

# Kindergarten Today

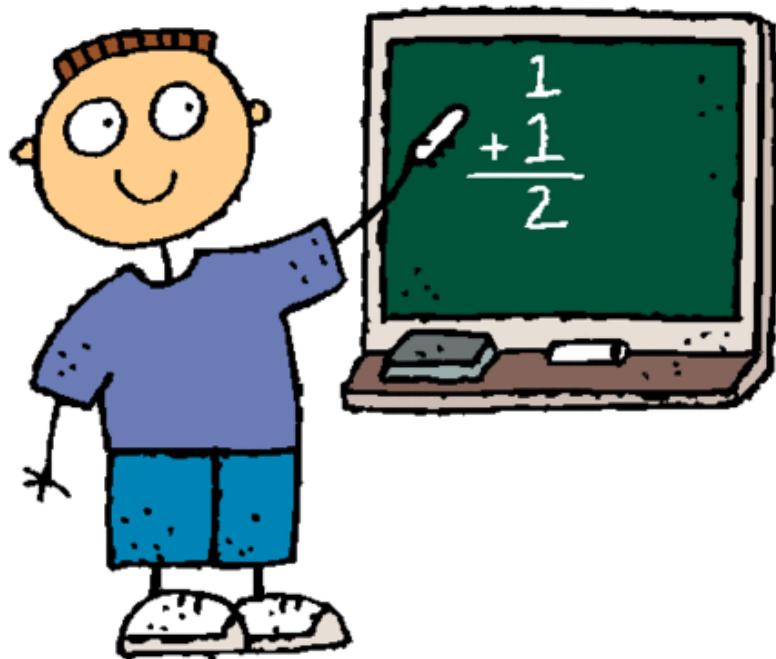


# It's not like it was before!

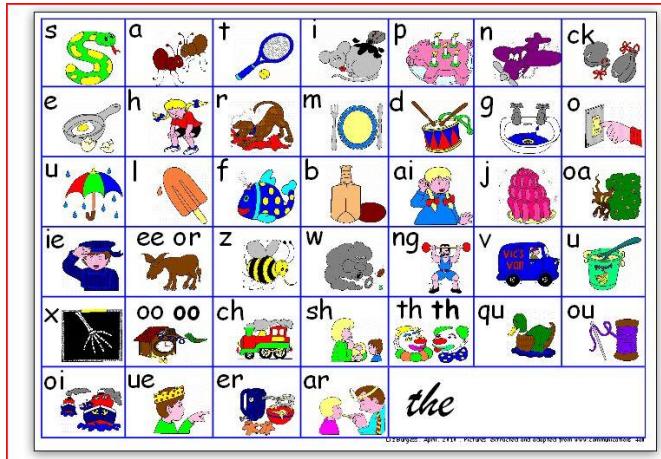
Kindergarten long ago



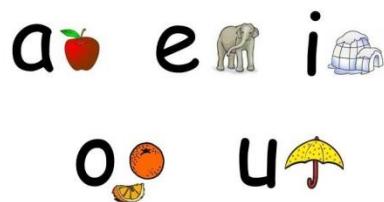
Kindergarten today



In reading, children need to go from simple skills such as recognizing letters and sounds and book handling skills to reading text on their own. Throughout the year, they will be asked to answer questions about stories including character, setting, what happened in the story and a deeper understanding of why things happen in the story. This will be both in stories read to them and ones they read on their own.



## VOWELS



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In writing, children need to draw and write to express opinions on stories, to tell what they know, and to tell a story in order.

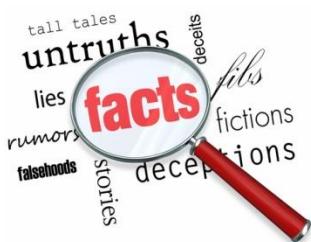
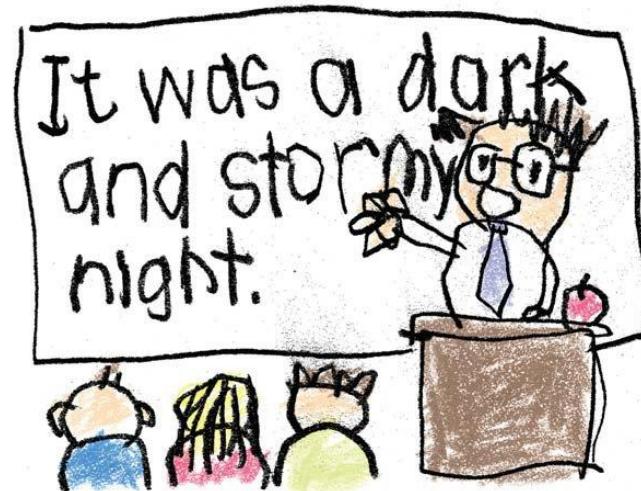


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**OPINION**

Sentence Starters

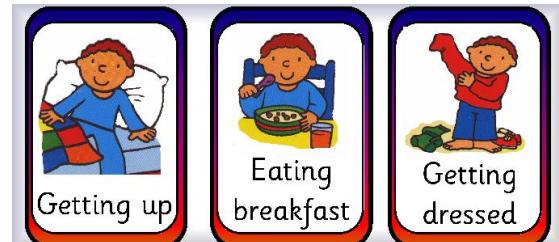
- \*I prefer...
- \*I think...
- \*I feel...
- \*I know...
- \*I believe...
- \*In my opinion...
- \*The best thing about...
- \*The greatest part about...
- \*The worst part about...
- \*Everyone should...
- \*\_\_\_\_\_ is better than \_\_\_\_\_ because...
- \*If you liked \_\_\_\_\_ than you will love \_\_\_\_\_.



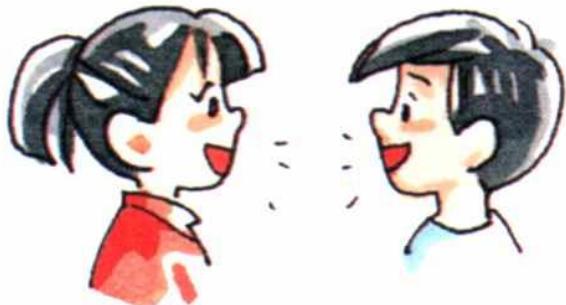
# Sequence

Events happen in order. Words like first, then, next, or last may be used to tell the events in order.

beginning                                  middle                                  end



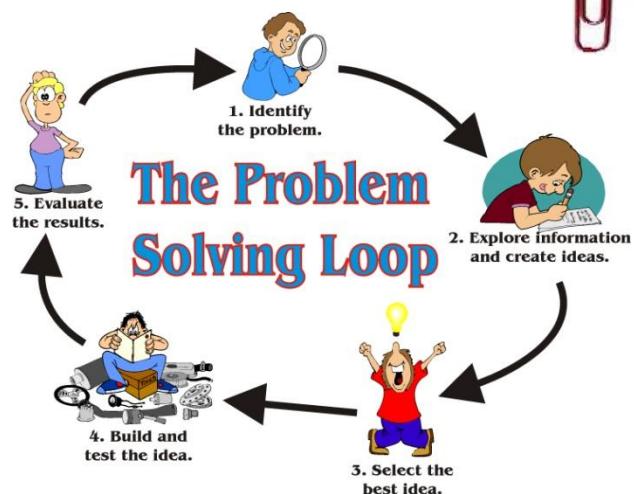
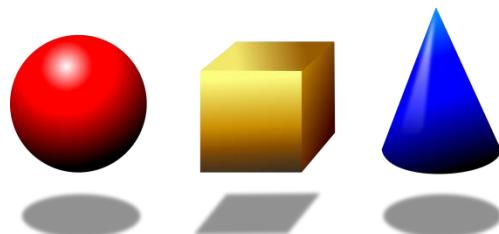
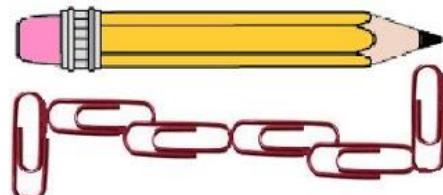
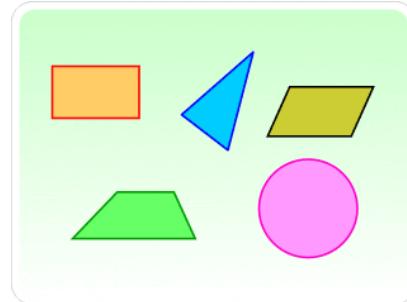
In speaking and listening, our focus is on trying to do two important tasks. The first task is for students to understand how to carry on a conversation following rules such as respectful listening and waiting their turn to speak. The second task is to be able to speak in complete sentences, adding details to their spoken word. This actually helps tremendously when they start to write their ideas down.



