



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

Check out your local park, neighborhood or your own backyard to see if you can find any nests... some may still have eggs or the eggs may have recently hatched. Be careful to only look and not touch any nests you find.

Celebrate Earth Day: Is there an Earth Day project in your town that your family can help with? An elderly neighbor who needs help with Spring yard work? Does your family recycle? Look for more ways to help our earth be healthier.

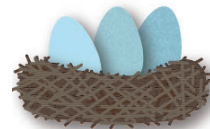
DO

BUILDING BLOCKS Monthly Learning Guide

April

Eggs & Nests

There are many different kinds of nests. Some animals build a nest to lay their eggs in, so the eggs will be safe and protected before they hatch. Some nests are made of twigs, pine straw, bits of grass and other things the animals can find. Many animals lay their eggs in the spring. It's not just birds that hatch from eggs. Can you name another animal that lays eggs?



Nests can be made of materials from nature like twigs, grass, and leaves, or they could be a hole in a rock, tree, building, or even the ground. Human-made materials, such as string, plastic, cloth, or paper, may also be used to help build a nest.

Look for signs of Spring: tadpoles, frogs, birds, flowers, buds on trees, baby bunnies! April also brings Earth Day! What can you do to help the Earth?

TALK

Skills to practice this month:

Keep working on taking turns talking & listening. Look at the speaker when they are talking. Ask questions to get more information about eggs and nests

Vocabulary words: Describe each word to your child. Use it in conversations. Take them outside and show them examples.

Nest, egg, hatch, twigs, build, shell, cracks

CALENDAR: Mention the day of the week several times during the day. Mention the name of the month and connect it to a special occasion that happens this month: a birthday, a special trip the family is taking, a play-date with a friend.



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BUILDING BLOCKS

Learning Guide



SCIENCE: Make some observations

How many birds can you find in your yard or at the park? Find a bird guide at the library or look on-line to learn the names of the birds you see. Print out pictures of the birds and keep track of how many you see this month.

MATH: Compare objects using words like more/less

Put 2 groups of small objects on the table for your child to see and reach (each group has a different number of objects, up to 5). Use more or less to describe which group has more and which group has less.

LANGUAGE: Increase vocabulary

Talk about the pictures in books you read. Point to specific items and name them, have your child repeat the word. Talk to your child about things they like. What is their favorite toy? Why? What did they see at the park? Talking about things will increase their vocabulary.

THINK



Pictured: May Seed-themed Kindercarton

KINDER CARTONS: Complete preschool curriculum (math, language, and science), theme-based books, craft kits, word cards and more!
<https://getready4kindergarten-shop.com>

READ

Skills to Practice:

Ask questions about the stories you read. Encourage your child to tell a story about one of the pictures in each book you read. Model this for them before you ask them to do it.

Books about eggs & nests:

- Guess What is Growing Inside this Egg by Mia Posada
- An Egg is Quiet by Dianna Aston
- An Extraordinary Egg by Leo Lionni
- The Egg by Gallimard Jeunesse
- Birds Build Nests by Yvonne Winer
- You Nest Here with Me by Jane Yolen
- Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey
- This is the Nest that Robin Built by Denise Fleming
- How Fletcher Was Hatched by Wende and Harry Devlin
- A Nest Full of Eggs by Priscilla Belz

PLAY

Skill to Practice: Taking turns

Imaginative Play:

Let your child pretend they are working at the zoo or a farm and they are helping take care of the newborn animals (use stuffed animals or plastic animals you may have). Encourage them to tell you how they will take care of the baby animals.

Pretend to be a baby bird just learning to fly out of the nest. Build a nest from twigs collected in your yard (great way to get some Spring yard work done).

ART PROJECT: Handprint Bird in a Nest

Materials:

- White Paper
- Paint brush
- Googly Eyes
- Scissors
- Glue
- Brown Paper bag
- Paint (Yellow for Beak & another color for the bird)

Directions:

1. Squirt the paint color you chose for your bird on a paper plate. Use your paintbrush to paint your child's hand. Hold their hand & firmly press it on the piece of paper with fingers together. Slowly remove their hand. Wash or wipe their hand with wet wipes.
2. Paint your child's pointer finger with yellow paint & make a fingerprint near your child's palm print for the beak.
3. Cut out small strips of paper from a brown paper bag. Have your child glue the strips of paper to the white paper under the bird to create a nest.
4. Let the glue/paint dry. Add googly eyes or make an eye with a black marker.

DO