



Millstream Elementary

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Kindergarten Summer Homework Kit



- ★ Cut shapes with scissors
- ★ Demonstrate basic manners
- ★ Look at books everyday by yourself
- ★ Read one story every day with a grown-up
- ★ Put on your own shoes (practice tying a bow)
- ★ Go to the bathroom by yourself
- ★ Practice printing your name (using proper upper and lower case: Name)
- ★ Practice sharing and taking turns
- ★ Practice kind behaviours
- ★ Recognize feelings and talk about them
- ★ Practice problem solving strategies when something is challenging (using words - not hitting or grabbing)



Please put me on your fridge so you remember to practice these important things all summer long

Kindergarten Summer Homework Kit

Letters & Words

Playing with letters and names should be fun and connected to real life.

Letters are everywhere around you and your child will learn to recognize words or familiar signs. When going for a walk or a drive, point out signs and talk about words and letters. It is not an expectation that a child entering kindergarten know letter names and sounds. A goal could be to have your child recognize and name the letters in their own name. Try to help them understand letters and numbers.

Here are some ideas to help your child learn:

- ★ talk about letters, "there is a letter T, it is part of your name!"
- ★ match the magnetic letters of the alphabet to the letters on the paper in this booklet, or to print in magazines.
- ★ find the letters of their name from a group of magnetic letters. Start with a small group to choose from, then gradually make it

harder by using more of the alphabet. Help them put the magnetic letters in the right order and the right way up to spell their name.

- ★ find the letters from their name in magazines etc.
- ★ always start a name with a capital letter and make the rest of the name with lower case letters
- ★ if they know more letters, they can put the magnetic letters in abc order, as they sing the alphabet song.

Numbers, Patterns, Shapes & Colours

Learning math should be fun and connected to real life.

Children learn more by counting the stones on the beach or apples in a grocery bag, than by looking at flash cards. Have them move objects as they count. Point out shapes, colours and patterns around the house and in nature. Shapes, patterns and sorting are also important math concepts in kindergarten.

Try some of these ideas with your preschooler:

- ★ collect objects (buttons, stones, blocks) and sort by shape or colour or size
- ★ make a pattern that repeats. Start with 2 colours, then

when it is easy, progress to 3 and 4 colours. Some parents use fruit loops or coloured candy. You may want to count them as well, moving them with your hand as you say the number

- ★ play simple card games like "go Fish" to learn numbers as well as dice games.
- ★ play "I Spy" to help learn colours and shapes
- ★ spread out magnetic numbers and make a pile of small objects to go with each number. Start with 1, 2, and 3, when that is easy, add 4 and then 5
- ★ match magnetic numbers to

the sheet in this booklet

- ★ put the magnetic numbers in order and name them to 5
- ★ talk about more and less, up and down, top and bottom, over and under, faster and slower, in and out etc. in any language - so your child understands these concepts for kindergarten
- ★ talk about time in any language. Help them understand a minute is short, an hour is long, and that yesterday already happened and tomorrow is not here yet
- ★ learn the colours of the crayons in your box
- ★ count objects around the house: stairs, spoons & chairs

Books

Preschoolers love books! There is a strong link between what they know about stories, sounds, words and letters and their readiness for school. But read for fun, not to 'teach' reading.

It is important that you show your child how to hold books and turn the pages carefully. Talk about the pictures in order, first the left page and then the right, from the beginning of the book to the end.

When reading to your child, use humour and ask questions! Encourage your preschooler to help tell the stories by using the pictures, both with new books and old favourite books. Remember, when your child asks for the same book for the hundredth time, that re-reading

is of great value. A child learns something more each time the old favourite story is read to them. They begin to understand that print stays the same every time you read the book and that stories in books are not different every time. They learn that those black marks actually mean specific words and that words in books are not 'made up' or guessed at but are actually a secret (to them) written down code! This is an important understanding for them.

You can get your child ready for kindergarten by:

- ★ reading books to them in any language
- ★ visiting the Public Library and choosing a variety of books

(fiction, non-fiction, poetry) that will interest your child. Make them feel important by getting them their own library card.

- ★ talk about pictures and that they tell a story too
- ★ listening to audiobooks together
- ★ talking about the story with your child. Before reading the story, ask questions like "what do you think this story is about?" Have them tell the story by looking at the pictures. During the story ask questions like "what might happen next?" or say "this reminds me of..." After reading to them, ask "can you tell me that story again?" or say "is that like our house?"

