

Pre-K Week 6: Getting Ready for Kindergarten (Part 2)

Estimated Time	Total Time: approximately 45-60 minutes/day Work at the pace that works best for you and your child.
Grade Level Standard(s)	<p>All activities are aligned to Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards for preschool and Common Core State Standards for Kindergarten.</p> <p>To learn more about these standards, please visit the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards - https://www.isbe.net/Documents/early_learning_standards.pdf • Common Core State Standards for Kindergarten Parent Roadmap: English Language Arts - https://www.cgcs.org/cms/lib/DC00001581/Centricity/Domain/36/Updated%20ParentGuide_ELA_K.pdf • Mathematics - https://www.cgcs.org/cms/lib/DC00001581/Centricity/Domain/36/ParentGuide_Math_k.pdf
Caregiver Support Option	Participate with your child in the suggested activities below to facilitate shared learning.
Materials Needed	<p>Paper, writing utensils (crayons, markers, pencils), scissors, glue or tape.</p> <p>Suggested Books: <i>Off to Kindergarten</i> by Tony Johnston <i>The Night Before Kindergarten</i> by Natasha Wing <i>First Day of School</i> by Mercer Mayer <i>Pete the Cat: Rocking in My School Shoes</i> by Eric Litwin <i>How Do Dinosaurs Go to School?</i> by Jane Yolen <i>Curious George's First Day of School</i> by Margaret and H.A. Rey</p> <p>Links to additional digital resources available on the last page of the packet.</p>
Question to Explore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we get ready for school? What is a morning routine? • What do you learn in Kindergarten? • Who will you meet in Kindergarten?
Student Directions	Each activity below has directions for you to follow.



If you would like to provide feedback on this packet, please scan the QR code.

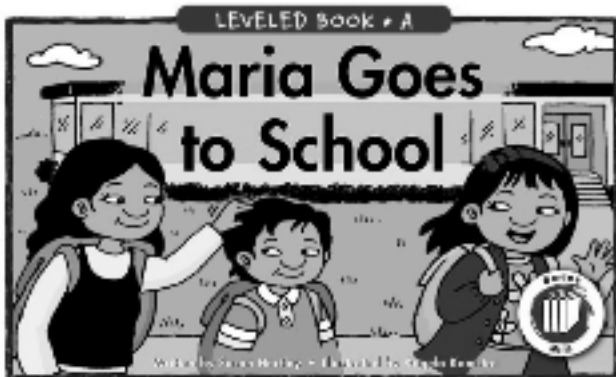


Day 1: Getting Ready for School

Introduce the Topic: Let your child know that this week you will continue to explore what Kindergarten will be like! Kindergarten is a year full of new and exciting fun! There will be many new things they will learn, new games to play, and new people - friends and teachers!

Learn & Discuss: It is really important to make sure you get ready for school! Not only does that mean practicing certain skills like writing your name and sitting/listening, but also being dressed appropriately and being able to take care of themselves. Ask your child what they think they need to do everyday to get ready for school - what do they need to wear, what do they need to bring, and how do they know?

Literacy Activity: Help your child build their understanding of Kindergarten by reading "Maria Goes to School." After reading, ask your child what they are most excited to learn in Kindergarten. Then, have your child read the story back to you. Remember, at this age, your child may not read the book word for word, but may read what they see in the pictures.



www.readinga-z.com



I get my backpack.

Maria Lopez © School #123456

3



I get my pencils.

4



I get my ruler.

Maria Lopez © School #123456

5



I get my eraser.

6



I get my crayons.

Maria Goes to School - Level A

7



I get my sweater.

8



I get my brother.

Maria Goes to School - Level A

9



I get my lunch.

10



I get my hug.

Maria Goes to School - Level A

11



I get my ride.

12

Music/Movement Activity - This is the Way We Go To School: Sing and act out the following song:

This is the way we go to school,
Go to school, go to school,
This is the way we go to school
So early in the morning!

Then, continue the poem to create a morning routine with your child, by saying what the child should do next in their morning routine.

For example: dress ourselves
This is the way we dress ourselves,
Dress ourselves, dress ourselves,
This is the way we dress ourselves
So early in the morning!

Continue the poem with all of the parts of your morning routine!
It could include: brush our teeth, pack our backpack, tie our shoes. For extra fun, make up your own melody/beat and make it into a song/rap!

