

Metro Nashville Public Schools

Kindergarten Readiness

Calendar

August 2023 - July 2024

Activities, games, songs, stories and helpful hints to prepare your child for a successful Kindergarten year!

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The Kindergarten Readiness Calendar will assist in preparing early childhood age children for success in Kindergarten. Parents can use this calendar to access easy-to-implement ideas, games and activities that will help to prepare your child for an easier transition to Kindergarten. The design of the calendar was specifically chosen for families to be able to use every detail when working with their child.

Each calendar month contains various pictures that can be used to promote conversations along with “Helpful Hints” that will introduce important everyday skills to enhance your child’s development. The vocabulary listed each month will contain words that will be used within the month and may be new to your child. These words may require a simple explanation when applying within the daily activities.

Feel free to add additional activities that your child enjoys based upon their developmental ability. Each month will contain an information page listing the Early Learning Developmental Standards addressed during the month along with conversation starters that can be used with each picture, and a listing of the titles of books that will be used during the month.

For more information and activities visit: <https://bit.ly/MNPSCountdowntoK>



View Activity Videos on the MNPS Countdown to Kindergarten YouTube Channel: [youtube.com/c/MNPSCountdowntoKindergarten](https://www.youtube.com/c/MNPSCountdowntoKindergarten)



August 2023

August's Kindergarten Readiness Calendar introduces standards to prepare students for learning and to build oral language skills. Pictures, books and activities focus on the beginning of the Fall season.

Early Learning Developmental Standards Covered in August

- Independently interact with a variety of materials through multiple play activities
- Self-select play activities to support own curiosity and to engage in pretend and imaginative play
- Demonstrate a willingness to engage in new experiences and activities
- Identify a problem and attempt multiple ways to solve it, with or without assistance
- Demonstrate understanding of basic features of print; distinguish between words and pictures
- Actively participate in conversations to tell or talk about familiar people, places, things and events with prompting and support
- Engage in extended conversations
- Through adult modeling, guidance and support, use complete sentences to express a thought or idea
- Speaks clearly and audibly
- Verbally count forward
- Count up to 10 objects

August's Calendar Picture Conversation Starters to Encourage Dialogue

Use the pictures on the calendar to start conversations

- Talk about the girl with the book – Talk to your child about “growing up” and getting ready for Kindergarten
- Point out the various children in shorts, short sleeves, sandals, tennis shoes etc.—Discuss appropriate ways to dress for hot, humid days
- Count the various children expressing their feelings (happy, sad, angry) – Discuss how to use words to tell how you feel
- Notice the Caterpillar – Discuss and look for various insects found outside
- Spot the various outdoor activities– Talk about activities children can do outside

August Recommended Books to Read with Your Child

- [No David](#) by David Shannon
- [Wheels on the Bus](#) by Paul Zelinsky

Visit your local Public Library to check out these and other books to read to your child throughout the month of August!

For More Activities & Information Visit: <https://bit.ly/MNPSCountdowntoK>

August 2023

VOCABULARY

- happy
- sad
- hungry
- angry
- tired
- skipping

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Begin making time each day to read to your child for at least 5 to 10 minutes	1 HELPFUL HINT: Work with your child to express feelings through words will during moments of frustration.	2 	3 Begin working with your child to say their full name.	4 Read and sing the story Wheels on the Bus by Paul Zelinsky. Discuss the different motions the bus makes.	5 
6 Provide opportunities for your child to have new experiences.	7 	8 First Day of School for Metro Nashville Public Schools	9 Continue to encourage your child to discuss how they feel about school.	10 Use props or materials to become a character in a story or on television.	11 Encourage your child to ask questions! What, how, why, when, where and what if.	12 Read the story Ten Black Dots by Donald Crew. Talk about the dots in the picture.
13 	14 Sing "Skip to My Lou" and have your child practice skipping as they sing.	15 Read the story No, David! by David Shannon. Talk about the pictures on each page.	16 Show your child they are special by spending time with them just talking or taking a walk.	17	18 Have your child choose the game to play. Allow them to use their imagination.	19 
20 Have your child work with a friend to solve a simple problem.	21 Reread the story Ten Black Dots by Donald Crew. Have your child touch and count each dot.	22	23 Sing "Pop goes the Weasel" and have your child pop up when the song says "pop goes the weasel."	24 	25 Sing " The Wheels on the Bus " and make up motions for your child to do while singing.	26 HELPFUL HINT: Build curiosity and exploration by providing lots of opportunities for your child to "play."
27 	28 Have your child tell you how they would solve a simple problem to help them develop critical thinking.	29 Encourage your child to talk about an exciting experience that happened to them.	30 Reread the story No, David! By David Shannon. Point to the words as you	31		
	HELPFUL HINT: Encourage your child to keep trying! It builds the focus needed for completing tasks.					Start a journal with your child. Have your child draw (& write) about their Pre-K experience.

September 2023

September's Kindergarten Readiness Calendar introduces standards to prepare students for learning and to build oral language skills. Pictures, books and activities focus on the fall season.

Early Learning Developmental Standards Covered in September

- Independently interact with a variety of materials through multiple play activities
- Describe self using several different identifying characteristics and/or unique qualities
- Self-select play activities to support own curiosity and to engage in pretend and imaginative play
- Demonstrate a willingness to engage in new experiences and activities
- Demonstrate understanding of basic features of print; distinguish between words and pictures
- Actively participate in conversations to tell or talk about familiar people, places, things and events with prompting and support
- Handle books respectfully and appropriately, right side up and turning pages one at a time, front to back
- Recognize and discriminate rhyming words in spoken language
- Engage in extended conversations
- Through adult modeling, guidance and support, use complete sentences to express a thought or idea
- Speaks clearly and audibly
- Verbally count forward
- Count up to 10 objects
- Observe describe and compare the habitats of plants and animals

September's Calendar Picture Conversation Starters to encourage dialogue

Use the pictures on the calendar to start conversations

- Point out all the children with friends – Talk to your child about making friends and how to be a good friend
- Count the various children in shorts, short sleeves, tennis shoes etc.. Discuss appropriate ways to dress for hot, humid days
- Using the Fall leaves in the background – Discuss with your child the color of leaves changing on trees
- Notice the various out door activities– Talk about activities children can do outside and try some of them out with your child

September's Recommended Books to Read with Your Child

- [Chicka Chicka Boom Boom](#) by Bill Martin
- [Ten Little Caterpillars](#) by Bill Martin
- [Llama Llama Red Pajama](#) by Anna Dewdney

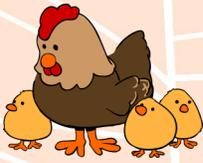
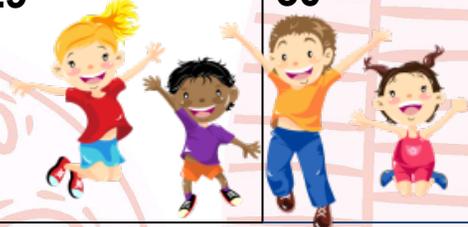
Visit your local Public Library to check out these and other books to read to your child throughout the month of September!

For More Activities & Information Visit: <https://bit.ly/MNPSCountdowntoK>

September 2023

VOCABULARY

- alphabet
- caterpillar
- sounds
- rhyming
- counting
- feelings

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>HELPFUL HINT: Have your child begin to identify and mimic various sounds in the environment, like trains, trucks, birds, etc. This will help your child begin to focus on the sounds of the letters.</p>			<p>Engage your child in a conversation each day. You speak and then allow your child to speak.</p>		<p>1 As you read stories to your child, talk about handling books. Discuss how to hold it right side up, turn pages, etc.</p>	<p>2 Read the story Chicka Chicka Boom Boom. Find the letters in your child's name.</p>
<p>3</p> 	<p>4 Find opportunities for your child to count aloud with you (count cars, napkins, birds, etc). Begin with 5.</p>	<p>5 HELPFUL HINT: Provide dress up clothes & props to encourage your child to use their imagination to play.</p>	<p>6</p> 	<p>7 Verbally count with your child to 5, gradually increasing each day, up to 30.</p>	<p>8 Read the story Llama Llama Red Pajama. Talk about all the rhyming words in the story.</p>	<p>9 Have your child begin to describe themselves by interests, abilities, gender, etc.</p>
<p>10 Sing "I'm a Little Teapot." Have your child make up movements to pretend to be a teapot pouring tea.</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 Discuss with your child different animals' homes.</p>	<p>13 Begin playing with sounds in words by naming two words in groups that rhyme.</p>	<p>14 Have your child practice counting from 1-10, 1-20 and 1-30. Listen for correct numbers and correct order.</p>	<p>15</p> 	<p>16 HELPFUL HINT: Help your child to learn to express their feelings to alleviate frustration.</p>
<p>17 HELPFUL HINT: Encourage your child to speak in complete sentences to help strengthen oral vocabulary.</p>	<p>18 Sing "Old MacDonald." Have your child listen to the animal sound and name each animal in the song.</p>	<p>19</p> 	<p>20 Practice matching objects to the correct number you say or show on a number card.</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Read Ten Little Caterpillars by Bill Martin. Have your child find and count the caterpillars in the story.</p>	<p>23 Sing the ABC's. Have fun with it! Sing soft, loud, slow, fast, etc.</p>
<p>24 Draw a picture of a caterpillar using paints or crayons. Have your child tell you about the picture.</p>	<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Write about what you like about Pre-K in your journal. Every child's writing is different (scribbles, lines, letters, etc.).</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> 	<p>30</p>

October 2023

October's Kindergarten Readiness Calendar introduces standards taught the 1st nine weeks. Pictures, books and activities focus on the fall season.

Early Learning Developmental Standards Covered in October

- Move in spontaneous and imaginative ways to music, songs, rhythm and silence
- Develop a basic awareness of self as an individual, self within the context of family and self within the context of community
- Independently interact with a variety of materials through multiple play activities
- Self-select play activities to support own curiosity and to engage in pretend and imaginative play
- Demonstrate a willingness to engage in new experiences and activities
- Actively participate in conversations to tell or talk about familiar people, places, things and events with prompting and support
- Recognize and discriminate rhyming words in spoken language
- Engage in extended conversations
- Through adult modeling, guidance and support, use complete sentences to express a thought or idea
- Speaks clearly and audibly
- Create artistic works with intent and purpose using varying tools , texture, color and technique
- Verbally count forward
- Count up to 10 objects

October's Calendar Picture Conversation Starters to Encourage Dialogue

Use the pictures on the calendar to start conversations

- Discuss talking with friends – Talk to your child about how to participate and listen during a conversation
- Point out the children in long sleeve shirts - Discuss appropriate ways to dress for cooler days
- Discuss with your child all the different things people do with pumpkins
- Child showing art work – Talk about your child's ideas and ways to creatively share them through art using various tools (crayons, paint, play dough, etc..)
- October 31st (If recognized in your family): Discuss the way your family chooses to celebrate – Halloween or having a Fall Festival

October's Recommended Books to Read with Your Child

- [Where is the Green Sheep](#) by Mem Fox
- [Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes](#) by Eric Litwin
- [Duck on a Bike](#) by David Shannon

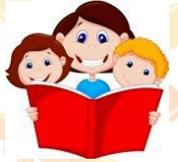
Visit your local Public Library to check out these and other books to read to your child throughout the month of October!

For More Activities & Information Visit: <https://bit.ly/MNPSCountdowntoK>

October 2023

VOCABULARY

- caboose
- family
- buckle
- message
- rhyme
- imagination

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2 HELPFUL HINT: Encouraging your child to have fun singing will help build vocabulary and auditory skills.	3	4 	5 Play a rhyming game: Say two words and have your child tell you if they rhyme.	6 	7 Read the story Where is the Green Sheep? by Mem Fox. Discuss pictures in the story.
8 	9 Have your child say the poem "One Two Buckle My Shoe." Have your child put up fingers for each number.	10 Read the story Duck on a Bike by David Shannon Talk about the pictures in the story.	11 	12 Use real world objects (blocks, pencils, cheerios etc..) in amounts up to 5 for counting practice.	13	14 Have your child describe themselves and their family (boy, girl, mom, dad, sister, granny).
15 Make up songs using your child's name, e.g. My name is Jill. My last name is Smith. I am Jill Smith.	16 HELPFUL HINT: Helping your child to learn to express their feelings will help to alleviate frustration.	17 	18 Have your child practice counting from 1-30. Listen for correct numbers in the correct order.	19 	20 Read the story Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes , by Eric Litwin. Have your child draw an item that they really like.	21 HELPFUL HINT: Encourage your child to use their imagination to create new characters to strengthen their literacy skills.
22 	23 Share the pencil and begin to assist your child to write a letter or word in messages for others.	24 	25 Practice matching objects to the correct number you say or show on a number card up to 5 and then to 10.	26 	27 Sing "Three Blind Mice" creating movements for the mice as you sing.	28 
29 Name basic shapes when you see them in the environment – square, circle, triangle and rectangle.	30 Sing "Little Red Caboose." Have your child make up movements as they sing the song.	31 	Sing "Where is Pumpkin." Have your child use hand movements as they sing the song			

November 2023

November's Kindergarten Readiness Calendar introduces standards taught the 1st nine weeks. Pictures, books and activities focus on the fall season.

Early Learning Developmental Standards Covered in November

- Move in spontaneous and imaginative ways to music, songs, rhythm and silence
- Independently interact with a variety of materials through multiple play activities
- Demonstrate a willingness to engage in new experiences and activities
- Actively participate in conversations to tell or talk about familiar people, places, things and events with prompting and support
- Recognize and discriminate rhyming words in spoken language
- Engage in extended conversations
- Through adult modeling, guidance and support, use complete sentences to express a thought or idea
- Speaks clearly and audibly
- Create artistic works with intent and purpose using varying tools. texture, color and technique
- Verbally count forward
- Count up to 10 objects
- Understand that the last number name said tells the number of objects counted, up to ten
- Identify several basic shapes

November's Calendar Picture Conversation Starters to Encourage Dialogue

Use the pictures on the calendar to start conversations

- Discuss playing with friends – Talk to your child about how to play nicely with a friend (taking turns, being polite, waiting patiently)
- Talk about cooking with an adult. Discuss things that you can do together to spend quality time, have fun, great conversations and create memories with your child
- Point out the family eating together— Discuss with your child what would be needed for a meal at the table
- Falling leaves – Discuss with your child leaves changing color and falling off trees during the fall season

November's Recommended Books to Read with Your Child

- [The Cat in the Hat](#) by Dr. Seuss
- [Chicka Chicka Boom Boom](#) by Bill Martin

Visit your local Public Library to check out these and other books to read to your child throughout the month of November!

For More Activities & Information Visit: <https://bit.ly/MNPSCountdowntoK>

November 2023

VOCABULARY

- addition
- feelings
- create
- imagine
- family
- discuss

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>HELPFUL HINT: Allowing your child to play with other children will help their social & emotional development.</p>		<p>1 Read the story The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss. Talk about all the rhyming words in the story.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 HELPFUL HINT: Helping your child to learn to express their feelings will help to alleviate frustration.</p>	<p>4 Play a rhyming game. Say two words and have your child tell you if they rhyme.</p>
<p>5 Read the story Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin. Talk about all the letters in the story. Point out the title.</p>	<p>6 Have your child count up to 10 objects.</p>	<p>7</p> 	<p>8 Using real world objects (blocks, pencils, cheerios etc.) make up addition stories to 5.</p>	<p>9</p> 	<p>10 Give your child opportunities to create using various things (clay, blocks, paint) and share.</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 Help your child to identify their name and letters in their name in other words in environmental print.</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Sing "Here we go around the mulberry bush." Have your child circle around an item while singing.</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Have your child practice counting to 10, 20 & 30. Listen for correct numbers and order.</p>	<p>17 Discuss the role of the author and the illustrator as you read various stories (storybooks, nursery rhymes, and poetry).</p>	<p>18</p> 
<p>19</p> 	<p>20 Begin to have your child practice handwriting by writing short messages for others.</p>	<p>21 Using clay create a turkey. Tell a real or imagined story about a turkey.</p>	<p>22 Name basic shapes (circle, square, oval, triangle, rectangle) and find them in the environment.</p>	<p>23</p> 	<p>24 Your child should use position words when playing "Where is it?" On, under, in, etc.</p>	<p>25</p> 
<p>26 Play "Where is it?" Place an object in different positions, ask your child to tell you where the object is.</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Sing 5 Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed. Make up motions for your child to do while singing.</p>	<p>29</p> 	<p>30</p>	<p>HELPFUL HINT: Encouraging your child to move (e.g. run, jump, skip, hop) to develop the large muscle groups in the body.</p>	

For More Activities & Information Visit: <https://bit.ly/MNPSCountdowntoK>

December 2023

December's Kindergarten Readiness Calendar introduces end of the first semester's standards. Pictures, books and activities focus on the winter season.

Early Learning Developmental Standards Covered in December

- Demonstrate a willingness to engage in new experiences and activities
- With modeling and support, recall important age-appropriate facts from the text
- Recognize and discriminate rhyming words in spoken language
- Engage in extended conversations
- Through adult modeling, guidance and support, use complete sentences to express a thought or idea
- Speaks clearly and audibly
- Sort familiar objects into categories
- Verbally count forward
- Count up to 10 objects
- Observe and discuss changes in weather and season
- Observe, describe and compare the habitats of animals
- Demonstrate awareness of different cultures
- Create artistic work
- Demonstrate an awareness and understanding of safety rules

December's Calendar Picture Conversation Starters to Encourage Dialogue

Use the pictures on the calendar to start conversations

- Candle – Talk to your child about what happens to a candle when it is lit
- Child in a coat -- Discuss appropriate ways to dress for cold, snowy days
- Holiday Signs – Discuss these and other cultural holidays
- Building a Snowman – Talk about the 1st, 2nd and 3rd steps in building a snowman

December's Recommended Books to Read with Your Child

- [A Snowy Day](#) by Ezra Jack Keats
- [Winter Waits](#) by Lynn Plourde
- [The Mitten](#) by Jan Brett

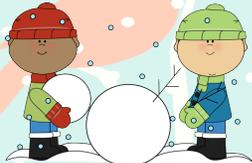
Visit your local Public Library to check out these and other books to read to your child throughout the month of December!

For More Activities & Information Visit: <https://bit.ly/MNPSCountdowntoK>

December 2023

VOCABULARY

- rhyme
- weather
- thermometer
- measure
- temperature

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>HELPFUL HINT: Allowing your child time to play is an important part of development.</p>					<p>1 Share a nursery rhyme with your child.</p>	<p>2 Read the story Winter Waits – Point out all the ways Father Time’s son tries to get his attention.</p>
<p>3 </p>	<p>4 Discuss with your child safety rules to follow in the house.</p>	<p>5 Take a walk outside to discuss ways animals protect themselves in the winter.</p>	<p>6 </p>	<p>7 </p>	<p>8 Read the story The Mitten. Name the animals that crawl into the mitten.</p>	<p>9 Reread the story The Mitten. Retell the animals in the order told in the story.</p>
<p>10 Discuss and sort daytime activities versus nighttime activities.</p>	<p>11 Spend this week reading and discussing the characters in various stories.</p>	<p>12 Have your child place their books and toys in the appropriate places.</p>	<p>13 Discuss 2 different ways people celebrate the Holidays.</p>	<p>14 Count the number of cups in the cabinet, changing the cups to count different amounts.</p>	<p>15 Play a rhyming game. Say two words and have your child tell you if they rhyme.</p>	<p>16 Spend time outside looking and discussing how trees change.</p>
<p>17 Bake cookies with your child. Allowing them to measure and stir.</p>	<p>18 Sing holiday songs with your child.</p>	<p>19 Draw or paint a picture of a winter tree.</p>	<p>20 Take your child to the park or playground to swing, climb, run and play.</p>	<p>21 </p>	<p>22 Discuss with your child different daily weather conditions.</p>	<p>23 </p>
<p>24 </p>	<p>25 </p>	<p>26 </p>	<p>27 Read the story The Snow Day by Ezra Jack Keats. Ask your child how they would describe snow.</p>	<p>28 HELPFUL HINT: Spending time singing and dancing helps your child’s motor development.</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Use a thermometer to tell the temperature outside. </p>
<p>31</p>						

January 2024

January's Kindergarten Readiness Calendar introduces beginning second semester standards. Pictures, books and activities continue to focus on the winter season.

Early Learning Developmental Standards Covered in January

- Maintain focus appropriate to completing task and/or learning activity
- Develop friendship skills
- With modeling and support, recall important age-appropriate facts from the text
- Participate in listening to common types of text
- Recognize spoken words can be written and read
- Demonstrate increasing understanding of spoken words, syllables and sounds
- Demonstrate awareness that books carry a message
- Through adult modeling, guidance and support, use complete sentences to express a thought or idea
- Speaks clearly and audibly
- Verbally count forward
- Use senses to gather, explore, and interpret information
- Recognize that all children and adults have roles, rights and responsibilities
- Move in spontaneous and imaginative ways
- Explore a variety of equipment and activities which enhances gross motor development

January's Calendar Picture Conversation Starters to Encourage Dialogue

Use the pictures on the calendar to start conversations

- Red Birds – When outside look for red birds and discuss how birds take care of their babies
- Happy New Year – Talk about the New Year and how 12 months make up a new year
- Bird Bath – Discuss ways birds use bird baths (to clean, to drink, and to perch on the side)
- Making Snow Angels – Talk about the steps involved in making snow angels
- MLK Day – Share with your child the emphasis on accepting others

January's Recommended Books to Read with Your Child

- [Snow Happy](#) by Patricia Hubbell
- [A Hat for Minerva Louise](#) by Janet Morgan Stoeke

Visit your local Public Library to check out these and other books to read to your child throughout the month of January!

For More Activities & Information Visit: <https://bit.ly/MNPSCountdowntoK>

January 2024

VOCABULARY

- fold
- share
- measure
- syllables

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2 HELPFUL HINT: Talk to your child about sharing and taking turns to help them get along with others.	3 	4 Count the number of shoes in the closet. Mix them up and match them.	5 	6 Sing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." Have your child pretend to move like a star.
7 Read the story Snow Happy . Talk about the things the character does in the story.	8 Have your child count to 10.	9 Read the story A Hat for Minerva Louise by Janet Morgan Stoeke	10 Introduce syllables by breaking words into parts; for example: 'el-e-phant'	11 Have your child write his or her first name using a pencil.	12 Give your child directions to fold clothes. Explain what to do first, next and last.	13 Play a rhyming game. Say two words and have your child tell you if they rhyme.
14 Discuss with your child what to do if they see a stranger.	15 	16 Take a walk outside to discuss ways animals protect themselves in the winter.	17	18 Read the story A Hat for Minerva Louise . Discuss the adventures Minerva experiences.	19 	20 Have your child read street signs, labels, and titles they recognize.
21 Spend this week reading and discussing the characters in a story.	22 Make up a pretend story to share with a friend.	23 Turn on music and let your child move and dance. Have fun!!	24 Share a nursery rhyme with your child.	25 Draw or paint a picture of a winter bird.	26 Use a thermometer to measure the temperature outside.	27 Spend time outside looking and discussing how trees change.
28 	29 Take your child to the park or playground to swing, climb, run and play!	30 Discuss how snow feels and what happens to it when it is not cold.	31 		HELPFUL HINT: Reading to your child helps to increase their vocabulary.	

For More Activities & Information Visit: <https://bit.ly/MNPSCountdowntoK>

February 2024

February's Kindergarten Readiness Calendar continues to introduce beginning second semester standards. Pictures, books and activities continue to focus on the winter season.

Early Learning Developmental Standards Covered in February

- Selfselect play activities to support own curiosity and to engage in pretend and imaginative play
- Interact and develop positive relationships with significant adults
- With modeling and support, recall important age appropriate facts from the text
- With guidance and support, identify major characters, settings, and events from a familiar story
- Demonstrate increasing understanding of spoken words, syllables and sounds
- Engage in an extended conversation
- Actively participate in conversations to tell or talk about familiar people, places, things and events
- With modeling and support print some upper and lowercase letters
- Verbally count forward
- Use comparative language, such as more/less than or equal to, to compare and describe objects
- Use senses to gather, explore, and interpret information
- Move in spontaneous and imaginative ways
- Explore a variety of equipment and activities which enhances gross motor development

February's Calendar Picture Conversation Starters

Use the pictures on the calendar to start conversations

- Snowmen – Share with your child a time when you made a snowman or played in the snow when you were a child
- Falling snow – Talk about words that describe the feeling of snow
- Deer – Discuss how deer and other animals take care of their young
- Coat – Discuss why it is important for your health to dress appropriately for the weather
- Sledding – Talk about sledding explaining how to safely sled

February's Recommended Books to Read with Your Child

- [One Winter's Day](#) by M. Christina Butler
- [White Snow Bright Snow](#) by Alvin Tresselt

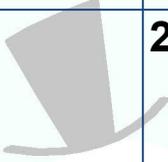
Visit your local Public Library to check out these and other books to read to your child throughout the month of February!

For More Activities & Information Visit: <https://bit.ly/MNPSCountdowntoK>

February 2024

VOCABULARY

- more
- less
- full name
- hedgehog

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>HELPFUL HINT:: Talking to your child during dinner will help to build their vocabulary and strengthen your relationship.</p>		<p>Play a rhyming game – say two words and have your child tell you if they rhyme.</p>	<p>1 Look out for the MNPS Kindergarten Registration Kick-Off Date. That's when you can start registering for Kindergarten!</p>	<p>2 Have your child write his or her first name using a pencil.</p>	<p>3 Discuss with your child “good touches and bad touches.”</p>
<p>4 Help your child to find out if there are more tennis shoes or more dress shoes in the closet.</p>	<p>5 Play a game with your child. It could be a board game or a game you make up!</p>	<p>6 Take a walk outside to discuss how we can help to feed animals during the winter.</p>	<p>7</p> 	<p>8 Read the story White Snow Bright Snow. Talk about all the things the adults do to get ready for the snow.</p>	<p>9 Reread the story. Discuss the things the children do when it begins to snow in the story.</p>	<p>10 HELPFUL HINT: Talk with your child about how to build a snowman. Be ready to answer and ask questions.</p>
<p>11 Spend this week reading and discussing the characters in a story of your choice.</p>	<p>12 HELPFUL HINT: Teaching your child to know their full name and your full name is a safety lesson.</p>	<p>13 Turn on music and let your child move and dance!</p>	<p>14 Share a nursery rhyme with your child.</p>	<p>15 HELPFUL HINT: Begin teaching your child to tie his or her shoes. Practice each day together.</p>	<p>16</p> 	<p>17 Have your child break words into parts, like ‘Feb-ru-ar-y.’ Clap each syllable.</p>
<p>18 Have your child tell you about something they like to do at home.</p>	<p>19 Take your child to the park or playground to swing, climb, run and play!</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21 Draw or paint a picture of a snowy day.</p>	<p>22 Have your child count to 15.</p>	<p>23 Sing “If You’re Happy and You Know it.” Have your child make up and add movements to the song.</p>	<p>24</p> 
<p>25 Read the story One Winter’s Day. Talk about how Little Hedgehog shares with others.</p>	<p>26</p> 	<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p>	<p>29 HELPFUL HINT: Having your child begin to dress themselves gives them a sense of maturity.</p>		

For More Activities & Information Visit: <https://bit.ly/MNPSCountdownToK>

March 2024

March's Kindergarten Readiness Calendar covers second semester standards. Pictures, books and activities focus on the beginning of the Spring season.

Early Learning Developmental Standards Covered in March

- Maintain focus appropriate to completing task and/or learning activity
- Express feelings, needs, opinions, and desires in a way which is appropriate to the situation
- With guidance and support, relate informational text to personal experience or other text
- With modeling and support, recall important age-appropriate facts from the text
- With guidance and support, discuss the use of illustrations to support the descriptions of characters
- Demonstrate increasing understanding of spoken words, syllables and sounds
- Recognize and discriminate rhyming words in spoken language
- With modeling and support, use a combination of drawing, dictating and emergent writing to tell a real or imagined story
- Engage in an extended conversation
- Actively participate in conversations to tell or talk about familiar people, places, things and events
- Frequently use the vocabulary words and phrases acquired through conversations and listening to books read aloud
- Verbally count forward
- Use comparative language, such as more/less than or equal to, to compare and describe objects
- Identify several basic shapes
- Observe and discuss changes in weather and seasons using common weather-related vocabulary
- Explore a variety of equipment and activities which enhances gross motor development

March's Calendar Picture Conversation Starters to Encourage Dialogue

Use the pictures on the calendar to start conversations

- Kite – Talk about fun things to do outside like flying a kite. Discuss wind and how it makes the kite fly
- Tree – Talk about how trees change for spring time
- Sweater – Discuss appropriately dressing for the cool spring weather
- Flying Kites – Talk about a fun thing to do outside in the Spring time such as flying kites

March's Recommended Books to Read with Your Child

- [Snow Rabbit, Spring Rabbit](#) by Il Sung Na
- [Spring's Sprung](#) by Lynn Plourde

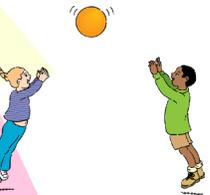
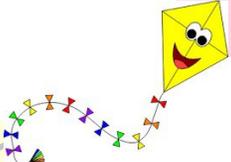
Visit your local Public Library to check out these and other books to read to your child throughout the month of March!

For More Activities & Information Visit: <https://bit.ly/MNPSCountdowntoK>

March 2024

VOCABULARY

- kite
- chore
- spring
- windy

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>HELPFUL HINT: Involve your child in every aspect of grocery shopping – reading list, locating items, paying, etc.</p>			<p>Lookout for information on MNPS Countdown to Kindergarten Fair!</p>		<p>1 Read the story Snow Rabbit, Spring Rabbit. Talk about what animals do in the Winter and Spring.</p>	<p>2 Draw or paint a picture of a windy day.</p>
<p>3 Sing “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.” Create movements to do while singing the song.</p>	<p>4</p> 	<p>5 Have your child count to 20 for you.</p>	<p>6 Point out items and their shapes: circle, square, triangle, diamond, rectangle.</p>	<p>7</p> 	<p>8 Have your child write his or her first name using a pencil.</p>	<p>9</p> 
<p>10 HELPFUL HINT: Begin to encourage your child to speak in terms of the day as morning, night, or afternoon.</p>	<p>11 Help your child to determine if you have more or the same number of spoons and forks.</p>	<p>12 Make a kite with your child using string and paper. Be sure to talk about the steps to making a kite.</p>	<p>13</p> 	<p>14 Read the story Spring's Sprung-. Talk about all the changes the season brings.</p>	<p>15 Read the story again. Talk about what happened in the story.</p>	<p>16 Discuss Spring with your child & make a list of things that remind you of Spring (i.e. flowers, rain, etc.).</p>
<p>17 If the weather permits, fly your kite outside.</p>	<p>18</p> 	<p>19 Spend time having outdoor fun- run, skip, jump and hop.</p>	<p>20 Draw a person on your windy day picture and make up a story about it.</p>	<p>21 Share a nursery rhyme with your child.</p>	<p>22 Have your child break words into parts, like ‘Oc-to-pus.’ Clap each syllable.</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p>	<p>25 Play a rhyming game. Say two words and have your child tell you if they rhyme.</p>	<p>26</p> 	<p>27 Take your child to the library to check out and read a book.</p>	<p>28</p> 	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> 
<p>31</p>						

April 2024

April's Kindergarten Readiness Calendar covers second semester standards. Pictures, books and activities focus on the Spring season.

Early Learning Developmental Standards Covered in April

- Demonstrate a willingness to engage in new experiences and activities
- With guidance and support, recall important facts to retell a familiar story in sequence
- Recognize frequently occurring uppercase letters and some of the most frequently occurring lowercase letters
- With guidance and support, discriminate between words with the same and different first letter sounds
- With modeling and support, recall important age-appropriate facts from the text
- With modeling and support, demonstrate awareness of sounds in words by identifying initial letter of familiar words
- Demonstrate increasing understanding of spoken words, syllables and sounds
- Recognize and discriminate rhyming words in spoken language
- Engage in an extended conversation
- Verbally count forward
- Use one to one correspondence to accurately count up to 10 objects
- Represent real world addition and subtraction problems up through five
- Use simple tools for investigation
- Observe and discuss changes in weather and seasons using common weather-related vocabulary
- Experiment with handheld tools to develop strength, control, and dexterity of small muscles

April's Calendar Picture Conversation Starters to Encourage Dialogue

Use the pictures on the calendar to start conversations

- Umbrella – Talk about the many rainy days April brings. Create a graph to show how many rainy days occur in April
- Rain Puddle of Water – Talk about how rain can create puddles of water
- Raincoat and Umbrella – Discuss appropriately dressing for a rainy day
- Building Blocks – Talk about a fun thing to do inside when it is rainy outside such as building with blocks

April's Recommended Books to Read with Your Child

- [The Yellow Umbrella](#) by Jae Soo Liu
- [One Rainy Day](#) by M. Christina Butler
- [Rainy](#) by Manya Stojic

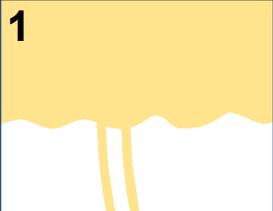
Visit your local Public Library to check out these and other books to read to your child throughout the month of April!

For More Activities & Information Visit: <https://bit.ly/MNPSCountdowntoK>

April 2024

VOCABULARY

- scale
- weather
- clock
- matching
- words
- journey

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>HELPFUL HINT: Schedule time for your child to tour their new school! start school in the fall.</p>	<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p> 	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> 	<p>6 Talk about things you can do on the inside when it's a rainy day outside.</p>
<p>7 Help your child to identify letters in their name in other words they see in their environment.</p>	<p>8</p> 	<p>9 Have your child count 10 objects.</p>	<p>10 Practice matching objects to the number you say or show on a number card.</p>	<p>11 Read <u>The Yellow Umbrella</u>. Talk about the yellow umbrella's morning journey.</p>	<p>12 Have your child write his or her first name using a pencil.</p>	<p>13 Arrange time for your child to have a play date. Encourage taking turns.</p>
<p>14 Say a word and have your child identify the beginning sound and letter.</p>	<p>15 Help your child identify tools for measuring time, temperature, and their weight/height.</p>	<p>16 Using a clear vase or glass sitting outside, have your child measure the amount of rainfall in 30 minutes.</p>	<p>17</p> 	<p>18 Read the story <u>Rain</u>. Talk about the sense each animal uses to track the rain.</p>	<p>19 <u>Read the story again</u>. Talk about what happened in the story.</p>	<p>20</p> 
<p>21 If the weather permits, take a walk outside to look for signs of spring.</p>	<p>22</p> 	<p>23 Practice dribbling, catching and throwing a ball outside.</p>	<p>24 Play a rhyming game. Say 2 words and have your child tell you if they rhyme.</p>	<p>25 Share a nursery rhyme with your child.</p>	<p>26</p> 	<p>27 Have your child break words into parts, like 'Lol-li-pop.' Clap each syllable.</p>
<p>28 Count 2 objects, then add 1 more. Now have your child tell how many there are.</p>	<p>29 Read the story <u>One Rainy Day</u>. Draw or paint a picture of a rainy day. Have your child describe a rainy day.</p>	<p>30 HELPFUL HINT: Help your child use words to describe their feelings, needs, opinions and desires.</p>	<p>Sing "Rain, Rain Go Away." Create fun movements to do while singing the song.</p>			<p>HELPFUL HINT: Have your child begin to use weather words to describe the day: rainy, cold, windy, foggy, etc.</p>

For More Activities & Information Visit: <https://bit.ly/MNPSCountdowntoK>

May 2024

May's Kindergarten Readiness Calendar begins to cover end of the year second semester standards. End of the year standards will continue throughout the summer months to continue our goal of Kindergarten readiness. Pictures, books and activities focus on the spring season.

