

tips to help your
child get ready
for kindergarten



Read to your child because:

- ✓ it is an activity that can bring the two of you closer together.
- ✓ it leads to a higher aptitude for learning.
- ✓ it reinforces the basic sounds that form language.
- ✓ it teaches your child that print is read from left to right.
- ✓ it teaches your child communication skills.
- ✓ it helps your child grasp abstract concepts.
- ✓ it helps your child recognize cause and effect relationships.
- ✓ it develops your child's memory retention.
- ✓ it increases your child attention span.
- ✓ it helps your child view books as an indulgence, not a chore.
- ✓ it will increase the likelihood that your child will choose books over video games, television, or computer.
- ✓ it enhances the development of your child's spoken language and verbal ability.
- ✓ it will increase your child's interest in mastering reading.
- ✓ it builds your child's vocabulary
- ✓ it exposes your child to proper grammar and phrasing.
- ✓ it enables your child to learn about new experiences.
- ✓ it allows your child to flex his/her critical thinking skills.
- ✓ it can help your child develop a deeper understanding of others

Reading to your child really does matter. Do it daily.

Help your child to notice, think about and work with sounds in spoken language

teach your child to recognize the individual sounds in a word.

- example: what is the first sound in van?

teach your child to recognize the same sounds in different words.

- example: what is the same in fix, fall and fun?

teach your child to recognize the word in a set of three or four words that has the "odd" sound.

- example: which word doesn't belong? bus, bun, rug

teach your child to listen to a sequence of separate spoken sounds and then combine the sounds to form a word.

- example: what word is /b/ /i/ /g/

teach your child to break a word into separate sounds, saying each sound as he/she counts the sounds

- example: how many sounds are in grab? /g/ /r/ /a/ /b/
four sounds

teach your child about rhyming words.

- example: what word rhymes with hat and cat?
- example: what word doesn't rhyme with rug? bug or bat?



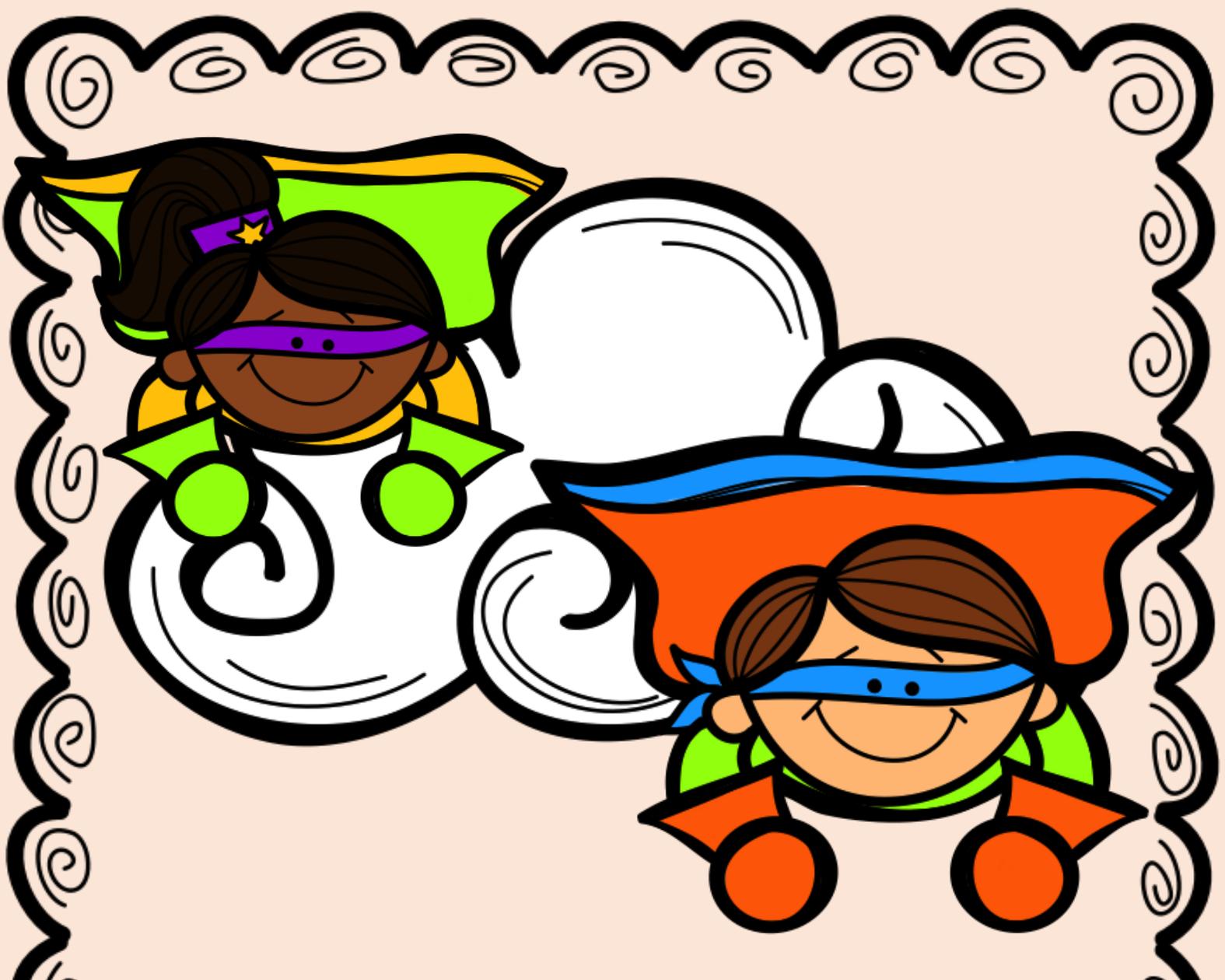
Help your child develop an understanding of math concepts

