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Teacher Created Materials

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Dear Family,



Congratulations! You've wisely enrolled your child in school to help prepare him or her for kindergarten. Your child may have been in day care and is familiar with organized activities. Or, this may be the first time that your child has been away from home for an extended period of time. While some children take a while to adjust to a school setting, there is one thing true about most youngsters at this age—they love learning!

There are many changes ahead, but there is one other constant besides this natural love of learning; you will continue to be the most important teacher in your child's life. This parent guide will give you some ideas for continuing this role of helping your child learn, from tips for getting organized, to learning on the go throughout your busy day. Some of these practices will be familiar and some will be new. Many will serve you well for the next dozen or more years!



One last thought...

Your child's teacher can be a great resource, so stay in touch and know that questions are welcome!

Top 10

Things Your Prekindergartner Needs to Know

1. How to listen to a **read-aloud** by the teacher
2. How to **ask** and **answer** questions about a story or book
3. **That written words** correspond to **spoken words**
4. Reading from **left to right** and from the **top to the bottom** of the page
5. **Singing and reciting** songs and poems
6. Learning about **numbers** by counting objects
7. Practicing **making shapes**
8. Comparing **height** and **weight**
9. Recognizing **color** and **size** patterns
10. **Sorting objects** by color, size, and shape







Natural Science

Young children are naturally curious. Take advantage of this curiosity and go outside together to explore nature.

Encourage your child's natural interest in science with these activities.

Listen

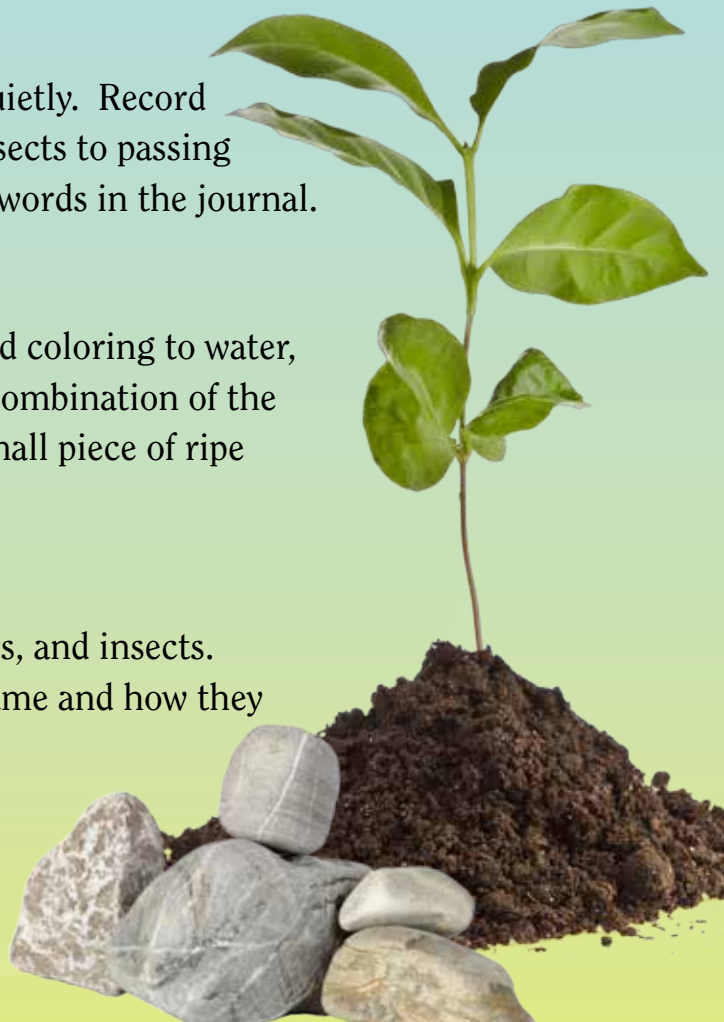
Walk to a favorite spot and sit quietly. Record the sounds in a journal, from insects to passing vehicles. Use both pictures and words in the journal.

Observe

What happens when you add food coloring to water, oil, milk, liquid detergent, or a combination of the liquids? Or, when you leave a small piece of ripe fruit on a plate for several days?

Collect

Collect rocks, leaves, soil, flowers, and insects. Talk about how things are the same and how they are different.





Explore

Gather a variety of objects, such as light and heavy paper, white and colored paper, clear and colored glass bottles, etc. What happens when they are placed in the sun?

Touch

Touch and describe things that are smooth and rough, soft and hard, and round and flat.

Journal

Use an appointment notebook to record discoveries while reinforcing the names of the days of the week and changes in the environment over time.



One last thought...

Some discoveries are totally unplanned. So, be prepared to take extra time to enjoy those unexpected investigations.