence in his/her body. It also helps them get exercise and physical activity.

What are fine motor skills?

Fine motor skills are the abilities required to control the small muscles in the body to develop skills like coloring with a crayon, writing with a pencil, or cutting with scissors.


If you have concerns about your child's gross or fine motor skills, you can contact the Early Learners Department in your school district for a screening.



The Difference Between Fine and Gross Motor Skills
<http://bit.ly/2K6ljvz>

Recommended Books

- Together we Ride** by Valerie Bolling
- Dancing with Daddy** by Anitra Rowe Schulte
- With Lots of Love** by Jenny Torres Sanchez
- Shapes and Colors** by John Canty
- A Mouthful of Minnows** by John Hare
- Miguel's Community Garden** by JaNay Brown-Wood
- Daddy Speaks Love** by Leah Henderson
- Hot Dog** by Doug Salati

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| Remember: Did you schedule a kindergarten physical, eye and dental exams? | | | | Library Day Take a walk around the path at the library after you check out books. | Discuss your family's favorite food. | Find things around the house that are square or circular. |
| Take a walk and count the flowers you see. | How many clothes can you put on all by yourself? | Color Tuesday Find something black outside. | Walk like a penguin. What other animal is black & white? | Library Day Ask for books about summer fun. | Paint the sidewalk with a paint brush. Add food coloring to the water. | Play "Simon Says." Focus on exercise activities (hopping, bending over, touching toes). |
| Play catch together and count as you catch the ball. | Make an obstacle course for your bike. | Color Tuesday Find something black in a book or magazine. | Flag Day Sing "The Ants Go Marching" song.  | Library Day Ask for books about cars or trucks. | Have your child write his/her name in some sand. | Have a picnic with your child or play a game outside. |
| Father's Day Dance together. | Juneteenth Count from 1 to 10 or as high as your child can count. | Color Tuesday Find something black in the kitchen. | First Day of Summer Name words that rhyme with "can." | Library Day Ask for books that have shapes in them. | Visit the park or a beach. | Play a game together such as "Memory" or "Go Fish." |
| Help your child practice putting their shoes on. | Find things that begin with the letter "T." | Color Tuesday Find something black in your toys. | Go on a scavenger hunt outside and look for things that are the color yellow, green and red. | Library Day Read a book with with your child on a blanket outside under a tree. | Have your child invite a friend over and play a game. | |

Introduce your child to numbers and counting.



Use number words and point out written numerals as you and your child do things together.

- "I need you to put 3 forks and 3 plates on the table."
- "Pick out 4 apples and put the apples in the bag."
- "See if you can stack 6 pennies on the table."
- "Can you put 4 blocks in a row?"

Involve your child in number and counting activities.

- Play "Simon Says." Say to your child, "Simon says clap your hands 5 times." "Simon says take 3 steps forward."
- "Can you show me 4 fingers on your hand?"
- "Can you show me 5 fingers on your hand?" "Take one finger away. How many fingers do you have left?"

Read, tell stories, sing songs and say rhymes about numbers and counting with your child.

- Read or sing Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed.
- Sing counting songs such as "This Old Man."



Recommended Books

- Light the Sky, Firefly** by Sheri M. Bestor
- Mermaid Kenzie: Protector of the Deeps** by Charlotte Watson Sherman
- I'm Not Small** by Nina Crews
- Berry Song** by Michaela Goade
- Building** by Henry Cole
- Little Houses** by Kevin Henkes
- Ice Cream Face** by Heidi Woodward Sheffield
- In Our Garden** by Pat Zietlow Miller



Parent and Teacher Corner



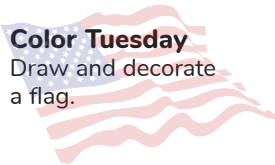
The Importance of Early Math
<http://bit.ly/2Pmz9Rc>



Everyday Fun With Measurement
<http://bit.ly/2OH059g>

Early math skills are learned through everyday play.

Make learning fun! Talking is teaching!

