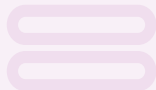
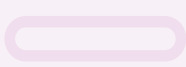


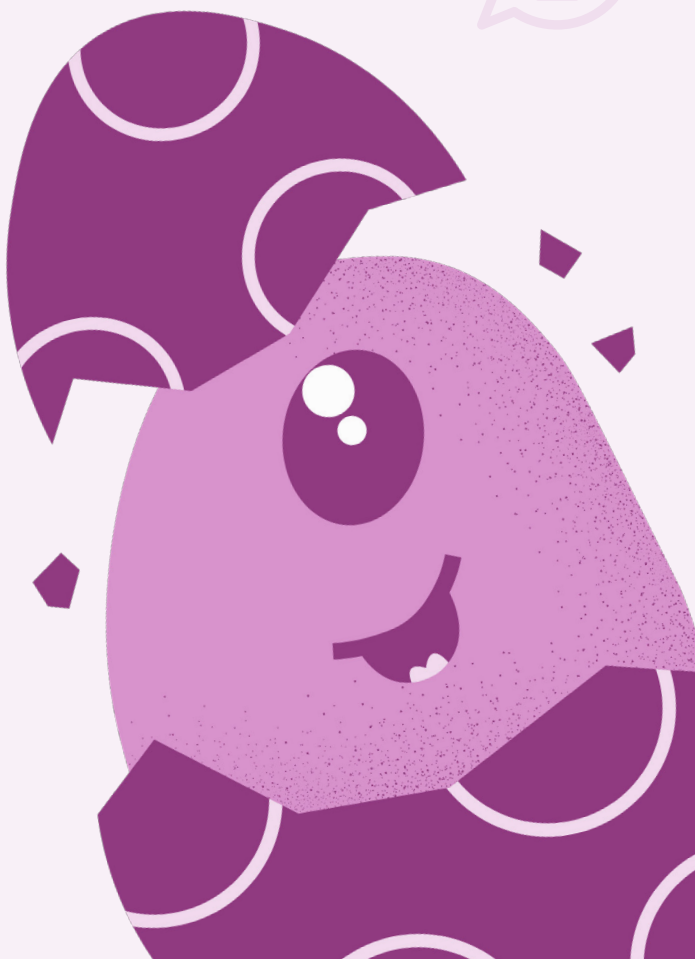
Pre-K

MINNESOTA STANDARDS FAMILY GUIDE

What Your Child Should Know
Activities & Examples of ELA & Math
Tips for Talking with Teachers



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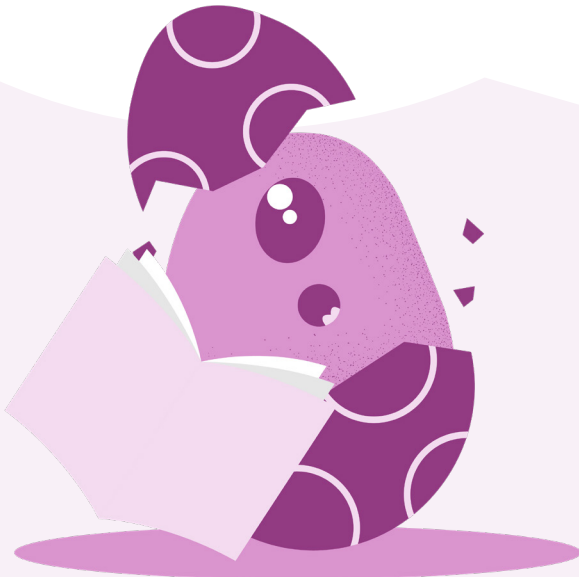
About This Guide



Families want to know what their child must know to be prepared for kindergarten. They are their child's first- & most important-teacher.

The Minnesota Department of Education made a list of goals for what all children should learn before starting kindergarten. Whether your child goes to preschool or not, this guide helps you understand what your child should know in Language, Literacy, Communication, & Math to be ready for kindergarten.

All children must have a pre-kindergarten screening with the school district. It is good to have this screening when your child is 3 years old. It is free & available to all children no matter their immigration status. To find the nearest screening location, call 651-582-8412. The screening helps children feel ready for kindergarten. It can help families find new ways for their child to learn & grow.





This Guide Includes



What your child should know & be able to do–

PAGE 4 FOR ELA & **PAGE 10** FOR MATH

The most important content (knowledge & skills) for students to learn in Pre-K



Everyday activities to support learning–

PAGE 7 FOR ELA & **PAGE 12** FOR MATH

Ways you can support your child in learning important content & skills in Language, Literacy, Communication, & Math



Education words glossary–

PAGE 13

Definitions of common education words relevant to Pre-Kindergarten



English Language Arts

WHAT YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW & BE ABLE TO DO

Children's brains grow very fast when they are young. At this age, children learn languages while playing & exploring. When they find something new in their world, they want to learn more about it. As you help your child learn to read, you should know that children cannot become good at reading by memorizing what words are shaped like or by looking at pictures to guess words. Children should learn that the alphabet is a code, & that letters represent sounds (known as **phonemes**). Step-by-step they need to learn each sound & the letters that represent that sound.



