

Dear parents,

The following is a list of some skill areas that you can work on at home over the summer to help your child prepare for kindergarten.

## **Phonics/Reading Readiness**

- READ TO YOUR CHILD EVERYDAY
- Sing/say the ABC's
- Focus on identifying letters of their name and spelling of their name. They should be able to name all of the letters in their name (upper and lowercase) as well as at least 10 other letters. The more letters they know in September, the more successful they will be in kindergarten.
- Use ABC cards to identify letters (you can make cards using index cards and printing 1 letter on each card). Practice uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Have your child find and identify letters in their environment (kitchen, store, while driving, doctor office etc...)
- Draw letters with sidewalk chalk. Make a game out of it!
- Draw letters in the sand (fun vacation activity)!
- Practice rhyming words. Say a word and have your child think of as many words that rhyme with it (example: bee/tree/see/me).

Also say words that DO NOT rhyme so they understand the difference (example: tree/cat, cow/ball).

## **Number Recognition and Counting**

- Find numbers and shapes in a variety of places, kitchen, stores, books, while driving, elevators, etc....
- Practice counting objects and saying one number for each object. Counting accurately is an important skill.
- Have your child count as he/she goes up and down stairs.
- Have a stack of number cards and a basket of objects/toys. Your child pulls out a number card, identifies the number, and counts out that many objects. Start with small number cards, 1-5, and as they master these, add greater numbers.
- Teach them to recognize and name numbers up to 10, then up to 20.

## **Language Skills and Vocabulary**

- Talk about what your child sees, hears, smells etc....
- Recite together birthdate, phone #, address frequently
- Sing the ABC's
- Ask why questions (example): Why do we stop at the stop sign? Why do the traffic lights change color?
- Use a variety of words (example): We are going to Church. We are going to Mass.
- The triangle has 3 corners, or angles.

- Model correct grammar and have your child repeat the sentence in correct form (example):
  - (no) Him went to the store.
  - (yes) He went to the store.
  - (no) Her is my friend.
  - (yes) She is my friend.
- Practice opposites (example): hot/cold
- Discuss position words, i.e. above, below, behind, next to etc.

## **Attention Skills**

- Set a timer for 5 minutes and tell your child that they can not talk or get up but they can look at books.
- When they are able to sit quietly and focus for 5 minutes, increase the timer to 7 minutes, then 10 minutes
- When driving in the car have conversations with your child and encourage them to stick to the topic you are talking about

## **Large Motor and Body Parts**

- Have your child practice different ways of moving. Hoping, skipping, jumping, etc...
- Work on balance, standing on one foot, walking on a balance beam.
- Encourage your child to walk up and down stairs with only one foot on each step.
- Practice throwing and catching a medium sized ball with your child.
- Practice pointing to and naming different parts of your body, including knees, ankles, shoulders, elbows, wrists, hips, etc....

## **Fine Motor**

- Build finger strength-have your child play with play dough/clay. Encourage your child to build with small Legos or K'nex.
- Have your child color and draw. Watch crayon/pencil grip. The proper hold is between the thumb and first finger, with the pencil balanced on their second finger. Their hand should rest on the table.
- Practice with scissors. Have your child cut out coupons or find shapes and cut out shapes.
- Practicing tracing shapes, letters, numbers.