**Parent Guide**  
**A Jump Start to Kindergarten**

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| Able to hear words that rhyme. Develop a comfort level with books. | • **Read to your child every day.** Read books, nursery rhymes, poems, newspapers, and magazines.  
• Let your child see you reading for information and pleasure. They will imitate what they see. | Make an effort to count from 0-20. | • **Play games** that involve identifying numbers.  
• **Play games with dice, hopping spaces, and counting objects.** | Be able to follow a 2-step direction given verbally. | • **Practice with them.** “Put that toy away and then put on your coat.” “Tell me how many fingers I have up and then write the number.” |
| Begin to learn the letters of the alphabet. | • Point out letters on cereal boxes or other items in grocery line or in their name.  
• Use flashcards.  
• Use alphabet puzzles. | Become familiar with numbers and number identification. | • **Point to numbers** as you count from 1-10. Then allow them to say the numbers.  
• **Locate numbers in grocery store lines, on cereal boxes . . .** | Ability to keep their space neat and respect other’s space. | • Give them their own space and help them organize it and be proud of how they take care of it. |
| Be familiar with letter sounds. | • You say and point. They repeat.  
• Use flashcards | Arrange objects in size order (big to small and small to big). | • **Practice with toys.** | Able to follow rules with minimal prompting and take turns while playing games. | • Positive reinforcement whenever rules are followed. Be consistent with rules and consequences. |
| Able to retell 1-2 details about a story read to them. | • **Read a story and ask them specific “what”, “how”, “when”, “who” questions.** | Uses comparison words like “bigger”, “smaller”, “heavier”, “lighter”, “greater than”, etc . . . | • **Practice comparisons of objects.** | Able to put on, take off, snap, zip, and/or button, their coat. Able to go to the bathroom alone. | • **Practice, Practice, Practice.** Rewards help to accomplish these. |
| Able to write their name with first letter being capitalized and the rest lower case. | • Write in sand, shaving cream, with chalk, and trace it. | Recognizes a circle, square, and a triangle. | • **Practice. Trace these objects while they say them.** | Attempt new tasks knowing it is ok to make mistakes. | • Encourage and praise efforts in new tasks.  
• Give a new task each week and be patient with failure. |
| Able to identify colors. | • **Practice anytime anywhere.** | | | | |