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| | | | | | | Use sidewalk chalk to draw a hopscotch board and count as you hop. 1 |
| Keep the TV off today. Read books and play games instead. 2 | Sing the "A, B, C" song and stop on a letter and see if your child knows what letter comes next. 3 | Independence Day Color Tuesday Draw and decorate a flag.  4 | Use family photos to tell different stories. 5 | Library Day Talk with your child. What did you do today? 6 | Use a stick to write numbers in the dirt or sand. 7 | Make a piggy bank out of a coffee can or box and start saving coins. 8 |
| Pretend to be a statue. How long can you stay still? 9 | Have your child help make his/her favorite sandwich. 10 | Color Tuesday Find something red in a book or magazine. 11 | Put on music and dance and clap to the beat. 12 | Library Day Let your child pick out a DVD the whole family will enjoy. 13 | Using blocks, ask your child to sort by colors. Now create a pattern. 14 | Play "I Spy" with numbers. 15 |
| Have your child practice your phone number. 16 | Make a touch and feel box with objects from outside. Have your child reach in and guess what he/she touches. 17 | Color Tuesday Find something red in your kitchen. 18 | Count pennies into piles of 1, 2, 3... 19 | Library Day Ride your bike or walk to the library. 20 | Open your piggy bank, sort and count the coins. 21 | Play a counting game like "How many striped or spotted things do you see?" 22 |
| Ask for music or stories to play in your car. 23 | Practice counting to 10 (or higher)! 24 | Color Tuesday Find something red in your clothes. 25 | Make a grocery list together and go to the store. 26 | Library Day Have a birthday party for a doll or stuffed animal. 27 | Find two things in your house that are your favorite color. 28 | Sing a favorite song with your child. 29 |
| Have your child name letters found on cereal boxes, cans, etc. 30 | What food would you take on a picnic? 31 | | | | | |

Make "going to Kindergarten" plans with your child.

Visit your child's school and preview school activities.

Attend your school's family open house, parent night or "meet the teacher day." Here are some things to do when you visit:

- Explore the classroom. Look at the books and materials, find out where the children store backpacks, and hang coats.
- Find out about the daily schedule for your child's class so you can talk about it at home.
- Ask when they have story time, lunch, outdoor play and rest time. Children understanding their schedule helps with transitions.
- Locate the restrooms and water fountains.
- Look for the cafeteria, the playground, principal's office, nurse's office, library, and other special features of the school.



Parent and Teacher Corner

The first days of school are often tough for both young children and parents. When you say goodbye, reassure your child that you will see him or her later. Children don't understand time so mention a specific time and a concrete activity, for example "I will pick you up after you have had lunch and gone out to play."



Transitioning to Kindergarten
<http://bit.ly/2z54nSQ>



Helping Your Kindergartener with Separation Anxiety
<http://bit.ly/2PTBLFK>

Practice going to Kindergarten.

- Begin to gather school supplies with your child.
- Play school with your child. Take turns being the teacher. Have story time, sing songs, draw pictures, or play a game.

Maintain predictable family routines.

- Establish a regular bedtime for your child. American Academy of Pediatrics recommends 10-13 hours of sleep per night for children ages 3-5.
- Be prepared for your morning "before school" times. Getting everyone up and off to school can be hectic. Planning and getting organized the night before can eliminate transition problems for your child and a hassle free morning.
- Designate a place for lunch boxes and backpacks that need to go to school so you aren't scrambling in the morning.



Recommended Books

- The World Belonged to Us** by Jacqueline Woodson
- Kicks** by Van G. Garrett
- On My Papa's Shoulders** by Niki Daly
- Oona and the Shark** by Kelly DiPucchio
- The Boat that Ben Built** by Jen Lynn Bailey
- Rosie and the Pre-loved Dress** by Leanne Hatch
- Sun in my Tummy** by Laura Alary
- Sylvie** by Jean Reidy

August

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| | | Color Tuesday 1 Find something purple in the kitchen. | 2 Practice bouncing a ball. Count the number of bounces. | Library Day 3 Talk to your child about their new school-day bedtime and wake-up schedule. | 4 Look for things that begin with "P." Point out the letter "P" in print. | 5 Plan a party for the 1st day of school. |
| 6 Pretend it is the first day of school. Practice ways to say goodbye with your child. | 7 Help your child write his/her name and identify each letter. | Color Tuesday 8 Name objects that are the color purple. | 9 Visit your child's new school and play on the playground. | Library Day 10 Ask for stories about families. | 11 Practice writing your name with crayons, markers, chalk, and pencils. | 12 Make up a story for your child. |
| 13 Take a picnic lunch to a park. | 14 Practice taking turns and sharing. | Color Tuesday 15 Find something purple outside. | 16 Paint on the sidewalk with colored water. Practice your letters. Practice painting your letters in your name. | Library Day 17 Make a costume out of things you have at home. | 18 Find words that rhyme with "me." | 19 Write a letter or draw a picture to a special friend. |
| 20 Find your favorite color flower outside and tell someone what color it is. | 21 Take a walk and talk about the sounds you hear. | Color Tuesday 22 Find something purple in a book or magazine. | 23 Help set the table. Count the plates, forks, spoons and napkins. | Library Day 24 Ask for books about friendships. | 25 Practice your phone number and address with your child. | 26 Help your child draw a picture and give it to someone special. |
| 27 Help your child make a list of things that make him/her happy. | 28 Practice with your child zipping jacket, pulling pants up and down and buttoning. These self-help skills are needed for independence in school. | Color Tuesday 29 Help your child find something purple in their toys. | 30 Play "Hide & Seek" outside. | Library Day 31 Look for a book about an animal that lives in the ocean. | | |

Help your child learn personal information.