- ✓ use math language: examples: tall and short, empty and full, near and far, first and last, high and low, in and out, few and many, light and heavy, all and none, hot and cold, same and different, more and less, pair, group, set
- ✓ practice rote counting.
- ✓ practice meaningful counting by having your child touch each object as he/she counts it.
- ✓ practice counting and understanding that when you have counted the last item in a set, that number represents the total amount of objects in the set.
- ✓ use word problems to add and subtract
example: jane, joe, and jim were walking to the store. how many children in all?
sally, sue, and steve were playing outside. sally went home. how many children are left?
- ✓ practice classifying objects by placing things that go together in sets. classify by shape, size, color, texture.
- ✓ compare objects looking at size, number, color, shape.
- ✓ practice estimating and predicting.
example: put snacks on a plate and let your child estimate the number. show your child the cover of a book and let the child predict what will happen.

25 Nonacademic Skills Your Child Needs to Be Successful In Kindergarten

your child should be able to:

1. play and work appropriately with or without peers.
2. complete activities on time.
3. stay with an activity for an appropriate amount of time.
4. exhibit self-control when frustrated or angry.
5. play and work with few individual prompts from an adult.
6. try new activities without giving up.
7. share objects and take turns with peers.
8. seek assistance when he/she may not be able to do an expected task.
9. use verbal skills to interact with peers.
10. handle disappointment by recovering in a short period of time.
11. respond to adult questions.
12. respond and follow two multistep verbal directions
13. recall and follow directions from tasks previously discussed or demonstrated.
14. learn new routines after limited practice.
15. react appropriately to changes in routine.
16. care for personal belongings.
17. wait appropriately
18. focus attention on a speaker for 5 minutes.
19. express emotions and feelings appropriately
20. comply with group as well as individual instructions
21. complete simple chores around the house
22. dress himself/herself without adult assistance.
23. modify behavior as needed when given verbal feedback.
24. initiate and maintain contact with peers
25. see himself/herself as a "can do person".



the single most important influence in how well your child will do in school is how much you stay involved in the education of your child. it shows you care!