Early Learning Developmental Standards Covered in May

- Seek additional clarity to further own knowledge
- Demonstrate an understanding of rules through actions and conversations
- Develop new vocabulary by engaging in meaningful discussions and activities
- With guidance and support, recall important facts to retell a familiar story in sequence
- Recognize frequently occurring uppercase letters and some of the most frequently occurring lowercase letters
- With guidance and support, discriminate between words with the same and different first letter sounds
- With modeling and support, recall important age appropriate facts from the text
- With modeling and support, demonstrate awareness of sounds in words by identifying initial letter of familiar words
- Demonstrate increasing understanding of spoken words, syllables and sounds
- Recognize and discriminate rhyming words in spoken language
- Engage in an extended conversation
- Verbally count forward
- Use one to one correspondence to accurately count up to 10 objects
- Identify several basic shapes
- Experiment with handheld tools to develop strength, control, and dexterity of small muscles

May's Calendar Picture Conversation Starts To Encourage Dialogue

Use the pictures on the calendar to start conversations

- Flower – Talk about how flowers begin to grow and discuss the parts of the flower
- Child watering flowers – Talk about what living things need to grow
- Jacket – Discuss appropriately dressing for cool spring days
- Cinco De Mayo – Discuss holiday celebrations of other cultures such as Cinco De Mayo
- Soccer – Talk about fun things to do to stay healthy such as playing soccer

May's Recommended Books to Read with Your Child

- [The Tiny Seed](#) by Eric Carle
- [The Sunflower Parable](#) by Liz Curtis Higgs

Visit your local Public Library to check out these and other books to read to your child throughout the month of May!

For More Activities & Information Visit: <https://bit.ly/MNPSCountdowntoK>

May 2024

VOCABULARY

- rules
- living
- shelter
- seed
- thing

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	HELPFUL HINT: Encourage your child to seek information & help when needed to complete a task.		1 Read the story The Tiny Seed . Talk about a seed's journey.	2 Play a rhyming game – say two words and have your child tell you if they rhyme.	3 Help your child to identify any of the letters in their name in other words they see	4 
5. 	6 Sing “Ring Around the Rosey.” Create fun movements to do while singing the song.	7 	8 Practice matching objects to the number you say or show on a number card.	9 Have your child tell you what he/she enjoys doing outside. Write the sentence and have your child draw it.	10 HELPFUL HINT: Singing children's songs will help to build vocabulary.	11
12 Have your child count up to 10 objects.	13 Help your child identify tools for measuring time, temperature, and their weight/height.	14 Begin talking about what living things need: food, air, water, sun, shelter, and clothing.	15 	16 Read the story The Sunflower Parable . Talk about what Logan learned about planting a seed.	17 Read the story again. Talk about what happened in the story.	18 Say a word and have your child identify the beginning sound and letter.
19 Point out uppercase and lowercase letters in familiar words, signs and your child's name.	20 	21 Explain to your child ways to build healthy habits (rest, food, and exercise).	22 Talk about different sets of rules we follow in different places.	23 Play Where is it? Place an object in different positions and ask your child to tell you where to find the object.	24 Your child should use position words when playing Where is it? On, under, in etc...	25 Have your child break words into parts, like 'le-mon.' Clap each syllable.
26 Draw basic shapes for your child to name: square, circle, triangle, rectangle.	27 	28 Draw or paint a picture of a flower and name the parts.	29 	30	31 	HELPFUL HINT: Skipping, running and hopping help to develop strength, balance & flexibility.

June 2024

June's Kindergarten Readiness Calendar covers end of the year second semester standards. End of the year standards will continue throughout the summer months to continue our goal of Kindergarten readiness. Pictures, books and activities focus on the summer season.

Early Learning Developmental Standards Covered in June

- Identify a problem and attempt multiple ways to solve it, with or without assistance
- Describe self using several different identifying characteristics and/or unique qualities
- Identify that the title of the book is found on the cover
- Develop new vocabulary by engaging in meaningful discussions and activities
- With guidance and support, recall important facts to retell a familiar story in sequence
- Recognize frequently occurring uppercase letters and some of the most frequently occurring lowercase letters
- With guidance and support, discriminate between words with the same and different first letter sounds
- With modeling and support, demonstrate awareness of sounds in words by identifying initial letter of familiar words
- Demonstrate increasing understanding of spoken words, syllables and sounds
- Recognize and discriminate rhyming words in spoken language
- Engage in an extended conversation
- Verbally count forward
- Use one to one correspondence to accurately count up to 10 objects
- Identify several basic shapes
- Experiment with handheld tools to develop strength, control, and dexterity of small muscles

June's Calendar Picture Conversation Starters to Encourage Dialogue

Use the pictures on the calendar to start conversations

- Butterfly – Talk about how caterpillars change into butterflies.
- Flowers – Talk about what flowers needs to grow
- Tennis Shoes – Talk about the steps involved when tying your shoes
- Tee Shirt – Discuss appropriately dressing for warm summer days
- Flag Day – Discuss holiday celebrations of other cultures such as Flag Day
- Catching Butterflies– Talk about fun things to do at the beginning of the summer such as catching butterflies

- June's Recommended Books to Read with Your Child

- [The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#) by Eric Carle
- [The Lion and the Mouse](#) by Jerry Pinkney

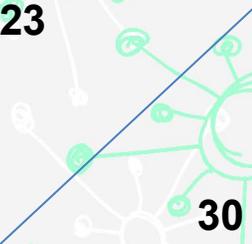
Visit your local Public Library to check out these and other books to read to your child throughout the month of June!

