



Gaining Skills for Kindergarten

Children learn best while doing. When children have the opportunity to figure something out for themselves, they gain an understanding of a concept. For example, before children can understand the importance of the alphabet, they have to understand that letters mean something when put together in certain ways. The same is true of numerals—understanding “fiveness” is as important as being able to identify the numeral.

How we encourage literacy

- Reading quality literature to the children often in both large and small groups. Making story time fun and interactive.
- Inviting children to tell a story, either individually or in a group. Writing down the story and then reading it back to the child shows that we respect and value their words, helps make the connection between the spoken and written word, and also helps us chart the progress they make in being able to put a story together.
- Encouraging them to write their own names on art work and waiting lists.
- Keeping a writing center stocked with envelopes, paper, alphabet charts, name cards, and word cards.
- Creating class books.
- Having a designated “journal” time when the children draw and write in their journals.
- Extending stories through art and dramatic play, using story props so that the children can tell a familiar story or make up a new story.
- Reading several versions of a familiar story, making comparisons
- Using sequencing cards.
- Working with magnetic letters.
- Playing an alphabet match game and doing alphabet puzzles.

How we encourage math skills

- Counting how many children are present today.
- Recognizing the numeral and then counting out the correct number of snack pieces at the snack table.
- Manipulating magnetic pieces in many different shapes (circle, triangle, etc.)
- Playing counting and adding games such as Dotted Cards, 10-20 space grid games, and “Hi Ho Cherry-O”.
- Playing board games and card games.
- Graphing.
- Weighing and measuring each other.
- Using geo boards.
- Ordering objects by size.
- Patterning.
- Playing Dreidel.
- Playing math games, like matching a numeral to the correct number of objects.
- Playing an assortment of matching games.
- Cooking/Measuring ingredients

Ways we encourage science and discovery

- Planting seeds
- Mixing colors
- Predicting cause and effect
- Studying properties of water
- Growing crystals
- Observing nature (changing colors of the leaves, watching a caterpillar emerge into a butterfly)