





Parents as Teachers
2024

Kindergarten Countdown Calendar


The countdown to kindergarten has begun! Use this interactive calendar as a guide to help you prepare your child for kindergarten. Complete a learning activity each day, starting the first day of June. Many dates have a link to a video along with a learning activity. Most importantly, have fun with your child during this special time as they prepare to blast off to kindergarten!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>JUNE</p> 						<p>1. Read! Make reading aloud a daily practice! There are so many benefits to reading to your child.</p> <p>Read Aloud</p>
<p>2. Write 5 or 6 numbers on the sidewalk. Have your child say the numbers. Have your child find the number of items outside to place by the number (ex. 5 leaves by the number 5)</p>	<p>3. Watch the video below, and practice fun magnetic letter activities.</p> <p>Magnetic Letter Activities</p>	<p>4. Help your child understand the difference between a letter and a word, and that letters make words.</p> <p>Making Words From Letters</p>	<p>5. Encourage your child to write their whole name correctly (capital letter first and the rest lowercase letters) with different color crayons each time.</p>	<p>6. Create a pretend argument between stuffed animals. Talk with your child about what happened, and how to work out problems when they come up.</p> <p>Elmo Problem Solving Activity</p>	<p>7. Start a counting collection with your child to develop number sense and counting strategies!</p> <p>Ms. Thies Video</p>	<p>8. Use painter's tape or chalk and make 10-15 lines (like a ladder). Have your child roll a dice or two and count the dots. Have them jump that many lines.</p>
<p>9. Write individual numbers on paper or sticky notes (1-20). Place them around the house and have your child find them. Once found, have them put the numbers in order.</p>	<p>10. Go on a word hunt today as you read a book to your child. Count how often they find sight words in their book.</p> <p>Jack Hartman Signt Words Song</p>	<p>11. Read a book to your child daily! It's an easy way to build strong vocabulary skills to last a lifetime. Watch and learn ways to read aloud and fun ways to build your child's vocabulary.</p> <p>Expert Video on Read Alouds</p>	<p>12. Draw some curved lines and zig-zag lines; have your child cut out the lines with scissors.</p>	<p>13. Practice singing the ABC song. You control the volume by moving your hand. Your hand up high is a loud voice, and your hand down low is a whisper voice.</p>	<p>14. Make a sticker chart to graph the weather each day. How many sunny days have we had? How many more cloudy than rainy days?</p>	<p>15. Design an obstacle course with your child. Use words like over, under, and around to practice position words.</p>

<p>16. Practice sorting items around the house (coins, toys, laundry). Try to sort by different characteristics like color, shape, size, texture, and use.</p>	<p>17. Write letters or numbers with chalk outside. Have your child trace over the letters or numbers with a wet paintbrush. Can they make the letters and numbers disappear? Can they “paint” the letters in their name?</p>	<p>18. “I’m Thinking of a Word” is a great game to encourage hearing the sounds in words; an important skill for beginning readers.</p> <p><u>Beginning Sounds</u></p>	<p>19. Encourage your child to play with play dough and squeeze and roll the dough. Can they make the letters in their name?</p>	<p>20. Name an emotion and have your child make a face that matches the emotion. Discuss why they might feel that way.</p> <p><u>Expressing Emotions Activity</u></p>	<p>21. Play “I Spy” to practice number sense. “I spy something in this room that there are 3 of” or “I spy the number 5” Use an egg carton or a muffin pan to count out objects.</p>	<p>22. Blow bubbles for your child and call out a body part they need to use to pop the bubble (nose, head, elbow, ankle, knee, toes, etc.)</p>
<p>23. Use building blocks and dice. Have your child roll the dice and count the dots. Build a structure with that many blocks. Take turns adding to the structure by rolling the dice.</p>	<p>24. Make today an opposite day. Keep a list of how many opposites you can name</p> <p><u>Opposites Book</u></p>	<p>25. An important part of reading readiness is the knowledge that words are separated by spaces.</p> <p><u>Video: Words must be separated by spaces</u></p>	<p>26. Practice stringing round cereal or beads on a string or piece of yarn.</p>	<p>27. Play games like Uno, Old Maid, etc with your child.</p> <p><u>Sesame Street caring/come play</u></p>	<p>28. Patterns are all around us! Create a pattern using Skittles, cookie cutters, cereal, or anything else around the house! Clap and stomp a pattern and have your child repeat!</p>	<p>29. Paper Plate Skating- Have your child stand on paper plates to “skate” around the house.</p>
<p>30. Look for pictures in magazines of people from different cultures. Talk about how they are the same or different from your family.</p> <p><u>Sesame Street K is for Kindness</u></p>						