Playing with Talk (oral language)

Good use of a language is the most important aspect of being ready for school. If English is not the language which everyone speaks in your home, then talk a lot in your first language! A strong base in first languages helps the development of a second language.

Children need to learn the give and take of conversation. We want them to feel confident when talking to friends and to the teacher in the classroom.

- ★ Talk to them in full sentences and make eye contact
- ★ Ask questions that need a

reply other than yes or no, for example, "What was fun today?" instead of "Did you have fun today?"

- ★ When your child answers, ask another question about what they have said
- ★ Remind your child to listen, without interrupting

Learning to read is largely dependent on a child having what we call 'phonological awareness', which is the ability to tell the differences between sounds. In kindergarten, teachers will work on this skill. You can help by:

- ★ reading rhyming books, like Dr. Seuss or nursery rhymes

or reciting chants together in any language

- ★ singing songs and listening to cd's with children's songs
- ★ talking in rhymes, for example "whoa, go slow, bro" or "Okay dokay!" - and repeat the rhyme, pointing out to your child how funny it is to have the words sound the same. Kids love to play with words in this way
- ★ have your child retell stories in their own words

If you have concerns about speech or hearing, contact the Health Unit or your Physician.

Kindergarten Summer Homework Kit

Hand & Finger Skills (fine motor)

Developing hand and finger skills are an important part of getting ready for school. Activities at home can help your child to strengthen their muscles and improve coordination. Developing the muscles of the shoulders, arms, wrist and fingers is the best way to get ready for the fine motor activities expected at school. Running, jumping, climbing and hopping as they play will lead to better printing skills when they are taught to form letters and numbers in kindergarten.

Try to:

- ★ Encourage your child to play on their hands and knees and to use their shoulder muscles. Get down on the ground with them as they push cars, play with blocks or use sidewalk chalk to draw.
 - ★ Play with playdough, roll, sculpt, use cookie cutters, make shapes
 - ★ Cook with your preschooler to practice stirring, rolling, and pouring
 - ★ Practice the correct way to hold scissors. Then teach them to snip a short, straight line. When that is easy for them, help them to cut across a whole page. When that is no longer frustrating, help them cut curves and follow a line.
- This may take many tries over months!
- ★ Watch your child when they use a pencil or a crayon to remind them to hold it correctly every time! (see image on next page)
 - ★ Trace around things like plastic lids
 - ★ Let your child play with tongs to pick up small objects
 - ★ Fill a cookie sheet with sand, rice or Jell-O powder. Have your child make shapes with their finger
 - ★ Spray a table or counter with shaving cream and let them draw



Starting in Kindergarten, put your child's graduation year on a large t-shirt. Take a picture each year with same shirt to watch the child grow into the shirt.

Display at their graduation party!

SD#62 ASQ Training, Meeting Summary

Kindergarten Teachers and Child Care Providers:

Question: What Skills do children need to be successful in Kindergarten?

Physical:

- ★ good gross motor coordination
- ★ good fine motor coordination
- ★ uses scissors
- ★ tripod grasp
- ★ climbs stairs
- ★ controls bodily functions
- ★ good balance

Cognitive:

- ★ able to follow oral directions
- ★ interested in learning/academics
- ★ imitates
- ★ attends (focus, sit and listen)
- ★ tells a story
- ★ recalls events, characters
- ★ solves problems
- ★ resolves conflicts
- ★ knows basic shapes
- ★ know some colours
- ★ can count to 20
- ★ book skills
- ★ shows an interest in writing

Language:

- ★ clear verbal communication
- ★ understands oral instruction
- ★ listening skills
- ★ articulates needs

Emotional:

- ★ Secure, separates from parent
- ★ Self confident
- ★ independent
- ★ willing to try new things/ideas
- ★ manages transitions and routines
- ★ speaks up in a group
- ★ positive sense of self

Social:

- ★ respect for people,

- materials
- ★ tolerant
- ★ compliant
- ★ empathetic
- ★ plays well with others
- ★ shares
- ★ takes turns
- ★ waits
- ★ lines up
- ★ cooperates
- ★ appropriate voice volume
- ★ demonstrates basic manners

- ★ raises hand to speak

Self Help:

- ★ dressing (shoes coat, hat etc.)
- ★ know own belongings
- ★ cares for own belongings
- ★ personal safety skills
- ★ personal boundaries clear
- ★ independent in the bathroom



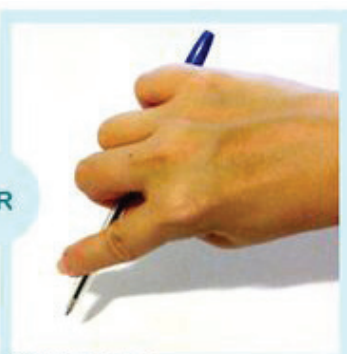
FISTED GRIP
1-2 years old

Children often hold their writing tool like a dagger, scribbling using their whole arm.