For More Activities & Information Visit: <https://bit.ly/MNPSCountdowntoK>

June 2024

VOCABULARY

- title
- graph
- letters
- words
- imagined
- movement

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>HELPFUL HINT: Encouraging your child to use their imagination to make up stories will strengthen literacy skills.</p>			<p>Help your child to <u>identify their name or any other words they know in environmental print.</u></p>		<p>Name basic shapes when you see them in the environment: square, circle, triangle, rectangle.</p>	<p>1 Have your child begin to describe themselves by age, interest, ability, etc</p>
<p>2 Have your child count up to 10 objects. Add to and take away objects to total different amounts.</p>	<p>3 <u>Create a graph to record all the sunny or rainy days in June. Have your child count the totals each day.</u></p>	<p>4 Have your child to begin describing how animals are alike and how they are different.</p>	<p>5</p> 	<p>6 Read the story <u>The Lion and the Mouse</u>. Retell the story by acting out the parts like you are in a live theatre.</p>	<p>7 Point out uppercase and lowercase letters in familiar words, signs and your child's name.</p>	<p>8 Read the story <u>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</u>. Talk about becoming a butterfly. Point out the title.</p>
<p>9 Share the pencil and begin to assist your child to write messages for others to read.</p>	<p>10</p> 	<p>11 <u>Using real world objects (blocks, pencils, cheerios etc..) make up addition and subtraction stories.</u></p>	<p>12 <u>Have your child break words into parts, like 'but-ter.' Clap each syllable.</u></p>	<p>13 Your child should use position words when playing Where is it? On, under, in etc...</p>	<p>14 FLAG DAY</p> 	<p>15</p> 
<p>16 HELPFUL HINT: Helping your child to learn to express their feelings will help to alleviate frustration.</p>	<p>17 Observe and describe how various objects move – fast/slow, straight/crooked.</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Using clay, help your child create a butterfly and tell a real or imagined story about it.</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21 Read the story <u>Rosie's Walk</u>. Talk about all the trouble the fox has trying to follow Rosie.</p>	<p>22 <u>Play a word game – Say a word and have your child identify the beginning sound.</u></p>
<p>23</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">30</p>	<p>24 Have your child tell you about a fun time with a friend. Write the sentence and have your child draw it.</p>	<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Play a rhyming game – say two words and have your child tell you if they rhyme.</p>	<p>28</p> 	<p>29 HELPFUL HINT: Encourage your child to figure out how to solve simple problems such as "I want to play, but..."</p>

July 2024

July's Kindergarten Readiness Calendar covers end of the year second semester standards. End of the year standards will continue throughout the summer months to continue our goal of Kindergarten readiness. Pictures, books and activities focus on the summer season.

Early Learning Developmental Standards Covered in July

- Self select play activities to support own curiosity and to engage in pretend and imaginative play
- Describe self using several different identifying characteristics and/or unique qualities
- Identify that the title of the book is found on the cover
- With guidance and support, relate informational text to personal experience or other text
- Participate in listening to common types of text
- With guidance and support identify the role of the author and the illustrator
- Develop new vocabulary by engaging in meaningful discussions and activities
- Recognize frequently occurring uppercase letters and some of the most frequently occurring lowercase letters
- With modeling and support, demonstrate awareness of sounds in words by identifying initial letter of familiar words
- Demonstrate increasing understanding of spoken words, syllables and sounds
- Recognize and discriminate rhyming words in spoken language
- Verbally count forward
- Use one to one correspondence to accurately count up to 10 objects
- Identify several basic shapes
- Experiment with handheld tools to develop strength, control, and dexterity of small muscles

July's Calendar Picture Conversation Starters to Encourage Dialogue

Use the pictures on the calendar to start conversations

- Flag – Talk about different flags that represent different countries.
- Fourth of July – Discuss holiday celebrations such as Fourth of July.
- People at the Lake – Talk about all the plants and animals you can find near the lake.
- Clothesline – Discuss appropriate clothing to wear when it is hot.
- Child going fishing– Talk about fun things to do in the summer such as fishing

July's Recommended Books to Read with Your Child

- [Chicka Chicka Boom Boom](#) by Bill Martin Jr.
- [Then and Now](#) by Heather Amery

Visit your local Public Library to check out these and other books to read to your child throughout the month of July!

For More Activities & Information Visit: <https://bit.ly/MNPSCountdowntoK>

July 2024

VOCABULARY

- movement
- record
- imagination
- title
- graph
- illustrator

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>1 HELPFUL HINT: Helping your child to learn to express their feelings will help to alleviate frustration.</p>		<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> 	<p>4</p> 	<p>5 Read the story Chicka Chicka Boom Boom. Talk about all the letters in the story. Point out the title.</p>	<p>6</p> 
<p>7 Help your child to identify their name or any other words in other environmental print.</p>	<p>8 Have your child count up to 10 objects. Add to and take away objects to total different amounts.</p>	<p>9</p> 	<p>10 Using clay, help your child create a ladybug. Tell a real or imagined story about it.</p>	<p>11 Using real world objects (blocks, pencils, cheerios) make up addition and subtraction stories.</p>	<p>12 Tell about a place they would like to visit. Write the sentence and have your child draw it.</p>	<p>13 Have your child begin to describe themselves by age, interest, ability, etc.</p>
<p>14 HELPFUL HINT: Encouraging your child to use their imagination to make up stories will strengthen literacy skills.</p>	<p>15 Make a graph & record all July sunny & rainy days. Each day count the totals and talk about the amounts.</p>	<p>16 Have your child to begin describing how plants are alike and how they are different.</p>	<p>17 Have your child practice counting to 10, 20 & 30. Listen for correct numbers and order.</p>	<p>18 Read the story Then and Now. Using the text talk about things that happen then compared to now.</p>	<p>19 Discuss the role of the author and the illustrator as you read different kinds of stories.</p>	<p>20 Sing "B-I-N-G-O." Have your child clap as you sing. Try new words in place of Bingo.</p>
<p>21 Point out uppercase and lowercase letters in familiar words, signs and your child's name.</p>	<p>22 Share the pen and begin to assist your child to write messages for others to read.</p>	<p>23</p> 	<p>24 Practice matching objects to the correct number you say or show on a number card.</p>	<p>25 Play Where is it? Place an object in different positions, ask your child to tell you where find the object.</p>	<p>26 Your child should use position words when playing Where is it? On, under, in etc...</p>	<p>27 Have your child break words into parts, like 'la-dy-bug.' Clap each syllable.</p>
<p>28 Name basic shapes when you see them in the environment: square, circle, triangle and rectangle.</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Ask your child to use their imagination and become a favorite character in a story.</p>	<p>31 HELPFUL HINT: Encourage your child to figure out how to solve simple problems such as "I want to play,</p>		<p>Involve your child in every aspect of grocery shopping. Create a grocery list together!</p>	<p>Play a word game – Say a word and have your child identify the beginning sound.</p>