



# Get Ready 4 KINDERGARTEN

*Building a bridge from home to school*

Get Ready 4 Kindergarten's preschool program is based on the Five Building Blocks of Early Learning. Each month activities are linked by a theme. In this Monthly Learning Guide, we've outlined some simple ways to work on skills with your preschooler to help get them ready for kindergarten and success in school.



## Five Building Blocks of Early Learning:



**TALK** with your child often about everything! Every conversation builds their vocabulary and vocabulary is the key to learning.



**READ** to your child at least once a day! Make reading a fun part of your routine.



**THINK:** Guide your child to question and look deeper into their world.



**PLAY** some kind of game every day with your child! Hide and seek, catch, color or an object hunt - it doesn't matter what, just play together!



**DO** more things together: cook, color, walk the dog, explore the outdoors, visit a new place (zoo, park, store).

## Do something fun together

**Learn about honey bees:** Honey bees are the only insect that makes food human eat. They make honey to eat, but make two to three times more than what the hive needs, so we get to enjoy some honey, too! Honey can taste different depending on the flowers bees get the nectar from. Visit the local farmers market and try some local honey. How does it compare to the honey you buy at the grocery store. Can you tell a difference?

DO

# BUILDING BLOCKS Monthly Learning Guide

August

This month, we are learning about Bug & Beetles



Many of us call all insects bugs, that's not correct. It turns out that all bugs are insects but not all insects are bugs! Actually, lady bugs aren't bugs, they are insects!

Here are some facts about insects and bugs:

- The Queen Alexandra's Birdwing is the largest butterfly in the world with a wingspan of up to one foot!
- Only male crickets chirp. They chirp by rubbing their wings together.
- A grasshopper can jump 10 to 20 times its body length without using its wings.
- Only female mosquitoes bite.
- Praying Mantises, which can be up to 6 inches long, can eat lizards, mice and small birds!
- Ants can carry up to 20 times their body weight - that's like an adult lifting a car!

## TALK

**Skill to Practice: Keep working on taking turns talking and listening**

Work with your child on thinking before talking. Ask a question (not yes or no) and encourage them to think about their answer and what they want to say. This is a very good skill to work on when reading together. When your child starts school, they will be asked to share their thinking and this is a good way to get them started.

bug • insect • beetle • wings  
antennae • proboscis

**Fit new words into your day:** Describe each word to your child. Point out examples in books and TV shows, playing outside, or while running errands. (They do not need to read or write these words.) They will start to add them to their speaking vocabulary when they hear you using them.



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# BUILDING BLOCKS

## Learning Guide



### Make some observations

Look in the grass, under rocks, flying around, and in the garden for bugs and beetles. How many can you find? What does it look like they are doing? Use a magnifying glass to make observations about bugs and beetles you find in your yard. Do you see six legs? Do they have antennae? How do they move?

### Sort objects by shape

Give your child a handful of change and have them sort the coins by size. Ask which is largest? Which is smallest? Don't try and explain why dimes are worth more than nickels – stick with size.

### Sort objects by shape

Start with circles – have a circle food only day: pizza, cucumber slices, fried eggs, cherry tomatoes, cheerios – walk in little circles to cross the room, ride bikes in circles, draw circles with sidewalk chalk, blow bubbles – find all the circles in your house. Then move on to triangles and squares.

THINK



Pictured: Butterfly Kindercarton

KINDER CARTONS: Complete preschool curriculum (math, language, and science), theme-based books, craft kits, word cards and more!

READ

**Skills to Practice:** Ask questions about the stories you read and encourage them to wait a moment and think about their answer before blurting out the first thing that pops into their head.

When your child starts school, they will be asked to share their thinking and answer questions about the stories they read together. This is a good way to get them started when you can give them lots of support.

### Books about Bugs & Beetles:

Ladybugs By Gail Gibbons

The Bug Book By Sue Fliess

Are you a Ladybug? By Judy Allen and Tudor Humphries

A Ladybug's Life By John Himmelman

Where's that insect? By Barbara Brenner and Bernice Chardiet

Bugs, Bugs, Bugs By Jennifer Dussling

Bugs are Insects By Anne Rockwell

PLAY

### Skill to Practice: Working Together

*Remember to take turns, pick games with rules to follow, and talk about those rules before you start to play.*

**Bug Races:** Bugs move in different ways: some fly, some crawl, some creep, some slither, some hop, some jump, some burrow.

Pick a bug, find out how they move, and then have a race with your child using that bug's way of moving. You could fly like a ladybug or a bee, crawl like an ant, burrow like a worm, hop like cricket, or what else?

## ART PROJECT: Paper plate ladybug

### Materials:

- Black paper plate
- Red construction paper
- Scissors
- Googly eyes
- Black pipe cleaners
- Black pompoms
- Glue

### Directions:

1. Trace your child's hand on red construction paper four times.
2. Glue the hands in pairs as wings onto the black paper plate "body" of the ladybug
3. Glue on the googly eyes and pipe cleaners (curl the ends) as eyes and antennae
4. Glue the pompoms as the spots on the wings



DO