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<p>JULY</p> 	<p>1. Cut pieces of ribbon, yarn, or paper in different lengths. Put in order from longest to shortest. Find things in the house that are longer or shorter.</p>	<p>2. Practice reading the ABC chart.</p> <p>ABC Chart Chants</p>	<p>3. Encourage your child to look outside and find 5 things they see to try to spell it or tell you the sound the item starts with. "R" sound for rock.</p>	<p>4. Encourage your child to practice showing empathy to others. Use dolls, or action figures to practice.</p> <p>Sesame Street empathy video.</p>	<p>5. Sort, sort, sort! There are many opportunities to sort around the house!</p> <p>Mrs. Gerson Video</p>	<p>6. Play a game of Hopscotch. Get creative using numbers, letters, shapes, etc.</p>
<p>7. Use stuffed animals to practice simple addition and subtraction. (e.g. There are 3 teddy bears at the park, and one went home. How many are left?)</p>	<p>8. Draw straight lines, zig-zag, or wavy lines with chalk. Encourage your child to balance on the line as they walk, tiptoe, hop & stomp down the lines.</p>	<p>9. Go on a scavenger hunt with your child. Find letters and words in your home or outside.</p> <p>Letters and words scavenger hunt.</p>	<p>10. Practice writing numbers. Count the number of doors and windows in your house and have your child write the number of each.</p>	<p>11. Practice having your child say their birthday, telephone number, address, and first and last name.</p>	<p>12. Help develop number sense and simple addition with resources you already have at home!</p> <p>Mrs. Schafluetzel Video</p>	<p>13. Brainstorm with your child what they can do in 30 seconds. Try it and discuss; add or subtract time. (e.g. - run to the mailbox and back, make the bed, get dressed)</p>
<p>14. Go on a shape scavenger hunt by making shapes on the floor using painter's tape. Ask your child to find those shapes around the house and match them to the tape shapes.</p>	<p>15. Using a flashlight, make animals with your hand. Encourage your child to say the sound and/or letter that each one starts with.</p>	<p>16. This fun bean bag activity shows how to help your child hear sounds in words. Hearing sounds in words is an important skill for reading readiness.</p> <p>Beanbag Toss / Sound Boxes</p>	<p>17. Practice buttoning their own shorts, shirt, or pants all week.</p> <p>Encourage your child to practice tying their shoes and zip their zippers.</p>	<p>18. Play games with your child that require working together. Try to build a tent out of old blankets or play catch.</p> <p>Sesame Street Resolving Conflicts</p>	<p>19. Measure your child's height on the door frame or a chart and compare it to the height of other family members. Who is the tallest? Shortest?</p>	<p>20. Practice following directions, and play a game of "Red Light, Green Light"</p> <p>Dance and sing along to this freeze dance video.</p> <p>Freeze Dance</p>

<p>21. Rhyming helps children build phonemic awareness. Listen to this rhyming song.</p> <p>Rocco the Rhyming Rhino</p> <p>Play "I spy with rhyming words."</p>	<p>22. As you run errands today encourage your child to find words in their environment (GO, McDonald's, Target, etc.). Keep track of who finds the most words.</p>	<p>23. Reading readiness includes your child demonstrating they can count how many words are in a sentence.</p> <p>Counting words in a sentence video.</p>	<p>24. Practice fine motor strength. Encourage your child to move cotton balls or pompoms from one bowl to another using tongs or tweezers.</p>	<p>25. Model manners such as using "please" and "thank you" throughout the day.</p> <p>Build shapes with popsicle sticks, toothpicks, or straws.</p>	<p>26. What is the number on your house or mailbox?</p> <p>What are the numbers in your phone number?</p> <p>Practice your address and phone number.</p>	<p>27. Place 4-6 plastic cups in a line. Write letters, numbers, or shapes on the cups. Have your child roll or kick a ball at the cups and tell the color, number, or shape they knock over.</p>
<p>28. Practice positional directions by placing a stuffed animal in different locations (e.g. above, between, behind, under, next to. Tell the position to help them find the animals.</p>	<p>29. Give your child a piece of yarn and encourage them to make letters or numbers with the string. How many letters or numbers can they make?</p>	<p>30. Make a memory game to work on letter recognition.</p> <p>Memory /Concentration</p>	<p>31. Draw 5 shapes and have your child cut out each shape with scissors.</p>			

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<p>AUGUST</p> 				<p>1. Look at the calendar and count the days left until school starts. Make a paper chain, taking off one link daily until school starts. What else do you notice about calendars?</p>	<p>2. Make your own ABC letter-sound book after you watch this great letter-sound video.</p> <p>Letter Sound Video</p>	<p>3. How Far can you Jump? Make a starting line for your child and encourage them to jump forward as far as they can. See if they can beat their distance each time.</p>
<p>4. Draw a picture of family members in a line and tell the position of each person. Who is first, next, last?</p>	<p>5. Using some coins explain their worth and then encourage your child to sort and count them. Can they make a pattern with them?</p>	<p>6. Read your favorite nursery rhyme book together! Watch the video below.</p> <p>Nursery Rhyme Benefits</p>	<p>7. Using some disposable or plastic cups encourage your child to build a tower with them. How long or wide can they build it?</p>	<p>8. Turn on some music and draw with your child. Encourage your child to talk about what they drew.</p> <p>Fun and Easy Tips</p>	<p>9. Play a board game! Board games help develop counting, problem-solving, and social skills.</p> <p>Mrs. Lueking Video</p>	<p>10. Grab some household items and head to the bathtub, pool, or kitchen sink. Predict what can sink or float and then sort by what happened. Did it sink? Float?</p>
<p>11. Count up from a given number other than 1. (e.g. count up from 6: 6, 7, 8,9). Make it harder and harder. Try starting with 20.</p>	<p>12. Practice belly breathing with your child. Ask them to pretend like they are blowing up a balloon or blowing out candles.</p> <p>Belly Breathing Video</p>	<p>13. Sit down with your child in a room and play “I spy” by saying a letter sound. Describe what sound each item starts with. Can they find it and name the letter?</p>	<p>14. Give your child three directions. Can they remember and follow them? (Ex. run to the door, get a toy, and then come and sit by me.)</p>	<p>15. Using blocks or Legos and dice, take turns rolling the dice and building with that number of items. After 5 turns discuss who used the most and least number of blocks or Legos.</p>	<p>16. Count your steps! How many will it take to get to the corner? To the tree? To the refrigerator?</p> <p>Mrs. Kollack Video</p>	<p>17. Trace everyone’s hand in your family. Discuss whose hand is the biggest to the smallest. Then listen to “The Kissing Hand.”</p> <p>The Kissing Hand Video</p>

18. Help your child Draw pictures of what they will need to do in the morning to get ready for school. Get a good night's sleep! Wishing you and your family a great school year!

*First Day
of
Kindergarten*