DIGITAL PRONATE GRIP
2-3 years old

All fingers are holding the writing tool but the wrist is turned so that the palm is facing down towards the page. Movement now comes mostly from the elbow. Children should start being able to copy a horizontal, vertical and circular line.



DYNAMIC TRIPOD GRIP
By 6 or 7 years old

Using only 3 fingers to hold the writing tool. This is the ideal grip to help move the pencil efficiently, accurately.



4 FINGER GRIP
3-4 years old

4 fingers are held on the writing tool. Movement is mostly from the wrist and the hand and fingers move as one.



STATIC TRIPOD GRIP
4-6 years old

This is a 3 finger grasp, where the thumb, index finger and middle finger work as one unit.

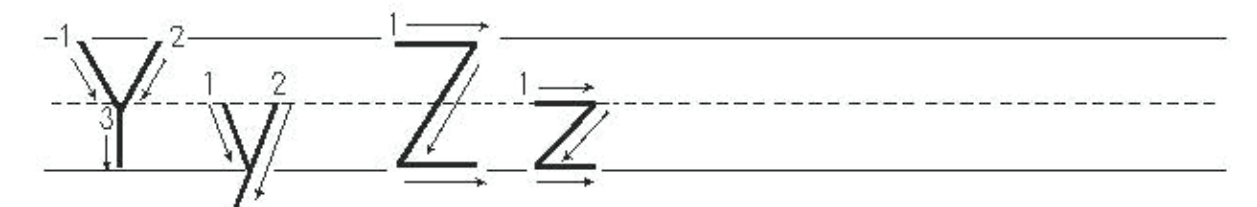
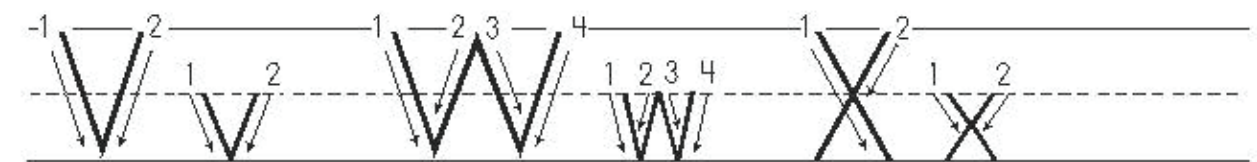
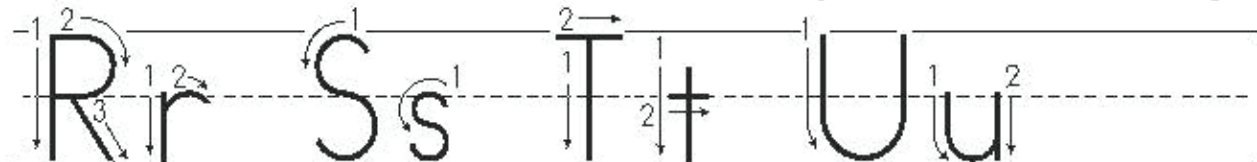
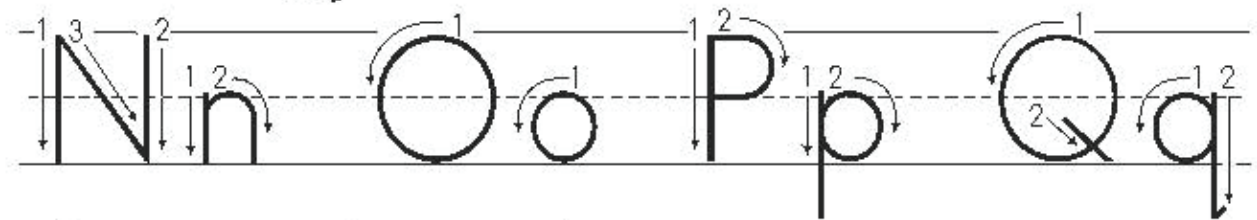
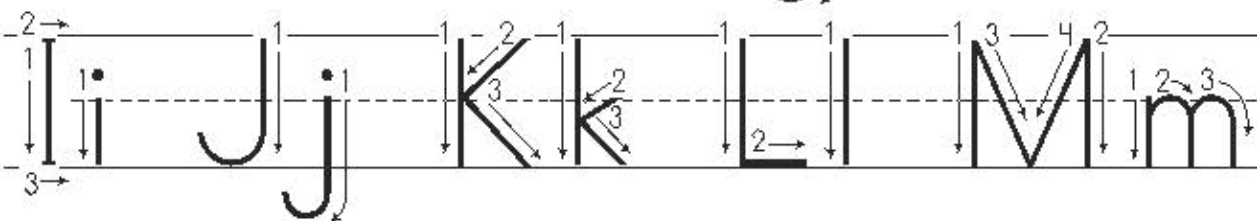
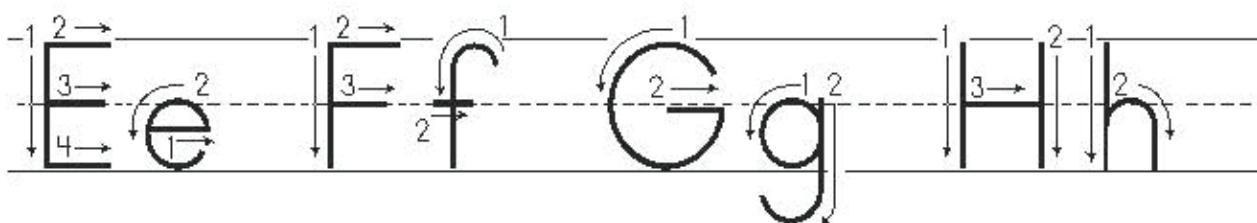
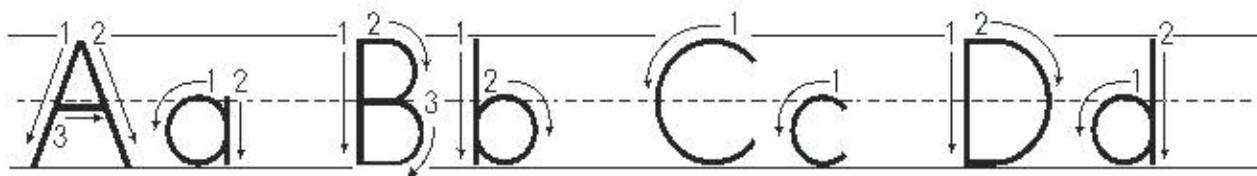