To be ready for Kindergarten, Pre-K students should know how to do the following well:

- ✔ Say their first & last name & write their first name
- ✔ Know the difference between letters in the alphabet & other symbols

d P f h R w x

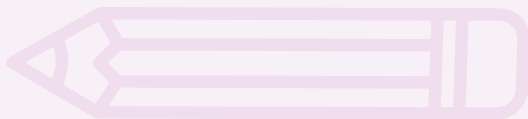
@ \$ ^ # %

- ✔ Know that in English words are written left-to-right & top-to-bottom on a page
- ✔ Identify sounds within a word & continue sound patterns

Hear the word	mat	hot	chat
Identify the sounds	/m/→/a/→/t/	/h/→/o/ →/t/	/ch/→/a/ →/t/
Hear the sound pattern	I see a bee asleep on a tr__	Run for fun under the s__	The ball will fall off the w__
	/ee/	/un/	/all/
Continue sound pattern	I see a bee asleep on a tree	Run for fun under the sun	The ball will fall off the wall

- ✔ Follow directions with 2 or more steps that are spoken to them

“Do a jumping jack and then sit on the floor”





- ✓ Speak loudly in complete sentences (5+ words) & clearly enough to be understood
- ✓ Continue a back & forth conversation
- ✓ Ask & answer questions in order to find help or get more information
- ✓ Retell a story
- ✓ Use words, pictures, letters, or symbols to show their thoughts & share about something they have learned or created



[Transcript: Mom, I love you.]



EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT LEARNING

- Speaking back and forth with your child in your native language is one of the best ways to develop skills for literacy. Avoid using only easy words when speaking to young children
- Read out loud to your child for at least 20 minutes each day. Afterward, talk about what you have read & ask your child to retell parts of the story
- Have your child pick something interesting to learn more about. Read books, look online, & do things together to learn more about the chosen topic
- Give your child lots of screen-free play time. This does not have to involve toys that you buy. Children can learn from making up their own games with basic objects around the house & outside (empty boxes, bottles, jars, rocks, & sticks)
- Play sound games with your child. Pick a sound to start as many words as you can in a sentence

Leo Lion laughs loudly
Tina took Tevin's toys
A tiger teased a turtle by telling tall tales

- Sing nursery rhymes & read poems together. Make movements as you point out the sounds & rhymes as you sing & read

Little Miss Muffet

1. Little Miss Muffett
2. Sat on a tuffet
3. Eating of curds and whey;
4. There came a big spider
5. who sat down beside her,
6. And frightened Miss Muffett away.

- Ask your child to find the sounds in the beginning, middle, & end of spoken words. Separate words into their sounds (/b/ /a/ /t/). Then put them back together (“b/a/t, bat!”)
- Make an “I can” book together full of your child’s milestones. Staple together blank sheets of paper to make a book. As your child reaches a new milestone, such as learning to write their name, they can put it in their “I can” book. Your child can draw pictures or write words to show the new skill they’ve learned
- Give your child funny, creative, & specific directions to follow that involve movement & tricky locations, such as beside, around, & next to. Have your child give you directions in return & follow them while sometimes making a mistake on purpose. See if your child can catch the mistake!

Get the hairbrush and put it beside the dresser

Twirl in a circle as you say your name quietly

Pick up one white sock with your right hand and put it behind your shoe

Choose two stuffed animals and put them upside down underneath your bed

- Practice saying the alphabet & naming each of the uppercase & lowercase letters. Play memory & matching games with the letters. Find letters on signs, in stores, & as a part of any activity
- Ask for your child’s help in simple problem solving around the house. Have your child solve the problem & explain how they solved it

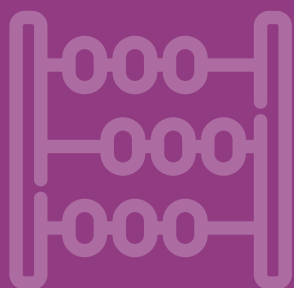
“We can only wear our favorite shirt if it is clean, what can we do after wearing our shirt to make sure it gets cleaned?”

“If we have to clean up a big mess after dinner, we won’t have enough time for our story. What can we do to avoid leaving a big mess when we eat?”