Math Activity: Part of getting ready in the morning is checking the weather and making sure you are dressed for the morning! Sort the picture of the clothing item to the picture of the weather that it is worn for - there is more than one piece of clothes for each type of weather. At the end, ask your child why they sorted the way they did - and be sure to discuss why some clothes are more appropriate for certain types of weather than others. We have to dress the right way so we do not get sick, so we do not miss any school!



sunny weather



rainy weather



snowy weather



hat



boots



raincoat



scarf



rain boots



t-shirt



gloves



hat

Extension Activities:

Literacy - Ready for School Scavenger Hunt: With your child, make a list of everything you may need to bring to school (let your child try to sound out the words on the list and write them!). Go on a scavenger hunt with your child around the house and pack these in a backpack or container.

Math - Have your child keep a weather journal each day - it can be as simple as their noticing what they observe outside. At the end of the week, look over the week's weather together and make it into a tally graph to see which type of weather occurred the most/least!

Social Emotional Learning Activity: Morning Routine Obstacle Course: make a fun obstacle course that involves elements of your morning routine getting ready for school. It could include: hopping from the bedroom to the table, backing a backpack, then tip toeing to the door to put on their shoes. Make it fun and engaging - the more your child practices and knows their morning routine, the easier mornings will be for everyone!

Day 2: A Day in Kindergarten - What's New?

Introduce the Topic: Tell your child that today you will learn more about what Kindergarten will be like. You will learn about different parts of the day - and the fun things you might do! Your child will hear about different parts of the day, who they might meet, and what fun they might have!

Learn & Discuss: If your child attended a preschool or daycare, or any type of camp or class, have them think of what their favorite part of learning was. Did they like things where they got to sing and move their body? Did they like to sit and hear stories? Did they enjoy time when they got to run? Whatever was your child's favorite part of their experience, let them know there will probably be something similar in Kindergarten!

Literacy Activity: Let your child know that they will have time dedicated each day to spend reading books in the library, or working on learning words and reading skills! Make sure your child knows how exciting it is to learn how to read - and how we use it everyday! Tell your child that you are going to play pretend today - and you will pretend to be the reading teacher, and your child will pretend to be a student in Kindergarten.

Tell them that part of learning to read is learning new words, and recognizing those words when we see them. Two of the most common words are: "I" and "am." Show the two words to your child and have your child repeat them to you as you touch them.

I

am

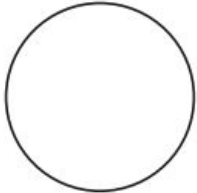
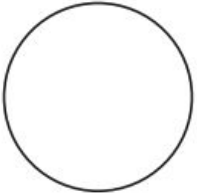
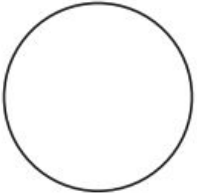
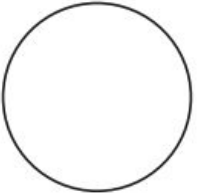
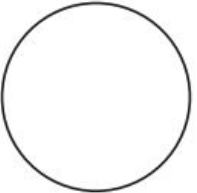

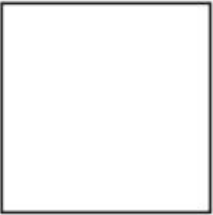
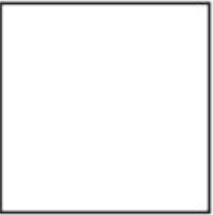
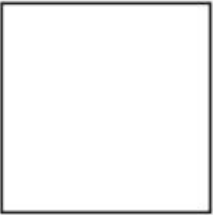
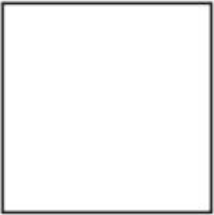
Take some time to practice reading/writing those words with your child so they are more familiar with them. You can make up a song/chant about how to spell them, and/or utilize the space below to have your child write their name on the line, read the sentence ("I am [their name]") and then have them draw a picture of themselves!

I am _____!

Music/Movement Activity: Many children love to play outdoors - and your child will be excited to hear that Kindergarten students get time to play outside for recess! Have them think of their favorite outdoor games, and, if able to maintain safety, take some time to play this with your child outside. While you are playing, tell your child that they will get a break in their day to run outside with friends. Remind them they have to be safe when they play outside, too - but also to have fun!

If your child is having a hard time thinking of outdoor games, take this opportunity to teach your child some of your favorite games!

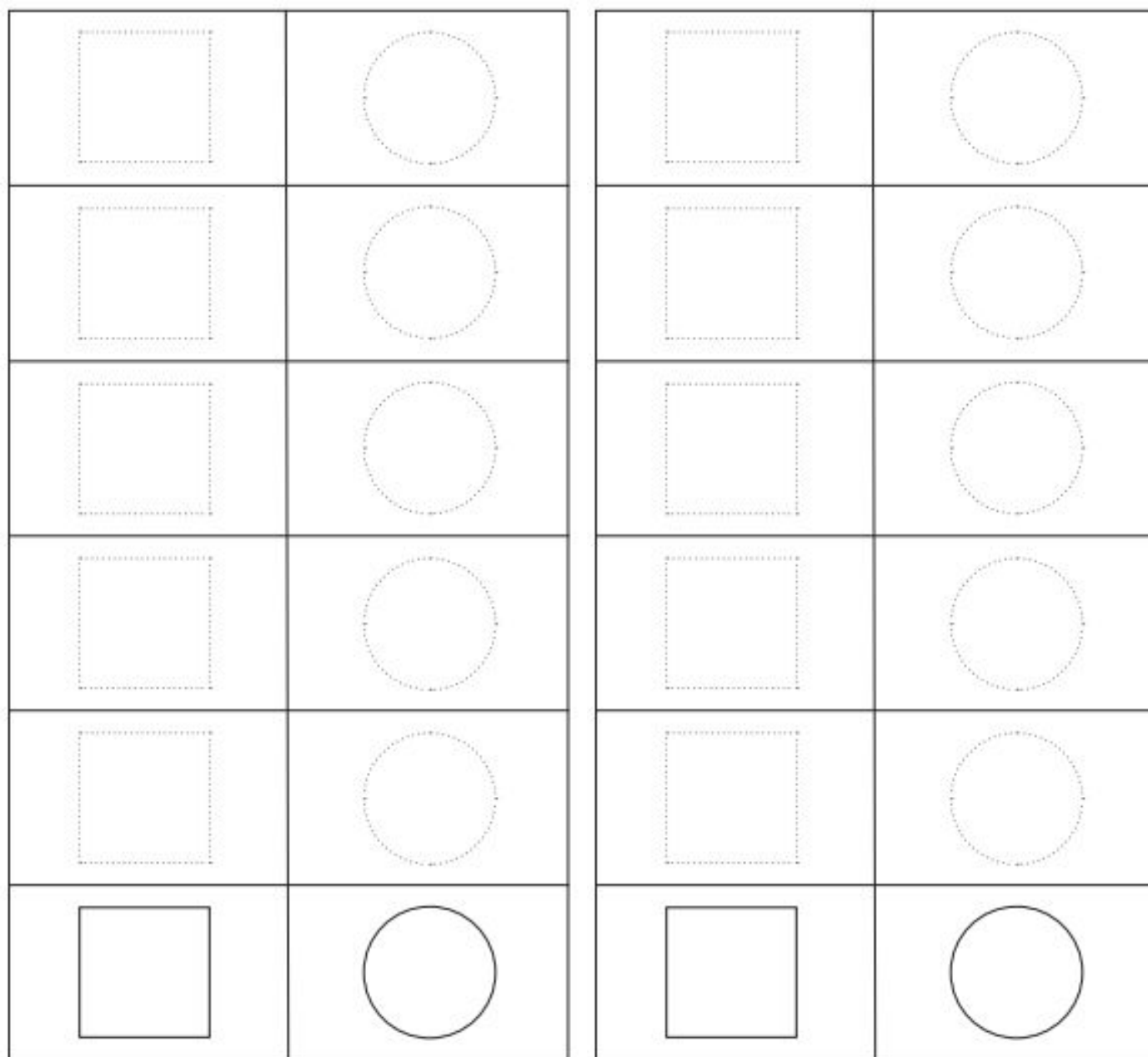
Math Activity: Let your child also know they will have some time each day dedicated to learning about numbers, counting, shapes, and many other fun things! Let them know that there are many fun games to learn about these topics, and play one of them together. Shape Race is a fun game to review some shapes that are good to know before Kindergarten! Have your child cut the boxes apart. You will put these in a cup, and use them during your game.

The second set of shapes will be your racing recording sheet, one set for each player. Each player will take turns choosing a shape out of the cup, and trace over that shape on your player's sheet (put the shape back in the cup when you are finished). The first player to fill up their whole sheet wins!

Player 1

Player 2



Extension Activities:

Literacy - Continue to add to your child's daily journal; let them journal each day using the sentence starter "I am" and a word that describes them!

Math - Have your child make the next player sheets for Shape Race (on a piece of paper that you fold in half), with two rows of new shapes (they could pick diamonds, rectangles, triangles, etc.).