Involve your child in learning personal information about him or herself.

- My name is _____ (includes child's first and last name.)
- My mother's name is _____
- My father's name is _____
- My address is _____
- My phone number is _____



Parent and Teacher Corner

- Learning personal information is one of the most important lessons you can teach your child in case they get lost or accidentally separated from you.
- Ask your child questions in different ways. In an emergency, your child may be asked, "What is your address?" "Where do you live?" "What is your full name?" The variety of questions will help your child know what to expect.
- When asking about an address you might ask it in different ways. "What is your address?" The next day, I would ask, "Where do you live?"



**Teach Kids to Get Found
When They're Lost**
<http://bit.ly/2QGaaVQ>

Recommended Books

- Where is Bina Bear?** by Mike Curato
- Eyes that Speak to the Stars** by Joanna Ho
- Trees** by Tony Johnston
- Acorn was a Little Wild** by Jen Arena
- Amy Wu and the Warm Welcome** by Kat Zhang
- This is a School** by John Schu
- Abuelita and I Make Flan** by Adriana Hernández Bergstrom
- One Boy Watching** by Grant Snider

September



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| Hispanic Heritage Month September 15 - October 15 | | | | | 1 Go outside. Find rocks to make the first letter of your name. | 2 Make a list of things that start with the letters of your child's first name. |
| 3 Call someone on the phone to say, "I love you." Learning the numbers on the phone helps with needed math skills too! | 4 Labor Day Help clean up the yard or a park. | 5 Color Tuesday Find something silver or gray in a book or magazine. | 6 Go outside to play or swing. | 7 Library Day Make a smiley face using fruits and vegetables. | 8 Read and talk about people from other cultures. | 9 Try a new food to eat. |
| 10 Grandparents Day Find something to stack – how high can you build it? | 11 Practice your phone number and address. | 12 Color Tuesday Draw a picture using silver or gray crayons. | 13 Make a collage with leaves. | 14 Library Day Pick 2 books to read today. | 15 Rosh Hashanah Find something in your pantry. Make it together for dinner. | 16 Find 10 circular objects in your home. |
| 17 Practice naming opposites. | 18 Wear the same color clothes as your child. | 19 Color Tuesday Find something silver or gray in your toys. | 20 Find things that begin with the letter "F." | 21 Library Day Sing the nursery rhyme "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." | 22 Native American Day Make a list of all your friends names. | 23 First Day of Autumn Help your child practice writing his/her first and last name. |
| 24 Yom Kippur Take a walk and count the trees. Talk with your child about what animals live in trees. | 25 Buy sandpaper and cut out the letters of your child's name. Let him/her feel and talk about the texture. | 26 Color Tuesday Find something silver or gray in the kitchen. | 27 Draw a picture of your family and have your child say the first and last name of each member. | 28 Library Day Check out new books at the library about fall. | 29 Have your child retell a story or event in order (first, middle, last). | 30 Take your calendar and help your child look for family members birthdays. |

Invite your child to think and solve problems.



Ask questions:

- “Wow that is a tall tower! How many blocks did you use to build that structure? 1, 2, 3, 4. You used four blocks to make that tower.”
- “Do you have your raincoat and umbrella today? How does the raincoat protect you when it is cold and raining?”
- “I noticed how you drew a triangle on top of the square to make a structure with a roof. How are those two shapes different?”
- “I wonder if we can build a tower out of marshmallows or sticks.”
- “What would happen if it started raining on our walk to school?”
- “I wonder why the leaves are turning yellow and brown?”

Play pattern games with your child.

- Create a movement pattern and ask your child to repeat it. For example: -step-step-jump, step-step-jump (take 2 steps forward, then jump)
- Start a pattern using objects and ask your child to, “Make a pattern just like this one.” For example: fork, spoon, fork, spoon

Provide opportunities to experience and resolve challenges cooperatively.

- Give your child lots of time to play with other children. Encourage activities that involve sharing such as books, blocks, crayons, playdough, and dress-up clothes.

Provide opportunities that encourage thinking and problem solving.

- Work on a puzzle together.
- Play with playdough.
- Measure and pour water or sand.
- Build with LEGO's or any blocks to compare sizes, shapes and colors.



Parent and Teacher Corner

Following directions is an important skill for being successful in Kindergarten. Give your child opportunities

to be in activities where he/she is asked to listen and follow directions for short periods of time like story times. Prior to an activity, talk to your child about the expectations. This helps your child transition easier. After the activity, talk about what he/she enjoyed and praise him/her for sitting, listening and/or participating in the proper manner. “I liked how you sat and listened to the story. You were a good example for other children to understand how to listen with your whole body.”

“Learning to follow directions can be a challenge for young children. This video contains tips for teaching young children to listen and follow directions.”

- Sixty Second Parent



Following Directions
<http://bit.ly/2K6Jrzj>

Recommended Books

- Journey of the Midnight Sun** by Shazia Afzal
- Luli and the Language of Tea** by Andrea Wang
- One Sun and Countless Stars** by Hena Khan
- Mi Ciudad Sings** by Cynthia Harmony
- Dinner on Domingos** by Alexandra Katona
- The Knight Owl** by Christopher Denise
- Monsters in the Briny** by Lynn Becker
- Creepy Crayon!** by Aaron Reynolds

October

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| Make a picnic lunch and eat outside. | 1 Sort your food in the pantry by names, sizes, shapes, colors. | 2 Color Tuesday What foods can you think of that are orange? | 3 Find things around the house that begin with the letter "T." | 4 Library Day Ask for books about a favorite animal. | 5 Take your child for a walk and collect different kinds of leaves. | 6 Find something that rhymes with the word, "sat". |
| 8 Go outside and ask your child to repeat patterns: step-step-jump; hop-clap-hop. | 9 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day Count groups of ten using cereal like Cheerios or beans. | 10 Color Tuesday Find something orange in your clothes. | 11 Make up a story about a stuffed animal or puppet. | 12 Library Day Carve a pumpkin with an adult. | 13 Sing the song "If You're Happy and You Know It." | 14 Take a walk at around sunset and talk about what your child observes that is different. |
| 15 Fire Prevention Week Talk about fall and make a picture of a tree. | 16 Read a story to your child. Point to each word as you read. | 17 Color Tuesday Find something orange outside. | 18 Find things that begin with the letter "S." | 19 Library Day As you select fruits and vegetables at the store have your child name the colors. | 20 Give your child a newspaper or magazine and have him/her highlight each "s" they find. | 21 Let your child draw on the sidewalk with chalk. |
| 22 Find something at home to make a costume. | 23 Make no-cook play-dough together. Find easy recipes at: www.littlebinsforlittlehands.com | 24 Color Tuesday Find something orange in a book or magazine. | 25 Make a card for a friend. Deliver the special card! | 26 Library Day Ask the librarian to share one of his/her favorites. | 27 Visit a new park today. Have your child name objects on the playground. | 28 Invite a friend over to play outdoors. |
| 29 Find items that begin with the same letter. | 30 Have your child match socks as you fold laundry. | 31 Halloween Color Tuesday Find something orange in the kitchen. | Remember to change the batteries in the fire and smoke detectors. | | | |



Help your child become aware of letters and words at home and in the community.

Encourage your child to "read" environmental print.

- Give your child printed materials such as magazines, grocery store ads, and menus from your favorite restaurants to play with.
- Invite your child to "read" road and business signs as you drive.

Give your child opportunities to recognize and name letters of the alphabet.

- Encourage your child to find letters in his or her name in signs that you see.
- Read alphabet books and allow him or her to name the letters he or she recognizes.



Parent and Teacher Corner

Print awareness is a necessary skill children need to begin to learn to read. To recognize letters and understand that each letter has a meaning will help your child begin to understand how words are formed. You can build print awareness skills at home/school by reading books, and making letters, words, and print a part of every day.



Becoming Aware of Print
<http://bit.ly/2JZue2M>



The Importance of Reading Aloud: Tips for Reading to Children
<http://bit.ly/2DBBZLU>

Help your child recognize his or her own first name in print.


- Say each letter in your child's name out loud when you write his or her name.
- Put alphabet letter magnets from your child's name on the refrigerator to play with. Children learn through PLAY!
- Encourage your child to spell his or her name by placing the magnets in the correct order.
- Place the alphabet letter magnets in a bag and pull out a letter one at a time and name them.



Recommended Books

- Thankful** by Elaine Vickers
- Dumpling Day** by Meera Sriram
- Remixed** by Arree Chung
- James' Reading Rescue** by Dianna Wilson-Sirkovsky
- Let Me Fix You a Plate: A Tale of Two Kitchens** by Elizabeth Lilly
- Pow Wow Day** by Traci Sorell
- Emile and the Field** by Kevin Young
- Growing An Artist** by John Parra

November

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| | | Color Tuesday Find something brown outside. | Count the number of days on the calendar until Thanksgiving. 1 | Library Day Play a game that involves taking turns. 2 | Help your child build his/her name using magnetic letters. 3 | Put a leaf under a sheet of paper and rub your crayon over it. 4 |
| Daylight Savings Time ends Change your clocks back one hour. 5 | Name four things that rhyme with "pig." 6 | Color Tuesday Find something brown in your clothes. 7 | Have your child write and decorate his or her name and display it on his or her bedroom door. 8 | Library Day Ask for a Thanksgiving book. 9 | Practice the "ABC" song. 10 | Veterans Day Look for flags in your neighborhood. 11  |
| Sing a favorite song together. 12 | Find things that begin with the letter "T." 13 | Color Tuesday Find something brown in a book or magazine. 14 | Make a decoration for Thanksgiving. 15 | Library Day Ask for books about food or cooking. 16 | Pretend to be a bear – talk about what sounds they make, what color they are, what they eat. 17 | Trace your hands to make turkeys. Color the tail feathers. 18 |
| Help your child make a list of the things he/she is thankful for. 19 | Take your child to the grocery store and talk about the colors and shapes of food and recognize the letters on cans and boxes. 20 | Color Tuesday Find something brown in the kitchen. 21 | Count how many chairs are in the house. 22 | Thanksgiving Enjoy some good food. 23 | Help your child make a list of all the things that he/she can do "all by myself." 24 | Enjoy a family movie night – have hot chocolate & cookies. 25 |
| Line up all your cars/trucks. Use a ruler to measure the line. 26 | Help your child practice putting on his/her winter coat. Try the flip-coat trick method (ask Google). 27 | Color Tuesday Play I Spy something brown at home. 28 | Exercise with your child. Count the number of arm circles or hops. 29 | Library Day Make a list of your favorite foods or toys. 30 | | |

Make math a “hands on” learning experience for your child.

Use recycled materials such as small boxes, paper towel tubes, and bottle tops to involve your child in addition and subtraction and “more” or “less” activities.

- Pretend you are a zookeeper. Put 3 animals in one cage and 5 animals in another. Say to your child, “Show me the cage that has more animals.”
- Add variety to math games. Use paper towel tubes as tunnels for the counting bears and small boxes as garages for cars.
- Ask your child, “How many forks, napkins, and spoons do we need to make sure each person gets one?”

Explore Measurement

- Measure with straws, sticks, shoes, paperclips.
- Ask your child, “Are you taller or shorter than your siblings?”
- Help your child measure your foot and then measure his or hers.
- Use words like smallest to largest, shortest to tallest, lightest to heaviest.

Include addition and subtraction words as you talk with your child.

- Make a recipe with your child. Use math words like first, second, and third to describe the steps.
- Talk about measurements as you use measuring cups and spoons.
- Ask your child, “You have 5 crackers and I have 3. Do you have more crackers or fewer crackers than I do?”
- Ask your child, “You put 4 crayons in a box. Now add 2 more. How many crayons are in the box?”

Tell stories and read books that include math ideas, and books in which characters are added or subtracted as the story progresses.

- Read number books such as *Five Little Ducks*. As a duck goes away, ask your child how many ducks are left.



Parent and Teacher Corner

The best time to introduce math concepts to your children is between birth and five years old.

The home and classroom are full of opportunities to integrate math into children's routines. Engage in play activities that involve games, songs, and books that are already part of their day.




Everyday Fun With
Addition and Subtraction
<http://bit.ly/2OGh8by>



Recommended Books

- Wild Peace** by Irene Latham
- American Desi** by Jyoti Rajan Gopal
- A Hundred Thousand Welcomes** by Mary Lee Donovan
- We Want Snow!: A Wintry Chant** by Jamie A. Swenson
- Tofu Takes Time** by Helen H. Wu
- The Boy with Flowers in His Hair** by Jarvis
- Also** by E.B. Goodale
- The Digger and the Duckling** by Joseph Kuefler