- Have a letter of the week each week. Decorate a picture of the letter, trace the letter in different materials (paint, sand, chalk) & find the letter around the house or in the real world



10s



5s



Mathematics

**WHAT YOUR CHILD SHOULD
KNOW & BE ABLE TO DO**

To be ready for Kindergarten, Pre-K students should know how to do these things well:

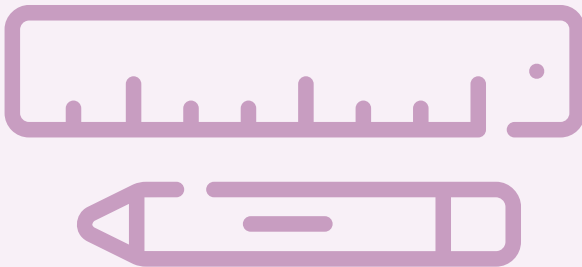
- ✓ Say the number words correctly in order forward from 0 to 29
- ✓ Say the number words correctly in order backward from 10

“Ten → nine → eight → seven...”

- ✓ Name the next number for numbers up to 9
- ✓ Name the number before for numbers up to 5
- ✓ Read & write numbers from 0 to 10, with some backwards numbers allowed



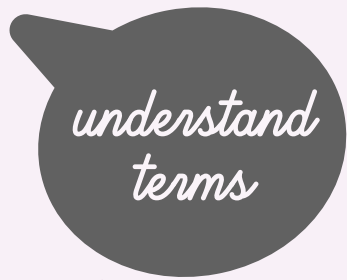
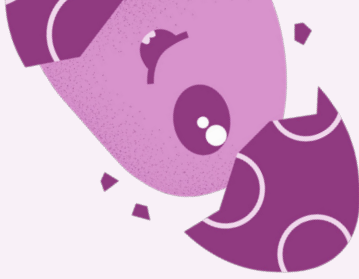
- ✓ Count objects & give the exact quantity of items when asked (for amounts up to 10)
- ✓ Sort objects by one or more quality (for example: color, shape, size)





EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT LEARNING

- Practice counting forward & backward. Set a goal & try to count higher each week
- Practice identifying & naming the numbers. Play memory & matching games with numbers 1-9
- Sing counting songs together, counting forward & backward
- Ask your child to use words that describe size. Have your child find a big fruit, a bigger fruit, & the biggest fruit in the bowl. What's the smallest item in the closet? Which one of these toys is larger?
- Gather small items around the home & have your child count the items out loud ("One raisin. Two raisins.")
- Ask your child 'how many?' questions ("How many raisins are in this pile? How many are in that pile?"). Use small amounts that your child can count accurately
 1. Split the items into two groups to ask greater than/less than/equal to questions ("Are there more raisins in this group or that one?")
 2. Ask your child how many raisins we need so each person in the family gets 1
- Play simple board & card games together that involve counting & comparing numbers ("I have a 5 of hearts & you have 7 of spades, who has more?")
- Have your child count out dishes, silverware, cups, & napkins as they set the table for a meal
- Read story books that involve counting
- Play the "I spy" game with shapes. Look for shapes together in the real world. Find a shape, such as the rectangle of a shoe box, say "I spy a rectangle", & have your child find it



Education words glossary

Educators use words that have a specific meaning in schools. Understanding those terms will help you talk to the teacher.



DECODE



Using letter-sound relationships to correctly sound out & pronounce words. For example, children who have learned the English sounds /a/, /c/, & /t/ can decode "cat."

PHONEME



Words are made up of individual sounds called phonemes. Children should practice identifying, producing, & rhyming with these individual sounds.

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS



Recognizing the sounds of language. For example, rhyme, syllables, & the sounds in words.

RESOURCES

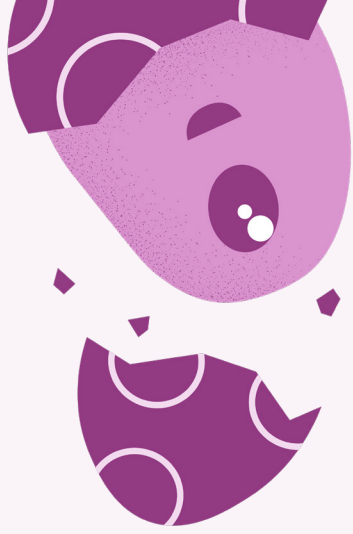
Video with all 44 English phonemes:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBuA589kfMg>.

REFERENCES

Minnesota Department of Education Early Childhood Indicators of Progress
<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/early/highquale/ind/>

Help Me Grow Minnesota
<https://helpmegrowmn.org/HMG/HelpfulRes/index.html>

Seek Common Ground Family Guides
<https://seekcommonground.org/family-guides>



NOTES

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed middle line, repeated seven times.



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Tell us what you did with this guide!



SCAN ME