Social Emotional Learning Activity: If possible, learn about your child's school and look up information/pictures about it to show your child. Many schools have a school website - that even have pictures of the principal and the teachers! Show your child their smiling faces so they will recognize them on the first day of school! If you are unable to access a website, if you are able to

do so safely, walk by or drive by the school so your child is familiar with the building before the first day!

Day 3: A Day in Kindergarten - More to Know!

Introduce the Topic: Remind your child that you are practicing what it is like to be a Kindergartener! There are so many things to do each day, so it is important to be ready to make the most out of it! Your child will hear about different parts of the day, who they might meet, and what fun they might have!

Learn & Discuss: Ask your child what you hope their teacher will be like - they will be someone who helps them so much this year. Let your child know that actually they will have quite a few adults that will help them on their journey - they will have their teacher in Kindergarten, but they will also have teachers to work with them on many topics, which may include gym, art, music, among other topics!

Literacy Activity: Tell your child that part of Kindergarten will be spending time with their favorite books in the library or reading with a teacher with other students. Part of that experience will include your child being expected to read to themselves or with a partner for a developmentally appropriate length of time (starting at around 5 minutes). Starting today, find a time to let your child practice independent reading and to begin to build their stamina in reading! Tell your child this is a very special time that they get to spend with their favorite books. Build a personal book box or book bag where your child will get to put all their favorite books, so they are all in one place and always ready to read! Right now, since this is new, it is okay if they are only able to get through one or two books, or only read independently for one or two minutes. Each day, with more practice, they will grow and grow as readers! If you have internet access, your child can read books independently with PebbleGo at pebblego.com (username = cps; password = cps).

Each day after they read, let your child tell you about the book. Ask them questions about it and help build excitement for reading. Give your child this “goal setting” bookmark to help them create goals for themselves, in reading or school in general. Ask them to draw/write what they want to learn in Kindergarten, and show them how to use it as a bookmark! Goals could be anything - reading a lot of books, learning with friends, or making their family happy! This will help your child develop their identity as a reader.

_____ 's Reading

Goal: _____





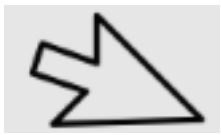

May be photocopied for classroom use. From The Reading Teacher Book, Portsmouth, NH, Heinemann. © 2015 by Jennifer Serravallo.

Music/Movement Activity: Let your child know they will probably have a gym teacher and go to gym class. Tell your child it is this person's job to help you exercise and stay healthy. We have time with this teacher as well as recess because moving is a very important part of learning!

Gym teachers also usually teach us about teamwork and collaboration. Tell your child you are going to pretend to be the gym teacher and plan an activity where you must use teamwork (you and your child must work together). This could be a range of many activities - you could play a team sport together like basketball or soccer, or you could select a favorite childhood game.

Before playing, let your child know that the gym teacher's classroom will expect us to behave in a certain way, so take time to review how to stay safe in gym, in Kindergarten:


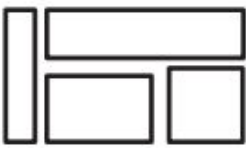
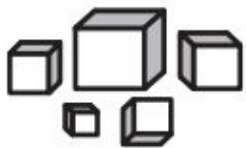



Staying Safe in Gym:

	Active Eyes and Ears
	Helpful Hands
	Follow Directions
	Move Safely

If you are unable to think of a collaborative game to play - some of the most tried and true games are still fun! Playing catch with your child is both fun and engaging with them - and to keep it fun, as you play, back away from each other to create a larger distance and to make it more challenging!

Math Activity: Remind your child that their teacher will support their development in math! They will learn quite a few different topics - and to help introduce them to many of the topics, it is time to play a Math Scavenger Hunt! Using the grid below, tell your child you will be searching around your home for the different items.

Have your child find, make, or draw the following items to win the scavenger hunt! After they complete the task, cross out the box!

 3 cylinders	Something that shows the number 5	Something that weighs less than you	Something shorter than you	Something heavy
Something taller than you	 4 rectangles	Something that shows the number 2	 5 cubes	 2 circles
Something longer than your foot	 4 triangles	10 items of your choosing	 3 squares	Something shorter than your foot

Extension Activities:

Literacy - Let your child be the teacher; play pretend with your child and let them be the teacher and read you a story. Tell them to ask you questions about the book so you can show what you know!

Math - If the scavenger hunt was too simple for your child, add some of the more complex concepts that you learn in Kindergarten (i.e. addition). You can ask your child to obtain $3 + 2$ items, for example. If it is their first time hearing about addition, you will need to walk them through the process!

Day 4: A Day in Kindergarten - More to Grow!

