

Getting Ready for School is Fun and Easy

Make school readiness a part of your family's everyday routines. Children love the special attention!

Common activities that are great for learning ...

Snack time — Look on food boxes or cans, saying letters together

Driving — Sing songs and read signs; point out various letters

Preparing meals — Put magnetic letters on the refrigerator for play



Shopping — Talk about beginning letters of clothes, food or toys

Nap time — Read a favorite story and let children "read" the story, too

Doing chores — Put signs on a few objects at home, such as "bed" and "table," and make a game of saying the letters aloud

Play time — Point to an object and ask children to say words that rhyme, including silly words: ball, tall, dall, jall, nall

Eating — Say nursery rhymes, such as "Hey Diddle Diddle"

Indoor play — Cut out magazine pictures with children, encouraging them to make up stories about the pictures or describe the objects in them

Lesson time — Spell personal names with flash cards. Let children match each capital letter with its lowercase form, or put the letters in order. Draw a letter and find objects that begin with the same sound (ball, boy, bike)

Library visits — Make weekly trips to the library part of your family's fun time together. Books help build children's confidence about school. A librarian can help you find good books! Here are a few favorite titles available at the Daviess County Public Library: "Froggy Goes to School" by Jonathan London
"My Kindergarten" by Rosemary Wells
"Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!" by Nancy Carlson

Read With Your Child

Children must hear and share in hundreds of stories before they are ready to learn to read at school. It is also important for them to talk and talk and talk about what they see every day and say the sounds of letters they are learning.

Being Ready For School

When schools and families work together to support learning at home, children do better in school, stay in school longer, like school more and feel better about themselves.

Read to your children, talk to them, and spend time with them every day sharing learning activities. Limit TV or computer time to one hour a day or less.

Together, families discover that learning is fun!



"Get Ready to Learn!"

The Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood offers helpful information for parents of preschoolers as they prepare for kindergarten. Visit KidsNow.ky.gov for helpful guidelines about how you can give your child his or her best opportunity for success!

Why is it important to be ready for school?

The Daviess County Public Schools district wants to help children be ready to learn. But we need your help! As your child prepares to enter kindergarten, please take the time to review the skills in this brochure. Children who begin school with these skills stay ahead year after year. Daviess County Public Schools puts "Kids First!"

For information about DCPS Kindergarten, call 270-852-7000.

Ready to Learn, Ready for School



A Note to Families:

The Daviess County Public Schools district puts "Kids First" in everything we do!

We know you want your child to have a happy school experience! Success in education starts today. This brochure was developed to help families and schools work together to measure what a child knows before school begins.

**Daviess County
Public Schools**

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Being Ready For School — Does It Matter?

Parents sometimes wonder what a typical 5-year-old knows, or should know, on the first day of school.

There are some “ready for school” skills called “Kindergarten Targets” that are goals for learning.

Children who learn these skills with their families have a great start at school. They start ahead and stay ahead, year after year!

Kindergarten Targets for Children

Letters and Sounds

- Enjoy being read to and can re-tell a story
- Recognize and name 10-15 alphabet letters and their sounds
- Repeat beginning and ending sounds in words
- Speak in complete sentences
- Print his or her first name

Math

- Count in order from 1 to 20
- Recognize numbers and quantities to 10
- Name and sort items by color, shape and size
- Understand concepts such as more, less, same, above, below, big and small

Social

- Adjust to new groups or situations
- Can concentrate on a task for 5 minutes
- Follow simple directions
- Show kindness and concern for others



Vocabulary Matters, Too

Children who know only 1,000 words when they start school have trouble catching up with children who know 5,000 words. Vocabulary is an essential pre-reading skill because it links directly with reading comprehension. Reading many stories and talking about them helps little children build strong vocabularies.

Sample Kindergarten Literacy Skills

DCPS teachers ask new kindergarten students questions such as the ones below. To help your child be ready for school, ask these questions, and then practice letter skills with them for a few minutes every day.

Knowing Upper-Case Letters (Capital or Big Letters)

Point to one letter and ask what it is. If the child does not say it, just go on to the next letter. It helps to cover the other letters with your hand or a piece of paper. Flashcards also work well.

D F C B A P S Q T
Z R E J G M U X H
W I K N V O Y L

Knowing Lower Case Letters (Little Letters)

Point to a letter and ask what it is. If the child does not say it, go on to the next letter.

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

Recognizing Letter Sounds

Ask the child to say the letters below the way they would sound at the beginning of a word. For example, for the letter “d,” the child would make the sound heard at the beginning of “dog” or “duck.”

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

Recognizing Rhymes

Explain to your child that two words rhyme when the end of the words sound the same. Give an example: cat/hat. Give an example that does not rhyme: bed/rug. Ask if these word sets rhyme:

lip / sip tell / sell boy / duck sick / desk can / van

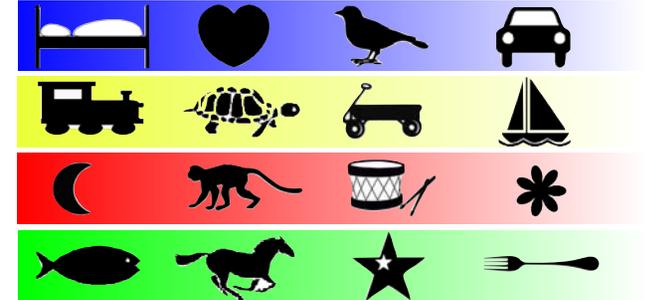
Making Rhymes

Give an example of words that rhyme, such as cat/mat. Ask the child to think of another word that rhymes with cat. Next, ask for a few rhyming words to go with each of the words below. “Made-up” words are fine.

run sing fill let mop

Saying the First Sound of a Word

Name the first object in the picture below (bed) and then the three objects on the rest of the line. Ask the child to point to the picture in the row that starts with the same beginning sound as the first picture (bed, bird).



Saying the First Letter of a Word

Name the object in the picture and ask the child to tell you the first letter of the word.



Printing

Ask the child to print his or her first name:
