

# Preparing your child for school

The list below can help to guide you as you prepare your child for school. These things can be accomplished through everyday routines or by fun activities with your child. Keep in mind that children grow and develop at different rates.

- ◆ Read to your child every day.
- ◆ As you read, focus on
  - how to hold the book,
  - how to turn a page,
  - having children notice the pictures and talking about them,
  - having children retell the story as they flip through the pages,
  - having children “write” their thoughts about the book. Scribbling is writing.
- ◆ Read books about starting school.
- ◆ Talk enthusiastically with your child about starting school.
- ◆ Be positive and excited as you describe all the important things he/she will learn from his/her teacher—how to read, how to count and how to measure and weigh things.
- ◆ Talk about and practice before-and-after-school routines.
- ◆ Young children love to hear, sing and say nursery rhymes and songs. Counting rhymes and songs can be both enjoyable for children and introduce them to basic math concepts, such as number names and number sequences.
- ◆ Check out <https://www2.ed.gov/parents> for simple math and counting activities for Pre-kindergarten-Grade 5.

- ◆ Having your child help with household chores can allow children to learn
  - new words,
  - how to listen and follow directions,
  - how to count and
  - how to sort. It can also help children improve their physical coordination and learn responsibility.
- ◆ Make sure your child is eating a balanced diet and getting plenty of rest.
- ◆ When the first day of school arrives, be patient with your child.
  - Many young children are overwhelmed at first because they haven’t had much experience in dealing with new situations.
  - They may not like school immediately.
  - Your child may cry or cling to you when you say goodbye each morning, but with support from you and his/her teacher, this can change rapidly.
  - As your child leaves home for his/her first day of school, let them know how proud you are of them.

## Check out the websites below for more in-depth information and helpful suggestions on preparing your child for school.

- ◆ <https://www2.ed.gov/parents>
- ◆ <https://ed.sc.gov/scdoe/assets/File/instruction/early-learning-literacy/transkinder.pdf>
- ◆ <https://ed.sc.gov/instruction/early-learning-and-literacy/family-learning-and-resources/resources-for-families/>
- ◆ [https://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/math/part\\_pg5.html](https://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/math/part_pg5.html)
- ◆ <https://www2.ed.gov/parents/earlychild/ready/preschool/preschool.pdf>