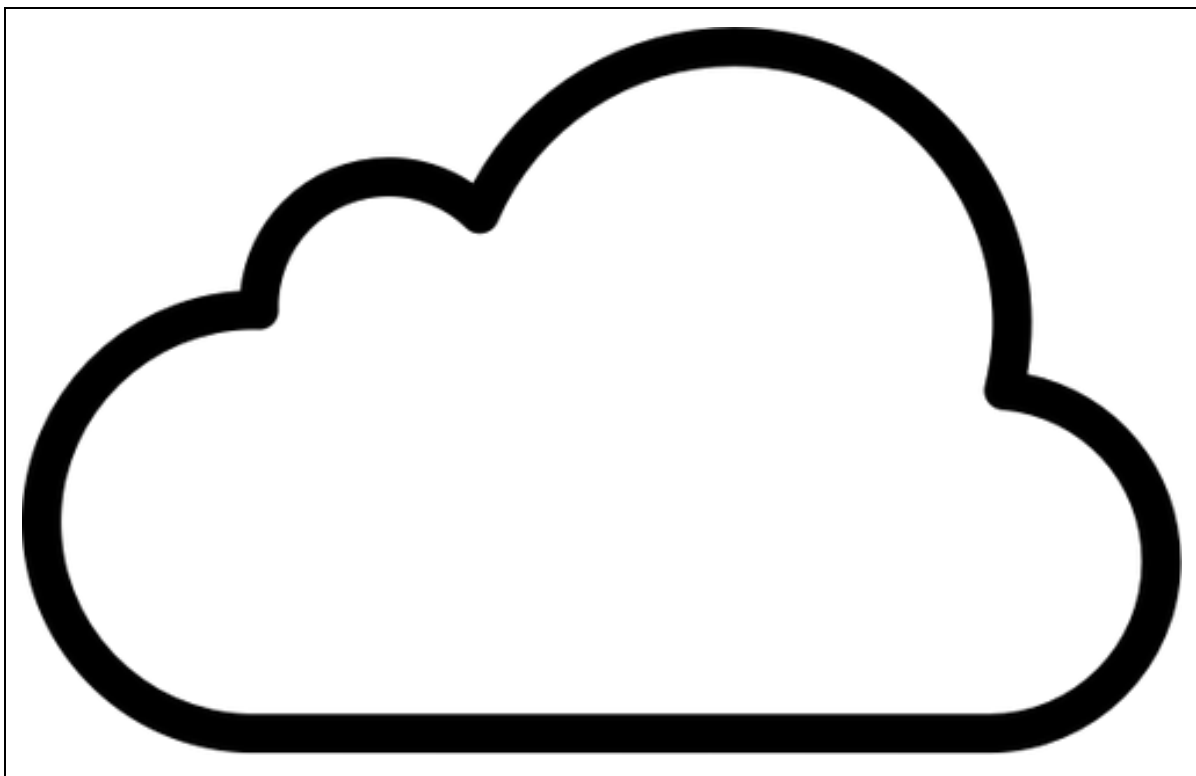
Introduce the Topic: Remind your child that you are practicing what it is like to be a Kindergartener! There are so many things to do each day, so it is important to be ready to make the most out of it! Your child will hear about different parts of the day, who they might meet, and what fun they might have!

Learn & Discuss: Today will be the last day you practice being in Kindergarten, before your child gets a turn to be the teacher! Like we mentioned yesterday, Kindergarten has a different schedule - let your child know they will see more people and places than in preschool/daycare/homecare! We will meet a few more teachers, and keep working hard in reading and math!

Literacy Activity: Let your child know that they may have an art teacher. These teachers help us explore our creativity, and learn about the world around us through making art! Making art can help us better understand other topics, too - it can help us build our knowledge of reading and math.

Often, children working on one goal with their Kindergarten teacher also spend time with their other teachers working on similar projects! For example, all of our teachers want us to know how to write our name - so check out this fun activity you could maybe one day see in art class!

Have your child cut out the cloud below:



Next, have your child count how many letters are in their name. Next, they will need to cut long strips of blank paper (can be color paper or white), the same amount as there are letters in their name. Lastly, help your child write one letter on each paper strip, and attach it to the cloud in order. Your child can color the sunshine rays (paper strips) or write their name on the cloud as well! See the example below:



Music/Movement Activity: Let your child know they will probably have a music teacher and go to music class. Tell your child it is this person's job to help you sing and make music. We have time with this teacher as well as songs in our own classroom because singing is a wonderful way to learn (and music is so beautiful, too)! This teacher may also introduce fun new activities to your child, like how to play instruments.