December



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | | Bake cookies together and decorate. Cooking is a great time to build math skills like counting, measuring and recognizing numbers. 1 | Build a fort with blankets, sheets, or pillows. 2 |
| Play some music, have child "freeze" when you stop the music. 3 | Help your child write or draw a letter to someone special. 4 | Color Tuesday Find something gold in a book or magazine. 5 | Draw a star and decorate it. 6 | Hanukkah Begins Library Day Check out books about kindness. 7 | Sing a favorite holiday song. 8 | Have your child help you make pizza for dinner. 9 |
| Sing "Frosty the Snowman" and hope for snow. 10 | Name two words that rhyme with "snow". 11 | Color Tuesday Find something gold in the kitchen. 12 | Use socks or paper bags to make puppets and have a puppet show with your child. 13 | Library Day Have your child help you cut wrapping paper for presents. 14 | Hanukkah Ends Go on a family car ride/walk and talk about the holiday lights you see. 15 | Draw a picture of your family. 16 |
| Sing and act out "Hickory Dickory Dock." 17 | Give your child a household job like setting the table or helping you prepare a meal. 18 | Color Tuesday Find something gold in your toys. 19 | Have your child help you draw a red and white candy cane. Talk about patterns found on a candy cane. 20 | First Day of Winter Library Day Talk about your favorite memory/thing that happened this year. 21 | Pretend you are rowing a boat – count as you row. 22 | Make a snowman with 1 hat, 2 eyes, 3 snowballs, on paper or outside! 23 |
| Christmas Eve Count up to 20 and back down to 0 with your child. 24 | Christmas Day  25 | Kwanzaa Begins Color Tuesday When riding in a car see if you can spy something out the window that is gold. 26 | Make giant steps across the floor and count them. 27 | Library Day Help your child write or draw. 28 | Talk about what you're excited about for next year. 29 | Have your child name letters found on cereal boxes, cans, etc. 30 |
| New Year's Eve Decorate party hats to celebrate. 31 | | | | | | |

Get Ready for School

PARENTS GET YOUR
3-5 YEAR OLD
CHILDREN READY
FOR KINDERGARTEN!



LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT:



- Speaks in Complete Sentences 
- Recognizes some LETTERS of ALPHABET
- RECOGNIZES LETTERS in NAME, signs or logos
- Identifies and attempts to WRITE FIRST NAME 

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT: Fine & Gross Motor Skills

- Completes a SIMPLE PUZZLE 
- Throws a BALL, CLIMBS & RUNS 
- Uses a PENCIL, CRAYON, SCISSORS 
- Uses alternate feet walking downstairs 
- COLORS AND DRAWS beyond a simple scribble 

- Looks at PICTURES and TELLS STORY
- Expresses FEELINGS with WORDS
- Says FULL NAME 



MATH SKILLS:

- Recognizes BASIC SHAPES and COLORS 
- COUNT OBJECTS up to 10 
- KNOWS AGE

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Puts toys and materials away 
- Takes TURNS and SHARES 
- LISTENS and FOLLOWS 2-3 step DIRECTIONS
- SITS and LISTENS to a story 
- ASKS for HELP I NEED

SELF-HELP SKILLS:

- FASTENS pants, PUTS on and ZIPS jacket, able to DRESS independently 
- Uses TOILET MYSELF
- Pretends to READ a BOOK 



All Children Grow and Develop at their own Pace.

Starting at Birth, Use the **FIRST 2,000 DAYS** to Get Your Child Ready for School.

Early Care & Education Registration



High-quality early child care experiences increase children's readiness for school. Scan the QR codes below to learn more about available programs for your children.

Child Care Assistance Program

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) helps you fund child care so you can go to work or school.

CCAP makes it possible for families and guardians who qualify to receive financial help.



Birth-Two Year Old

Free parent support programs.

Specially trained early childhood educators walk families through child development stages and prepare them for preschool. The program provides access and resources to support the needs of families with young children.



Three-Five Year Old

Children ages 3-5 are eligible for half and full day preschool programs. Preschool options: park district, church programs, child care centers, Head Start and school district programs.



Kindergarten

All parents/legal guardians of children who will be five years of age on or before September 1, 2023 are eligible to register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration begins February 6, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year.

Go to your school district kindergarten page to register and for more information.



Visit the EPEL website to learn more about full day early care and education opportunities and after-school programs in the community.

Local Libraries

Library storytimes boost language skills and reading readiness through stories, songs, fingerplays, and rhymes.

Look for your library's storytime schedule on their website or give them a call.



Gail Borden Public Library

www.gailborden.info

Main Location

270 N. Grove Ave.
Elgin, Illinois 60120
847-742-2411

Rakow Branch

2751 W. Bowes Rd.
Elgin, IL 60124
847-531-7271

South Elgin Branch

127 S. McLean Blvd.
South Elgin, IL 60177
847-931-2090

Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library

www.ellajohnsonlibrary.org

109 S. State Street
Hampshire, IL 60140
847-683-4490



Algonquin Area Public Library

www.aapld.org

Main Library

2600 Harnish Drive
Algonquin, IL 60102
847-458-6060

Branch Library

115 Eastgate Drive
Algonquin, IL 60102
847-658-4343

Fox River Valley Public Library

www.frvpld.info

Dundee Library

555 Barrington Avenue
East Dundee, IL 60118
847-428-3661

Randall Oaks Library

500 N. Randall Road
West Dundee, IL 60118
847-428-3661

Bartlett Public Library

www.bartlettlibrary.org

800 S. Bartlett Road
Bartlett, IL 60103
630-837-2855

Poplar Creek Public Library

www.pclib.org

Main Library

1405 S. Park Avenue
Streamwood, IL 60107
630-837-6800

Sonya Crawshaw Branch

4300 Audrey Lane
Hanover Park, IL 60133
630-837-6800

St. Charles Public Library

www.scpld.org

1 South Sixth Avenue
St. Charles, IL 60174
630-584-0076

Community Agencies



School physical, eye, and dental exams

Aunt Martha's Carpentersville Community Health Center

Provides medical, dental and mental health services for children and adults. Health Care services include: sick care, routine check-ups for well children, lead and health screenings, immunizations, school and sports physicals, serving both insured and uninsured individuals.

