



The Building Blocks that will help make Kindergarten a *Smashing Success*

<i>In Kindergarten, your child WILL need to:</i>	<i>At home, you can HELP by:</i>
Walk in line	In public, walking with the family
Raise hand and <u>wait</u> for assistance	Taking turns to talk at the dinner table Teaching your child not to interrupt conversations, but instead say “excuse me” and wait
Sit in a group on the rug for instruction	Having your child sit through an entire story
Be able to do basic tasks independently	Having your child open his/her own snack, putting a straw in his /her juice box, etc. Having your child take coat off/on, and find/carry their own backpack, use restroom independently
Use materials responsible	Teaching your child to take care of his/her toys, put them away, and treat them with respect
Interact positively with peers	Practicing with your child to use words to solve problems Teach taking turns during games
Meet high academic standards	Going to the library, reading 20 minutes daily, practicing coloring and writing Focusing on educational/learning videos i.e. LeapFrog, Sesame Street, etc.

Utilizing Materials Effectively by:

Using a glue stick

Using markers

Using scissors

Using a pencil

- Independently taking the lid off, rolling glue up and down, recapping when finished
- Taking off and putting on marker lids
- Holding scissors properly and cutting with some control
- Holding a pencil with a “pincher” grip (see handout)

(over)

Academic Skills

Writing

- Ability to write his/her first name with a capital first letter and all others lower case

Pre-reading

- Uses block - style lettering
- Recognizes capital letters (out of order)
- Read **daily**
- Tells you what happened in a read aloud story

Math

- Writes numbers to 10
- Recognizes numbers to 20 (out of order)

New School Routines

Start practicing new routines at least 1-2 weeks before school starts including:

- Set a regular bedtime so students get at least 10-12 hours of sleep each night
- Develop a morning routine to help your child get up and ready to go
- Plan for a protein rich, nutritional breakfast

The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.

~ Dennis Waitley, Author

Strategies for making Kindergarten a *Smashing Success...*



Before School Starts

(Consistency will reduce discussions/argument now and for the future!)

- Decide where your child will do homework
- Decide what time your child will do homework
- Provide likely materials – pencils, erasers, crayons, markers, glue, and scissors

What to Expect in Terms of Nightly Homework

Your child should be practicing:

- Writing his/her name
- Recognizing the ABC's (*Upper and Lowercase)
- Read to your child nightly and whenever else they ask!
- When your child starts reading simple, predicable books to you, don't stop reading aloud TO THEM!

During Homework Time

- Provide encouragement and encourage independence
- Ask questions, provide information but do not give answers
- Help your child complete the “special” homework sent home throughout the year (telling time, ABC practice, sorting, tying shoes, writing tasks, etc).



Continue to do “Fun Things”

Building your child's vocabulary is very, very important for future success in school! Plan (outside the school day) trips to museums, local point of interest, the theater, etc. and TALK, TALK, TALK about those experiences!



Plan Vacations Around the School Schedule

The instruction missed during a vacation CANNOT be replaced with the work provided by an Independent Study. The expertise your child's teacher brings to instruction is invaluable!

When I approach a child he inspires in me two sentiments; tenderness for what he is, and respect for what he may become.
~ Louis Pasteur