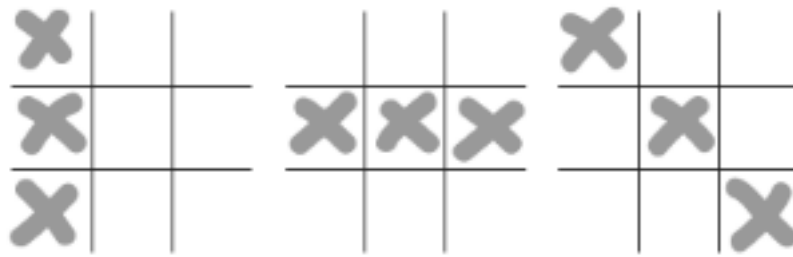
One topic they may introduce to your child is the concept of tempo. Let your child pick their favorite song. Tell your child that they are going to pretend to be a music player or radio - and that you will give them directions on when to sing, and how fast to sing. Tell them this is called the tempo!

As your child is singing, ask them to fast-forward the song (sing it fast), as well as ask them to sing it slowly. Ask your child to pause singing and see if they can continue singing from where they paused! You may have to model what this looks like for your child, so they can understand different tempos!

Clapping along to the beat can be an easy way to measure a tempo. Clap faster to sing faster, etc.

Math Activity: Remind your child that they will have math everyday - and that they may play some familiar fun games, in a new way! Kindergarten is all about learning how to do new things or do things in new ways. We never stop growing!

Finding Shapes Tic Tac Toe is a fun twist on a classic game. Work with your child on the rules of the game, so they can see how fun the different learning times can be throughout the day. To win the game, be the first player to claim 3 spaces in a row, column, or on the diagonal to win the game.



Draw a large tic-tac-toe grid on a sheet of paper. Decide which player will be Xs and which will be Os. Players take turns choosing a space on the Finding Shapes Tic-Tac-Toe Board, locating that number of shapes anywhere in their home, and recording X or O on the corresponding space on the record sheet.

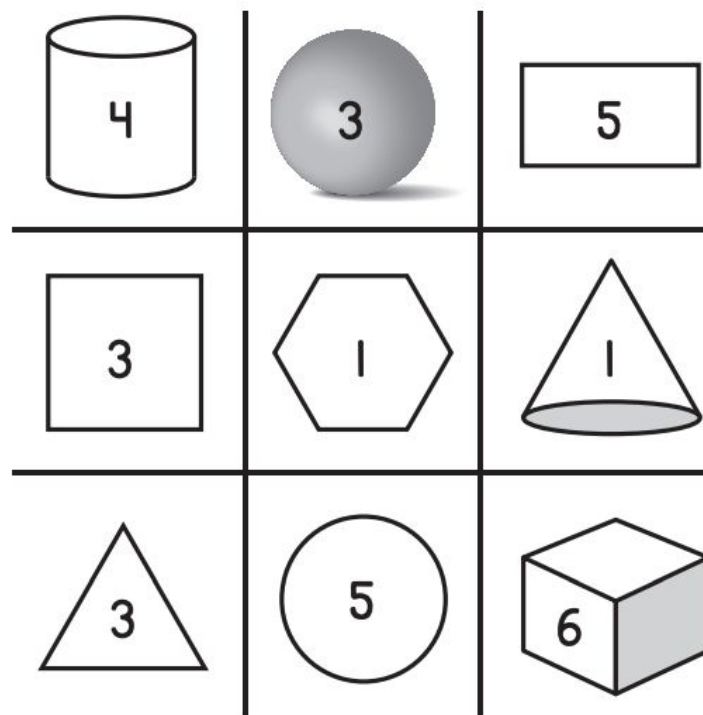
When you select a space, answer the following questions:

- What is the name of the shape?
- Is this a flat or solid shape? a How many sides does this shape have?
- Where is this shape in your home?

The first player to claim 3 spaces in a row, column, or on the diagonal wins the game. Have fun!

Tip: Ask your child to name the shapes on the Finding Shapes Tic-Tac-Toe Board. Not sure? Say the names together. Some of the names may not yet be familiar to your child, and you will be helping their Kindergarten year by exposing them to these shapes now!

Finding Shapes Tic Tac Toe Board



Extension Activities:

Literacy - Have your child recreate the name craft but using a different visual that they come up with (for example, an octopus instead of a cloud). Or, your child can make one for other special family members or friends (they can make mom/dad/siblings a name cloud as well)!