DYNAMIC TRIPOD GRIP
By 6 or 7 years old

Using only 3 fingers to hold the writing tool. This is the ideal grip to help move the pencil efficiently, accurately.

Letter Formation

Please practice the correct stroke order shown below for each letter.

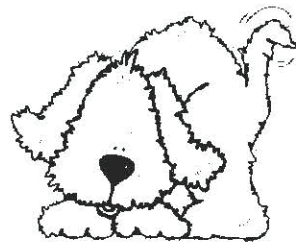




Please review weekly. Point and say each number.

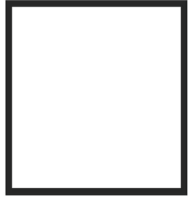
2	14	6	22	10
19	16	1	9	21
13	4	23	15	5
27	25	20	7	29
17	3	11	18	30
26	12	8	24	28

Please practice reading these sight words with your child.

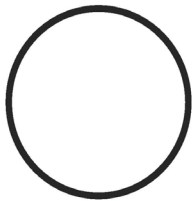


a	my	the	I	like
we	go	on	to	you
have	do	what	no	see
look	come	for	me	one
little	are	here		

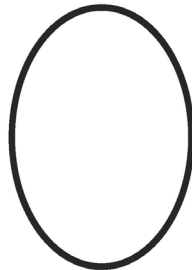
Shapes



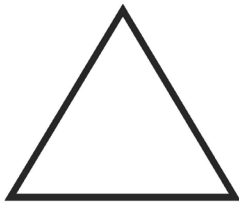
Square



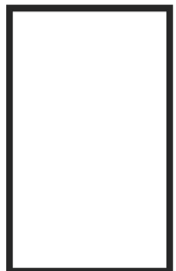
Circle



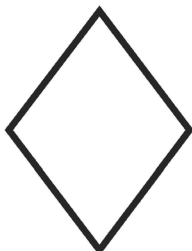
Oval



Triangle



Rectangle



Diamond