» www.auntmarthas.org

» 3003 Wakefield Drive
Carpentersville, IL 60110
(847) 851-8600

Familia Dental

Provides dental care for children and adults. All Medicaid plans accepted.

» www.familiadental.com

» 47 Clock Tower Plaza
Elgin, IL 60120
(847) 695-8780

Greater Family Health

Provides quality, affordable, health care services including pediatrics, family practice, psychiatry, WIC, obstetrics/gynecology, dental care and health care benefits enrollment. School-based services are also provided at numerous area schools.

» www.greaterfamilyhealth.org

» **Summit Health Center**

373 Summit Street
Elgin IL 60120
(847) 608-1344

» **Seneca Health Center**

450 Dundee Avenue
Elgin IL 60120
(847) 608-1344

» **Streamwood Community Health Center**

135 E. Irving Park Road
Streamwood, IL 60107
(630) 313-5300

» **Greater Family Health**

1515 E Lake Street
Suite 202
Hanover Park, IL 60133

VNA Health Care Center

Provides quality health care services to everyone. Accepts Medicaid/All Kids, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Harmony and most PPOs.

» www.vnahealth.org

» 620 Wing Street
Elgin, IL 60123
(847) 717-6455

» 801 Villa Street
Elgin, IL 60120
(847) 717-6455

Well Child Center

Provides dental services to youth between the ages of 1 and 18 years old who are either underinsured or uninsured, promoting good oral and preventive healthcare as a way of life.

» www.wellchildcenter.org

» 620 Wing Street
Elgin, IL 60123
(847) 741-7370

Quality Eye Care Clinic

Provides eye examinations for all family members including infants and kids of all ages.

» www.qualityeyeclinic.com

» 502 Waverly Drive
Elgin, IL 60120
(847) 697-7771.

Developmental Screenings

All children develop in unique ways and at different rates. Screenings are a fun and comfortable way to learn how a child is developing, and to address developmental questions parents and caregivers may have. Call your local school district to learn more about developmental screenings in your area.

School District U-46

For developmental screenings.

» www.u-46.org/earlylearners

» (847) 888-5000 X 6094

Central CUSD 301

Provides screenings for developmental delays for children ages 3-5.

» www.central301.net/early-childhood/

» 275 South St.
P.O. Box 396
Burlington, IL 60109
(847) 464-6005

St. Charles CUSD 303

» www.foxridge.d303.org

» Fox Ridge School
1905 Tyler Road
St. Charles, IL 60174
(331) 228-4834

Food Resources

Food for Greater Elgin

Choice food pantry for Elgin, South Elgin, and Dundee Families

» www.foodforgreaterelgin.org

» 1553 Commerce Dr.
Elgin 60123
(847) 931-9330

DayOne PACT -

Child & Family Connections

Early Interventions provides services for children under the age of 3 with developmental delays.

» www.dayonepact.org

» 1551 E. Fabyan Pkwy.
Geneva, IL 60134
(630) 879-2277
Toll Free (888) 282-0997

Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley

Provides services to help children and adults with disabilities and/or special needs as well as support to their families.

» easterseals.com/dfv

» 1135 Bowes Rd., Suite B
Elgin, IL 60123
(847) 742-3264

Community Food Pantries



Discover the Path of Early Learning

Born Learning Trail

Born Learning Trail is a series of learning activities that any adult can play with young children outdoors in nature's classroom. There are 10 early learning signs, that include activities that encourage caregivers to spur the child's imagination and storytelling skills. The activities build letter and sound recognition through word play and rhymes.

Born Learning Trail Locations:

- » **Channing Park**
35 Rugby Trail, Elgin 60120
- » **Copper Springs Park**
380 Copper Springs Lane, Elgin 60124
- » **Illinois Park School**
1350 Wing Street, Elgin 60123
- » **Willard Elementary School**
370 W Spring Street, South Elgin 60177

Early Learning Laundromats

Laundromats offer books and learning opportunities while caregivers do everyday chores.