Math - Play another round of Finding Shapes Tic Tac Toe. Make the game a little more challenging by changing rooms, or limiting the number of rooms you can hunt for shapes in! Relatedly, have your child make the next Tic Tac Toe board - and let them choose which concepts to work on (shapes, numbers, colors, etc.).

Social Emotional Learning Activity: Discuss with your child what they want to be when they grow up. Regardless of what they say, support their dream! As well, talk with them about how the different things we learn in Kindergarten will help us do that job one day!

Day 5: Teacher for a Day! Child-Led Learning

Introduce the Topic: A part of going to Kindergarten is becoming a big kid - and that means being in charge of your own learning and growth! Even at a young age, our children can have voice and choice in what we learn and how we learn. In fact, giving your child the opportunity to lead their own learning can have long-lasting impacts. Let your child know that today, they will get to be the teacher and decide what we will spend our time learning about.

Step 1 - Think and Ask Questions: Getting to choose something is a big responsibility. Our children learn best at home and in school when we incorporate their interests into learning - a great way is to select topics we know they are interested in! Not sure what your child may want to learn about - it's as easy as asking them! Guide your child through their thinking of what topic to choose for your project. Meaning, instead of asking your child "What do you want to do today?" to decide, have them think through these questions:

- Think about the type of thing you want to learn about. Is it....
 - Inside or outside?
 - Living or nonliving?
 - Animal, plant, or other?
 - What does it look/smell/taste/sound/feel like?

Make sure whatever topic you decide on, that it can be easily and safely researched and investigated. For example, "bugs in the garden" can be much more easily studied right now, than some other topics, like "animals in the jungle." Since there are no jungles nearby, it'll be too hard to investigate. If your child is having a hard time thinking of a topic that is close to home, remind them that whatever topic we choose must be nearby - so ask them to think of something inside your home or on your street that you could investigate.

Examples of fun things near your home that you could investigate:

- Bugs in the garden
- Flowers and seeds

- Different types of shoes/clothes
- Different types of seats (furniture)
- How to make different types of food (bread, tamales, etc.)
- Taking care of a pet
- Locks and keys
- How do vehicles move (how do wheels work, how do planes fly, etc.)

To help narrow down your child's thinking, utilize follow-up questions to their responses to get even more clarity. Ask the children what they want to find out about the topic. Instead of saying, "Do you have any questions?" ask them questions about the specific topic. Let's say your child said they are interested in studying health professionals like doctors and nurses. Follow up with questions such as "When the nurse visits our class, what do you want her to show you?" Or "What do you want her to talk about (or explain)?"

Rephrase children's statements. A child might say, "I want her to show how she fixes bones when they break." Then you can say, "So your question is 'How do you fix broken bones?'" Write the child's questions down on paper, or ask them to draw their questions/predictions. Add your questions to the list, too!

As a final reflection question, ask your child to predict the answers to these questions, as well as how we will share what we learn with others.

To help stay organized, jot your child's topic and questions down here:

Our topic:
Question 1:
Question 2:
Question 3:

Step 2 - Research Activity: Take some time to research the answers to your questions. Think flexibly about how you want to find this information - you can use books, the internet, as well as make phone calls to people for interviews (your child will feel so special getting to ask their own questions). Hopefully the topic is something you can encounter and investigate within your home or nearby - if that is the case, let your child do actual observations of the topic. Have them do a couple observations at different times of the day.

Be sure to push your child's thinking:

- Is there anything we need to read or write?
- Is there anything we need to measure or count?
- Are we comparing the size or shape of things?
- What reading or math tools can I use to help me understand?

Let your child record their observations/drawings on a piece of paper, or in the space provided below:

My Observations:

Ask your child to make direct connections to the questions they asked:

- What questions did we have? Were we right?

If needed, get very specific - for example:

- If your child asked a question such as "How do nurses help heal people?" your child's prediction may have included something like "They use band aids and medicine." Direct your child back to their prediction and ask something like "So did we find out that nurses use band aids and medicine or are there other tools or people that help us feel better?"

Step 3 - Project Creation: Next, it's time to organize everything you have observed and researched to show what you have learned! Invite your child to discuss what they observed/researched with you, and ask them how they would like to display their work. Think creatively - you can make a poster,

make a photo album or slide show, create a song or rap about the topic, or even put on a play! The opportunities are limitless, it only depends on how much time you are able to commit and how much the topic holds your child's interest.

See below for examples of projects that can come from creating questions and conducting an investigation:



An investigation of how to make healthy foods taste better led to the creation of a Spinach smoothie recipe for the family.

This project included:

- Reading recipes / health information
- Writing a recipe
- Measurement and other math concepts

Questions included:

- How do we make veggies taste better?
- How do vegetables help our bodies?
- How do we make a smoothie?



