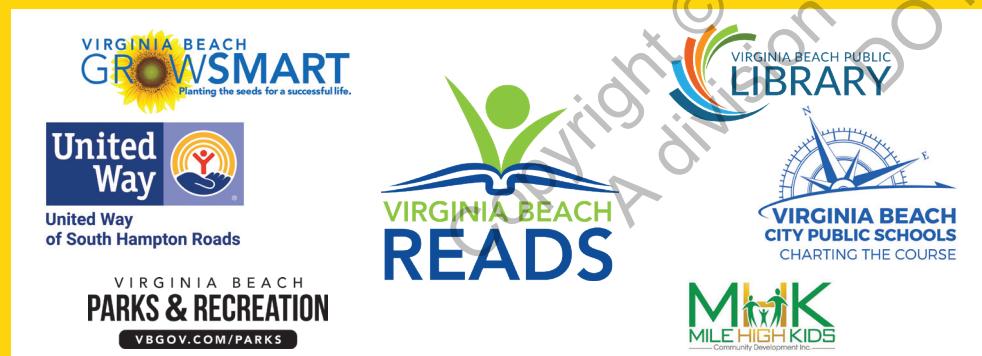


Summer Edition



Pathways to Kindergarten

STEPS TO SCHOOL SUCCESS



DEVELOPMENT, DESIGN & PRINT BY:



DIVISION OF WAVELINE DIRECT, LLC

800.257.8830
childcorepublishing.com



A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step
(Chinese proverb)



JUNE

Steps towards getting along with others!

"There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child. There are seven million."
—Walt Streightiff

When children learn how to get along with others by the time they reach kindergarten, they have mastered an important skill that will help bolster their process in school and in life. You can help children be confident learners and good friends by helping them to:

- Use good manners, including saying please and thank you, waiting their turn in line and being patient in line without pushing.
- Express their needs and feelings verbally and in an appropriate manner.
- Respect adults.
- Understand the difference between right and wrong.
- Understand and be considerate of the feelings of others; learn to listen to others when they are happy or sad.
- Share toys and materials when asked.
- Solve play problems with other children without the help of the teacher or to know when to ask for the teacher's help.

"I'm Ready for School" Book

Ask your child to draw a picture of a friend(s). Ask, "What do you like to share with your friends?"



Save the pages of "I'm Ready for School" each month. In August you can put them together into a book that marks the fun you and your child had together preparing for kindergarten.

Be sure to date each page. Write the question at the top and the way your child answers the question or tells you about the picture at the bottom. It will make a great story!



BOOKS TO READ WITH YOUR CHILD

*First Day Jitters, Julie Danneberg
Grouchy Ladybug, Eric Carle
Rainbow Fish, Marcus Pfister*

*When Sophie Gets Angry, Molly Bang
Brown Bear Brown Bear, Bill Martin
Abuela, Arthur Dorros*

ACTIVITY STEPPING STONES

START



Talk about the shapes of large food items like a pizza, cake or pie before you serve them. What happens once you cut them for everyone to eat? What shape are the servings? Are they triangle, rectangle or square? Can you make them into different shapes?

Write a story together. Ask your child to draw pictures of an activity that you did together. Write down his descriptions of the pictures on the bottom. Ask him to draw pictures of what you did first, what happened next, and what happened last.

Outside, notice different vehicles and what they're used for. Taxis take people places, police cars help protect others, busses transport lots of people at one time, UPS trucks transport packages, etc.



Play a game by giving your child a job to do with many steps to see if she can remember all of them! "Go to your room, look on the chair, get the hat and bring it to me." Add another command to the list or see if she can do it in a certain amount of time to make it fun.



Stand together with your child in front of a mirror. Talk about how you both look the same and how you look different. Ask your child, "Do we have the same color hair? Are our smiles the same? What about our eye color or noses?"



Count the number of steps it takes to get from one room to another. Guess which room will take the most steps. Will it be take the most steps to get from the living room to the kitchen or from the kitchen to the bedroom?



Make butter. Put some cream in a plastic container and seal tightly. Shake, shake and shake some more until it turns into solid butter. Then, allow your child to spread it onto bread or toast.