- » **Blue Kangaroo Laundry**
464 Summit St, Elgin, IL
- » **Everything Clean Laundry**
145 S Randall Rd, Elgin
- » **JetXpress Laundry**
425 Dundee Avenue, Elgin

Move, Play and Talk Signs

Visit Festival Park, 132 S. Grove Street in downtown Elgin to build readiness skills while Learning Through Play.



Elgin Partnership for Early Learning

Elgin Partnership for Early Learning (EPEL) is an early childhood collaboration that partners with the Greater Elgin community to prepare children for success in school and life. EPEL's website is designed to help parents and caregivers find the resources you need to serve your child in the community best.

You will find:

- » Community Resources
- » Connections to early care and education programs
- » Parent/Caregiver Resources



Parenting isn't easy. EPEL is here to help you find support, resources, and early childhood programs for you and your family.

Call our toll-free 844-KID-INFO line to speak to someone in English or Spanish to answer your questions.

1-844-KID-INFO

www.elginpartnership.org



Children and Technology



From the Experts:

Children Younger Than 18 Months:

Digital media (computers, tablets, & TV) should be limited to video chatting only (FaceTime, Skype).

Children Ages 18-24 Months:

Digital media introduced should be high quality and it should be viewed with a parent or caregiver.

Children Ages 2-5 Years:

Digital media should be high quality, co-viewed, and limited to 1 hour a day.



Tips & Tricks

You are the bridge between the digital and physical world.

Ask questions! Point to pictures, talk about colors and shapes, and sing!

Create a Technology Plan.

Designate screen-free zones, screen-free times, and place device curfews.

Be your child's technology mentor!

Technology is great when used appropriately. Be a model by reading together, viewing together, and engaging together in any media.

Websites

Moms with Apps:

www.momswithapps.com

Common Sense Media:

www.commonsensemedia.org

American Academy of Pediatrics:

www.aap.org

How to Make a Family Media Use Plan:

www.healthychildren.org

Child Mind Institute:

www.childmind.org/article/media-guidelines-for-kids-of-all-ages/

Recommended Free Apps



PBS Parents Play & Learn



Doodle Buddy



Animal Antics



Endless Alphabet



Endless Numbers



Toca Tailor Fairy Tales



Small Wonders for Families



Finger Paint With Sounds



Khan Academy Kids



MiniMath by Bedtime Math

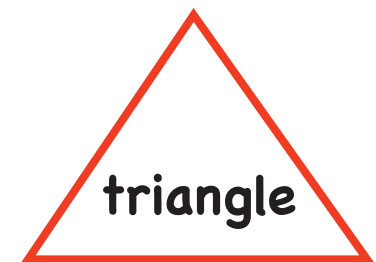
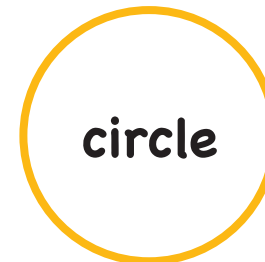
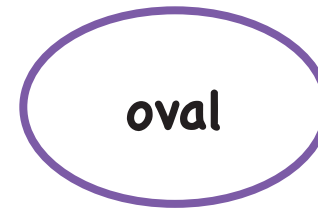
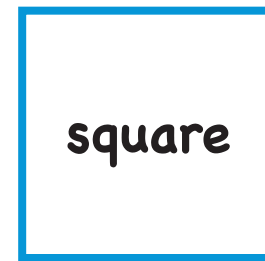
Ready for Kindergarten Skills

Alphabet Linking Chart

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Aa  apple  acorn | Bb  bear | Cc  cat  celery | Dd  dog |
| Ee  egg  eagle | Ff  fish | Gg  goat  giraffe | Hh  hat |
| Ii  iguana  ice | Jj  jar | Kk  kite | Ll  leaf |
| Mm  mouse | Nn  nest | Oo  octopus  ocean | Pp  pig |
| Qq  queen | Rr  ring | Ss  socks | Tt  turtle |
| Uu  umbrella  unicorn | Vv  violin | Ww  window | Xx  x-ray |
| Yy  yarn | Zz  zebra | | |

Shapes



Colors

red



green



yellow



purple



blue



orange



black










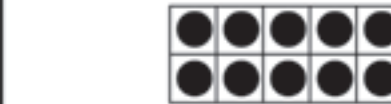


brown



Numbers

www.worksheetfun.com

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1</p> <p>One</p>  | <p>2</p> <p>Two</p>  | <p>3</p> <p>Three</p>  |
| <p>4</p> <p>Four</p>  | <p>5</p> <p>Five</p>  | <p>6</p> <p>Six</p>  |
| <p>7</p> <p>Seven</p>  | <p>8</p> <p>Eight</p>  | |
| <p>9</p> <p>Nine</p>  | <p>10</p> <p>Ten</p>  | |



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