



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

1. Go sledding with your family. No snow? No problem... use a piece of strong cardboard to "sled" down a nearby grassy hill.
2. Go outside during a snowfall and catch snowflakes on your tongue or on a piece of dark velvet (get a scrap from a fabric store) and use a magnifying glass to look at the detail in each one.

DO

BUILDING BLOCKS Monthly Learning Guide

January

This month, we are learning about Snow.

January is one of the winter months. In cold areas, you may see lots of snow during this month. Seeing snow is always exciting for children. They might not enjoy putting on all those layers of warm clothing, but they love playing in the snow and watching the snow fall! Enjoy the snow with your child as you play in the snow, build snowmen, have snowball fights, eat "snow cream", or go sledding. If you don't live in a snowy area, read books about snow; look at pictures or movies about snowy places; eat ice cream and pretend it is "snow cream"!



ACTIVITY: New Year's Resolutions

Talk to your child about New Year's resolutions. What is something new you can do as a family this year? A new hobby? Perhaps your family could try a new fruit or vegetable every month (see how many different ways you can prepare it) or set a goal to read together for at least 15 minutes EVERY day!

TALK

Skill to Practice: Increase vocabulary through conversation and other experiences

Have conversations with your child in the grocery store, or any other stores you go to (I know, you just want to get out of the store, but please take the extra time), about what you're buying. Is it for a special occasion? Children love to be included and this also helps keep them occupied in the store.

WORDS of the MONTH

snow • snowflake • snowman
snow fort • ice • frozen • frost

Fit new words into your day: Describe each word to your child. Point out examples in books/TV shows, or while running errands. (They do not need to read or write these words.)



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SCIENCE: Make some observations

Talk to your child about what you need to wear when the weather changes. Can you still play outside? How has that changed from the summer? Learning about the weather and making these observations is scientific work!

MATH: Sort coins into categories (pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters). Recognizing that there are different types of coins begins their knowledge of money. You can use real coins or “play” coins. Children this age do not need to name the coins, but should be able to tell you how they sorted them. Younger children can sort silver coins from copper coins.

LANGUAGE: Recognize and remember many nursery rhymes. Reading nursery rhymes to your child is a great way to build your child’s vocabulary. After repeated readings, you child will begin to say the rhyme with you. It won’t be long before they are remembering them independently. Bonus: Act the nursery rhymes!

THINK



Pictured: February Kindercarton

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

Skills to Practice: Build vocabulary by listening to stories read aloud

READ

We can’t stress enough how important it is to read aloud to your child daily. Sometimes, though, in today’s world, life gets very busy! Try having a big sister, brother or another relative read aloud to your child. If relatives don’t live nearby, ask them to read to your child over Facetime

Books about Snow:

When It Starts to Snow by Phyllis Gershator

Over and Under the snow by Kate Messner

The Biggest Snowman Ever by Steven Kroll

Snow by Cynthia Rylant

Sadie and the Snowman by Allen Morgan

Mrs. Toggles’ Zipper by Robin Pulver

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats

Snow by Roy McKie and P.D. Eastman

Snow is Falling by Franklin Barney

PLAY

Marshmallow Snowball Fight: You can do this indoors or outdoors. Each child has a small container (bucket) of large marshmallows. Children line up across from each other and start throwing their marshmallows at each other when the grownup says “GO”. When they are all out of marshmallows, they pick them up and start again. Remind them that they cannot eat the ones they throw. Make hot cocoa to enjoy afterwards!

Imaginative Play: *Jack Frost*

Pretend you are Jack Frost and you can freeze things, maybe there is a special “freezing wand!” What happens when you “freeze” each other?

FUN PROJECT: Popsicle Stick Snowflake

Materials:

- Craft glue
- String
- Popsicle sticks
- Newspaper or an old placemat
- Assorted craft materials: pompoms, glitter, beads, sequin, buttons, etc.

Directions:

1. Cover work space on the table with newspaper (this helps with clean up at the end).
2. Glue 3 sticks together, overlapping at the center point to create a star figure
3. Drizzle glue along one stick at a time
4. Decorate that stick with craft materials. Repeat with other sticks until finished
5. Let dry and glue a loop of string to the back of one stick. Hang in a window.



DO