Nuuanu Elementary School

Springing into Kindergarten

English Language Arts

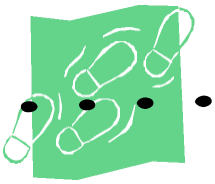
In Kindergarten, children build a foundation for reading by learning the names of the alphabet (both upper and lower case) and the sounds that correspond with each letter. Soon, these sounds form simple words. Rhyming and matching sounds to the beginning letters of a word are important first steps as children blend sounds into words. These sounds are helpful as children begin to spell words. Sight words, words that cannot be sounded out but instead have to be recognized instantly, are learned and encountered in beginning to read books,

As curiosity and interest in the world around them begin to emerge, Kindergarteners "read" for enjoyment and information. Although many students will not be able to read stories independently, they can retell familiar events and facts as well as give an opinion about a book that is read to them.

Beginning writing instruction asks Kindergarteners to use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to describe events and/or personal reactions to the text. As children journey on their way to independent writing, teachers continually model proper handwriting and conventions of capital letters and punctuation. Children's first attempts at writing begin with stringing letters together to form written words. With exposure, children use inventive spelling (gross approximation of spelling a word-this is a developmental stage) and slowly make the transition to conventional spelling.

Children are guided into routines that make learning smoother and successful. These skills include: raising hands or waiting to speak, following directions, repeating spoken directions, working as a team on projects or when solving problems.

The following activities are suggested if you would like to teach your child before those first few days of school.



Kindergarten

Home Activities to Try in the Summer

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Read to your child often!

- ✓ Find alphabets in the environment or ask them to say the alphabet when it's pointed to
- ✓ Practice writing his/her name
- ✓ Identify different parts of a book: title, author, illustrator, page numbers, front cover, back cover
- ✓ Retell a story including details
- ✓ Talk with your child about what happened during the day and then draw a picture of these activities
- ✓ Watch a TV show together and describe a part he/she liked best and why
- ✓ Ask your child to draw a picture, then write the sentence he dictates to you describing the picture
- ✓ Be specific with words you use so your child has a model of precise language
- ✓ Read nursery rhymes often and discuss the rhyming words
- ✓ Sort common object into categories: soft, hard, warm, shapes, living, nonliving, colors, etc.
- ✓ Allow children to participate in activities that involve writing and reading (for example, cooking, making grocery lists)
- ✓ Play games that involve specific directions (such as "Simon Says")
- ✓ Encourage your child to write a complete sentence independently, correct spelling is not required

Books That Interest Kindergarteners
(For parents to read aloud)

My Five Senses by Aliki

Truck by Donald Crew

Pancakes for Breakfast by Tome DePaola

A Story, A Story by Gail E. Haley

Kitten's First Full Moon by Kevin Henkes

Amazing Whales by Sarah L. Thomson

A Boy, A Dog and a Frog by Mercer Mayer

Ira Sleeps Over by Bernard Waber

This is the House that Jack Built by Simms Taback

Doctor DeSoto by William Steig

I Read Signs by Tana Hoban

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Math

Kindergarten Math

Kindergarten children are engaged in mathematics from the first day of school. Teachers introduce the concept of a number through a variety of activities as children count, add, subtract, compare and reason with numbers. To begin with, children work with small numbers and amounts (up to five) to count and identify. Cardinality, or the use of numbers to indicate quantities, is a major focus of the Kindergarten math objectives. From this understanding, children are exposed to the concept of *fewer*, *less*, *more, greater* and *equal to*.

As your child explores numbers to 10 and beyond, they are introduced to place value and see that objects can be bundled in groups of tens and the remaining objects represent the ones. For example, 13 represents one ten and 3 ones.

Measurement of objects such as length and width become part of their ability to describe the attributes of a single object. Children observe objects and compare common, measurable attributes.

Geometry begins with the identification of simple shapes. When describing these objects in the environment, children learn location terms such as *in front of, beside, under, behind*, etc.

The following activities are suggested if you would like to teach your child before those first few days of school.

How many?

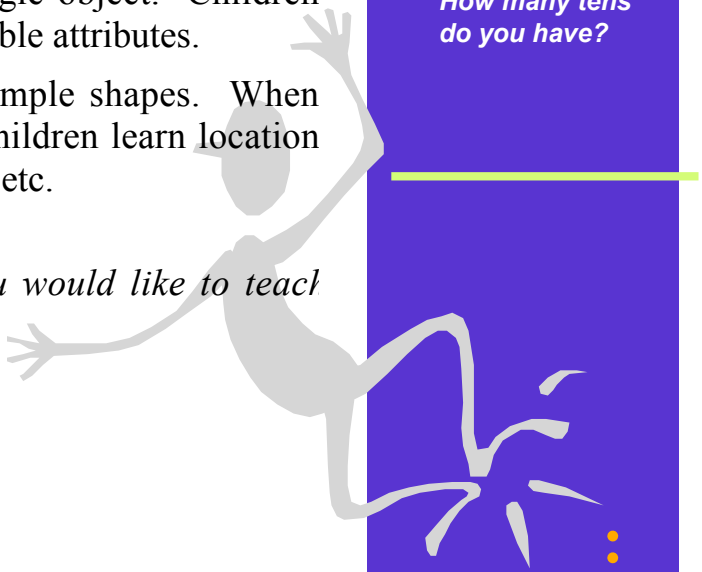
What number is missing?

How many are left?

Which has the most?

Is the ball under or beside the table?

How many tens do you have?



Kindergarten

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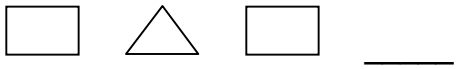
Home Activities to Try in the Summer

Materials that are useful to have when talking about MATH

- soda caps
- beans
- coins
- index cards
- crayons
- scratch paper
- deck of cards
- newspaper
- magazines
- chopsticks

- Count the number of vacation days on a calendar, number of cars that are red, number of claps, etc. to at least 20, preferably beyond
- Play "Number Spy". He/she will say the matching numbers. "I'm thinking of a number that describes how many legs Kitty has."
- Deal 2 cards and ask, "Which is more? Greater? Less?"
- Play "Number Hunt". Cut out numbers from magazines and the newspaper and glue them in order on a large sheet of paper
- Have your child guess the missing geometric shape in a pattern



- Count 10 chopsticks and bundle them. Show that 11 is one ten and 1 one
- Have your child show 4, 5, 6 etc. of soda caps, beans, etc.
- Practice writing numbers with "finger pencils" in the air, on the wall, on his back or hand
- Have him guess the number you are writing on his hand, No Peeking!
- Show an object near, under, on, beside, etc. of another object or have them follow your placement directions
- Talk about the names of coins: penny, nickels, dimes, quarter