In math, children need to recognize and count numbers to 20, identify and describe 2-D and 3-D shapes, sort by attributes, measure objects to compare, and solve many varieties of story problems involving addition and subtraction.



1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20



# Sound scary?



Don't panic! There are many things you can do at home to help your child learn that can be fun to do together.



You will be provided with a monthly calendar that will give you the homework for each night. This will be a reflection of what we are studying in class, so it will provide practice for your child on skills they have already been taught. Much of the homework is designed for you to work with your child to complete the work. Very soon, we will also be sending home a paper called Read & Respond. Nightly reading for about 20 minutes every night will really help your child succeed.

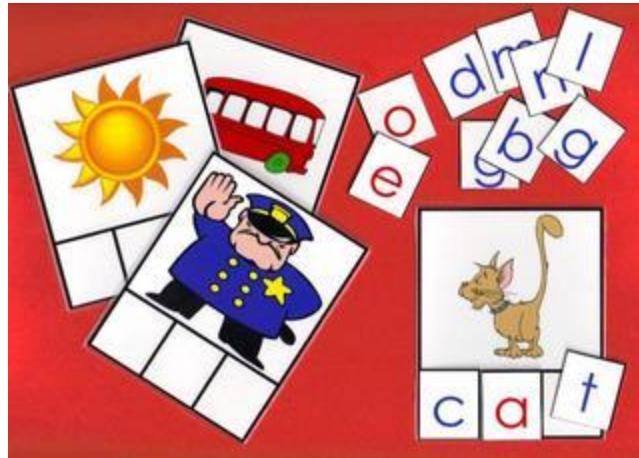
- Yes, there is homework every night.



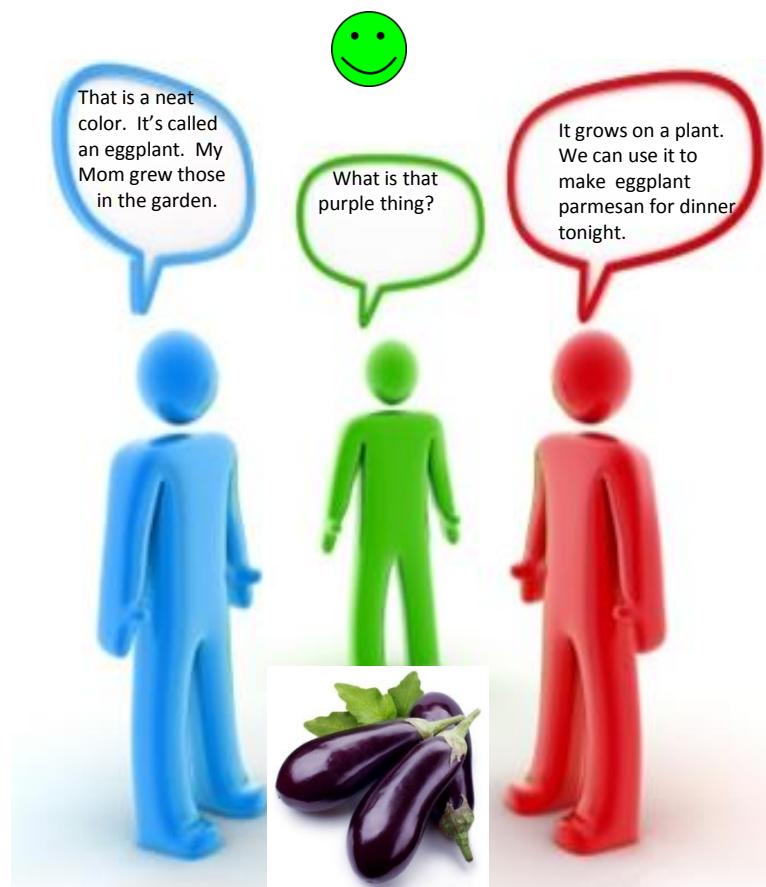
In reading, if you don't already do so, read to your child every day. As you read, point to the words so your child associates written and spoken words. Tell them who the author and illustrator are and what each does. Talk about what is happening in the story. Ask them questions. Who is the story about? Where does it take place? How does the character feel and why? Ask them to retell the story using the pictures. Get them to predict what they think will happen next before you turn the page.



