



# Helping Your Child Meet End of Pre K Standards

There are simple ways to help your preschooler meet the basic goals we have set for the end of their two years in Pre K. Listed are the 15 "academic" and 3 "social" skills children need to master to make the kindergarten transition easy. Each skill has suggested activities for families to try with students.

## **Social Skills**

### ***Listening and paying attention***

- Read and discuss books DAILY.
- Learn and sing simple, child-friendly songs insuring that your child (and you!) are singing the right words.
- Play "I spy" in the car or on walks. Tell the child: "I spy with my little eye something that is..." and offer hints that the child must listen to in order to find the object. Good hints are color, size, location (example: "across the street").

### ***Following directions***

- Play games with rules like Candyland and other board games.
- Play beginner's "Simon Says". Young children are NOT good at this game, but they enjoy it, it helps them practice listening and following directions *and* they are hilarious to watch while they play. They never win.

### ***Managing self help tasks & being a classroom/school citizen***

- Allow your child to dress independently, buttoning, snapping and zipping without help.
- Teach and encourage cleaning up of toys, clothes and other things they use.
- Teach your child to be courteous *with their* bodies and *of other peoples'* bodies. Hitting and other ways of hurting are not acceptable.

## **Literacy-Reading & Writing**

***Knows print conventions: Book, Cover, Pages, Title, Author, Illustrator, Beginning, Middle, End***

***Knows the difference between pictures and words***

***Draws a picture & tells its story or identifies items in the picture***

- Read books daily with your child discussing all of the physical parts of a book. Name & discuss the author and illustrator. After reading, ask your child to recall the: *characters*, *setting (where the story takes place)*, *problem (usually the middle of the story)* and *solution (usually the end of the story)*.
- Help children to make their own books on folded paper and allow them to write stories while asking about the parts of a book and/or story.

***Coherently Retells/shares stories that contain beginning middle & end***

- Read with your child daily (see above).
- Know your child's daily schedule at school and each day after school, have them explain what they did that day -in order. (Prompt with questions like "What did you read today?" "What happened after that?" "What did you do at meeting time?").

***Uses and understands a variety of words and phrases***

- Have conversations with your child that involve exchanges. Ask questions and listen to the answers, then expand on what your child says.
- Read non-fiction books with unfamiliar words that will need to be explained. Explain the words!



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## ***Recognizes and identifies rhyming sounds***

- Give your child a word and help find rhymes for it, even words that aren't real can count if you explain that they are "silly" or made up words.
- Read rhyming books like those by Dr. Seuss and discuss the rhyming words.

## ***Fluently writes names upper and lowercase letters***

- Write a few lower case letters and have your child name the letters and write the capitals. When finished, write a few capital letters and start again in reverse.

## ***Matches letter sounds to letters***

- In conversation, make a game of figuring out the first letter and beginning sound of names or interesting words.

## **Math**

### ***Counts by rote to 10, Counts by rote beyond 30***

- Count all the time! Use songs like "Bubblegum, Bubblegum" or "The Ants Go Marching" to count to ten and beyond. You can find videos for dozens of other counting songs on YouTube.

### ***Accurately counts objects to 20 and beyond***

### ***Accurately compares groups of numbers***

### ***Adds and subtracts small quantities using symbols or objects***

- Count everything! Steps from the curb to the door of your house, small foods like raisins or cereal.
- After counting items, break them into 2 groups and count again, asking which has more
- Use a small number of objects, up to five, divided into groups. Count the number in each group, then combine the groups into one and count to find the total.

### ***Sorts by one or more attributes***

- After counting items, sort them into groups by color, size or shape. This works well with colorful cereal or fruit snacks.

### ***Recognizes numerals to 20***

- Point out and name numbers in the environment. Use bus numbers, street signs or aisle markers in the grocery store.
- Play number bingo or the games suggested in the numbers homework packet your child received. -