On a rainy day inside, sit on the floor with your child. With your legs spread far apart, practice rolling a small ball back and forth. Move further away from each other every time you roll the ball.



Give your child safety scissors to practice cutting. He can snip scrap paper, sandpaper, play dough or drinking straws.



Make a ramp by leaning a tall, flat object such as a piece of cardboard or a big book at an angle against a chair. Roll different objects down the ramp to see which ones will go faster or further.



Look at pictures of different people's faces on the internet. Talk about how they look. Do they look happy or sad? Are they angry or scared? How do people's faces change when they are feeling different things?



Ask this question, "How do you think you moved from one room to another when you were a baby? What would have happened if you got too heavy and I couldn't carry you?"



Give your child leftover cooked spaghetti to practice writing letters. Show her how to use the spaghetti to form the letters in her name or yours.



Show a picture of your child as a baby and one as he looks now. Talk about the differences. "When you were a baby, you drank from a bottle; now you can drink from a cup." "When you were a baby, you could only crawl on the floor; now you can hop and run and throw a ball."



Act out a favorite story. Give each family member a part. For example, in *The Three Bears*, one of you is Baby Bear, one is Mama Bear, one is Papa Bear, and one is Goldilocks. Use pretend voices as each of you re-tells the story.



Lay out paper clips, twist-ties, pipe cleaners and/or string or yarn. Ask your child to combine them into chains or shapes.



Approaches to Learning
Creativity
Language and Literacy
Math



Motor
Science
Social Emotional
Social Studies

FINISH *

Joke of the Month

What has arms & legs but no head?
A chair!



JULY

Steps towards learning to read!

"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows."

—Sydney J. Harris

Helping your child develop a love of reading is one of the most important things you can do on the pathway to kindergarten and school success. It's never too early to begin reading to your child and it's the perfect activity to do together; snuggled up with a child on your lap is a wonderful way to share special moments. Here's how you can help your child develop a love of books and reading:

- Find at least 15 minutes each day making it your special reading together time.
- Model reading. Show your child how you read instructions, newspapers, email and internet information, cookbooks, etc.
- Choose different types of books to read. Don't be afraid to read a favorite over and over again.
- Talk about books. Ask your child about the pictures. Ask your child to guess what the next page might be about before turning the page. Make up different endings.

"I'm Ready for School" Book

Prepare your covers. Ask your child to decorate two pages with favorite things. One will be the front cover and one will be the back. Write "I'm Ready for School" on the front. Ask your child to print his or her name.



Save the pages of "I'm Ready for School" each month. In August you can put them together into a book that marks the fun you and your child had together preparing for kindergarten.

Be sure to date each page. Write the question at the top and the way your child answers the question or tells you about the picture at the bottom. It will make a great story!

to guess what the
next page might be
about before turning
the page. Make up
different endings.

- Look for words wherever you go. Read words at the store, on walks and on signs.
- Visit a public library.

BOOKS TO READ WITH YOUR CHILD

*Welcome to Kindergarten, Anne Rockwell
In the Garden; Who's Been Here,
Lindsay Barrett George
Make Way for Ducklings, Robert McCloskey*

*Stellaluna, Janell Cannon
Crichtor, Tomi Ungerer
Eric Carle, Grouchy Ladybug
The Library, Sarah Stewart*



ACTIVITY STEPPING STONES

START



Help your child learn his street address. Talk about the numbers and the street name. Practice saying it so he is familiar with the way it sounds and can repeat it. Go outside and look at the numbers on the house or apartment. Walk to the end of the street and look at the street sign.

Help your child create her own page on your family website. Find a special picture to download, make a banner, add music and help her type the words she wants to include.

Read a favorite story and come up with a new ending. Type it into the computer and print it. Put it in the back of the book and read it the next time you read the story. Then, change the ending again. You'll have a new story each time!



Talk about the jobs and people that keep us healthy like doctors and nurses. You can even include your pet's veterinarian! Talk about the things they do to help you stay healthy and see if you can find a book about them on the internet or your smart phone.