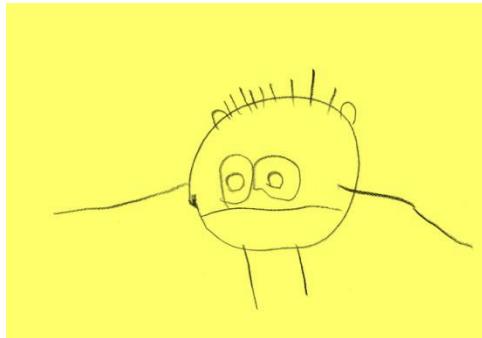
For phonics skills, begin with helping them learn the basic letters and sounds. You can play games to match upper and lower case, match letters to pictures that start with that sound and work up to building simple 3 letter words to match a picture. Say the picture's name slowly, break it down into the 3 sounds, then have your child find the letter for each and build the word. Skills like rhyming and telling the first and last sound are important skills too. Your child will also have sight words for each 9 weeks that they will be expected to learn. We will send home a packet of words with some ideas for practicing at home.



Talk, talk and talk some more. Hold conversations with your child. When they ask about something, give them answers in a complete sentence. Ask them questions and encourage them to add to what they have said. If they give you a one word response, rephrase it for them, for example, if you asked what vegetable they'd like for dinner and they say "Corn", say "You'd like corn for dinner. Why did you pick that?"



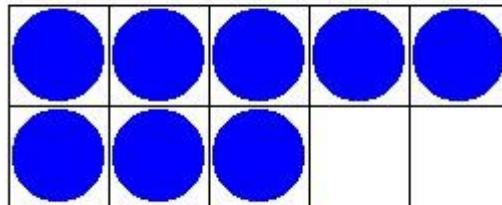
For writing, the better you do at getting your child to express themselves verbally, the better their writing will be. Ask them to tell a sentence about something they are interested in or a favorite story. Begin by repeating what they say and drawing a yellow line for each word. Next, write each word they said, one per line. As they are ready, try to get them to write the first letter for each word they said. If the word doesn't spell the way it sounds, you can just write it for them. As they can do this, have them add the ending sound, then try to add the vowels. Just work with them at their level so they don't feel stressed. They may not even be able to write actual letters at first. You can always use a light colored marker or pencil and write it for them and let them trace your words. Don't forget, drawing is important too. You may need to go over step by step how to draw a person or animal and discuss adding other details to the picture. Try to make it more fun by having a small box with things they will enjoy writing with. Colored paper, magic markers, magazines to cut and paste pictures from, foam or regular stickers, dry erase boards and markers can all help reluctant writers and artists to try harder.



In math, counting can be simply a matter of practicing anywhere. Count how many plates they need to set the table for dinner. How many times can they do a jumping jack? How many toys do they have? Make sure they count one number for each object. You can play games matching numerals to sets.

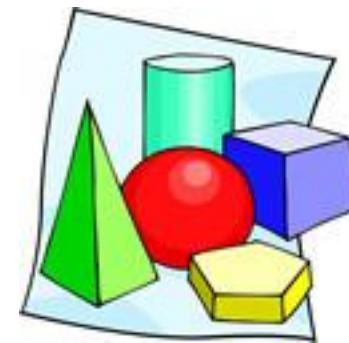
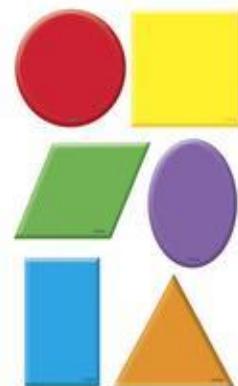


How many  are there?



1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20

For shapes, play games to look for a given shape around the house. How many things can your child find that have a circle? Discuss the shape of what they are eating. That slice of pizza is a triangle, the orange is a sphere and the glass that holds their milk is a cylinder. Play guessing games where you put out several objects or snacks and have them figure out which one you are describing. For example, put a grape and a cookie on the table. Give them hints such as “It’s round, but it has flat sides.” Bonus: If they get it right, they can eat the correct answer. Or challenge them by putting 3-4 things or shapes on the table and ask them to describe one and see if you can guess it right. (Note: If their clues are off, gently try to help them figure out why a certain clue was not the best. If they had a circle, triangle and square and tell you it has 3 sides and meant the square, just ask them to count the sides and ask again.)



In conclusion, you are your child's first teacher. Working together as a team, we can help your child reach their full potential. We look forward to working with you this year and welcome your child to our class.