An investigation into how to make tamales led to a class-made recipe of their own very special tamales!

This project included:

- Reading recipes / health information
- Writing a recipe
- Measurement and other math concepts

Questions included:

- How do we make tamales?
- What are tamales made of?
- How do we measure when we cook tamales?



An investigation into taking care of pets led to a child-led playful demonstration of how to help a sick animal!

This project included:

- Researching animals and what they need
- Researching veterinarians
- Observing animals

Questions included:

- How do we take care of pets?
- What does a veterinarian do?
- How do we know if an animal is healthy and happy?



An investigation of what buildings create a child's city block led to a 3D map of the neighborhood!

This project included:

- Observing and taking notes of what buildings are nearby
- Determining the order of the buildings to make an accurate map
- Comparing the sizes/colors/shapes of the buildings

Questions included:

- What buildings are on our block?
- How do we find the building we need to go to?
- How are buildings different and why?



An investigation into how to recycle glass led to creation of a mosaic (made out of paper though, glass is not safe to play with)!

This project included:

- Observing glass items in our home
- Interviewing the recycling person who picks up our glass bottles
- Researching different types of art made out of glass

Questions included:

- How can we reuse glass?
- What is made out of glass?
- How can we be safe with glass?
- What can I make with glass?

Step 4 - Sharing of Work: Lastly, let your child show off the hard work they did investigating their topic! Organize an event of some kind, it can be as short or long as you and your child want! In this event, allow your child to speak and share what they learned. They could present their project to you and the other family members in the home, or they could connect with others via phone or video calls. As well, in the age of digital technology, if able to access, you can record your child and share electronically.

Additional Digital Resources: Check out these additional resources with your child to extend your child's exploration of Getting Ready for Kindergarten! As you work through these resources, continue to ask your child open-ended questions, such as:

- What are you most excited for in Kindergarten?
 - What do you want to learn in Kindergarten? What are you interested in?
 - What will you find in your classroom?
 - What does a principal do and how can they help you at school?
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Read Alouds

Clifford Goes to Kindergarten

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXlr00ubmfl>

Chu's First Day of School

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qeDtSyhKi8o>

Spot Goes to School

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKn4FSp6Q-Y>

Biscuit Goes to School

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sn7hd4zbRhC>

David Goes to School

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTUR5L8pOV8>

If You Take a Mouse to School

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijBFeGPSLhY>

PebbleGo (articles, activities, and video) Username = cps Password = cps
Setting Routines

<https://site.pebblego.com/modules/16/categories/10408/articles/10478>

How to Be Organized

<https://site.pebblego.com/modules/16/categories/10408/articles/10459>

Setting Goals

<https://site.pebblego.com/modules/16/categories/10408/articles/10477>

Illinois Early Learning Project Tip Sheets

<https://illinoisearlylearning.org/>

CSI: Child Scientist Investigates!

<https://illinoisearlylearning.org/tipsheets/csi/>

Ease Those First-Day Blues!

<https://illinoisearlylearning.org/tipsheets/blues/>

Encouraging Scientific Thinking: Rain or Shine

<https://illinoisearlylearning.org/tipsheets/weather/>

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

<https://illinoisearlylearning.org/tipsheets/readykindergarten/>

Going to Kindergarten?

<https://illinoisearlylearning.org/tipsheets/going-kindergarten/>

Starting Kindergarten? Help Make It a Good Experience!

<https://illinoisearlylearning.org/tipsheets/startingkinder/>

Project Approach: Helping Children Ask Questions

<https://illinoisearlylearning.org/tipsheets/projects-questions/>

Math Learning Center - Math at Home

<https://mathathome.mathlearningcenter.org/kindergarten>

Kindergarten Activities of the Day

<https://mathathome.mathlearningcenter.org/activities-of-the-day>

Kindergarten Family Games

<https://sites.google.com/mathlearningcenter.org/math-at-home/family-games>

DREME Network At Home Early Math Learning Kit

https://dreme.stanford.edu/sites/g/files/sbiybj9961/f/dreme_at-home_early_math_learning_kit_for_families.pdf

DREME Network Math Snacks

<https://familymath.stanford.edu/math-snacks/>

Quick and easy ideas for finding and talking about math in everyday family routines.

DREME Network Family Math Storybook Guides

<https://familymath.stanford.edu/activities/reading-together/>

These storybook guides help parents and caregivers talk about math with their children while reading together. Each storybook guide corresponds to a specific picture book, many of which can be found in public libraries.