Sing *If You're Happy and You Know It*, clap your hands. Sing it again and ask, "What else can we do with our hands?" Then, sing, "If you're sad and you know it, stomp your feet." Next, ask, "What else can we do with our feet?"

Joke of the Month

What did the apple skin say to the apple?

I've got you covered!



On a hot day, pretend it's cold outside. Talk about what you would do if it started to snow. How would you need to prepare your house differently? What might happen to the animals that are outside?



Put different plastic containers in the bathtub for pouring. Encourage your child to pour water back and forth between the two.



Gather pennies in a clear container and ask your child to guess how many are inside. Then, together take them out and count them. You can do the same thing with other small objects like cereal or small candies.



Put an old piece of bread into a plastic sandwich bag. Help your child put a teaspoon of water into the bag and seal it shut. Watch for mold. How many days does it take for it to appear?



Put a picture that you've found in a magazine on the table before a meal. Ask your child to talk about it during meal time. (You may remove it after they have taken a look). Ask questions about what might have been happening in the picture or why you might have chosen that picture to talk about.



Show your child the heads and tails sides of a coin. Gently toss the coin in the air several times and watch it fall. Count the number of times it lands on heads and the number of times it lands on tails.



Make your own scientific dig! Bury small objects in a pile of sand or dirt pile. Give your child a rake or show how she can dig with her hands and see how many objects she can find.



Make two sets of cards with the same words. Lay out the cards, mix them up, and ask your child to find the pairs. Use words that are familiar to you and your child. Say the word when the card is picked and point out the letters and word sounds.



Paint with water. Use a clean paint brush and a plastic container with some water. Ask your child to paint the outside of the house or the sidewalk on a warm day.



Play basketball with newspaper balls and a trashcan. Crumple up newspaper to make a ball and see how many times your child can make a basket by throwing the ball into the can. Move the can further and further away each time a basket is scored.



Make your grocery list together. Decide what foods you need. Talk about healthy foods you will purchase. Write the list together. Look for coupons.

FINISH



Approaches to Learning



Motor



Creativity



Science



Language and Literacy



Social Emotional



Math



Social Studies

AUGUST

Steps towards getting involved with the school!

"There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child. There are seven million."

—Walt Streightiff

Children understand how important learning and school are when they see the adults in their lives become involved. Here are some things you can do:

- In the beginning of the year, let the teacher know you are interested in hearing how your child is doing at school. Ask the best way to stay in touch.
- Introduce yourself to the principal. Find out how he/she works with families and teachers and what kinds of activities are provided for children and adults.
- Attend events the school offers, especially at the beginning of the year, like "back to school night" or "parent orientation." They help you to learn the classroom schedule and homework philosophy.
- Volunteer. Find some time to go on a field trip or read to the class. If you can't take time off work, ask the teacher if there are other ways to help out like preparing art projects or sending in a snack.
- Join the school's parent association. This helps you to stay informed about school events and learn what's important in the greater school community.

"I'm Ready for School" Book

Ask your child to draw a picture of the first day of Kindergarten. Ask "How does it feel to be old enough to be in kindergarten?" Compare the picture to the September drawing and ask, "How does this look different from your September picture? How does it look the same?"



Put your book together by punching two holes on the top of each page your child made. Put the drawn pages inside the cover sheets you made in July. Fasten all the pages together by putting yarn through the holes and tying them into a bow. OR, staple your pages together. You have a special book to remind you of your child's Pathway to Kindergarten.

BOOKS TO READ WITH YOUR CHILD

Kindergarten Rocks, Katie Davis
Where the Wild Things Are, Maurice Sendak
Countdown to Kindergarten, Allison McGhee
In My World, Lois Ehlert

My Two Hands/My Two Feet, Rick Walton
Skippyjon Jones, Judy Schachner
Annabelle Swift, Kindergartner,
Amy Schwartz



ACTIVITY STEPPING STONES

START



Try coin rubbings. Place a penny or nickel on the table. Put a plain sheet of paper on top. Show your child how to rub the flat side of a crayon or pencil back and forth across the paper until the shape of the coin mysteriously appears.

Joke of the Month

Knock knock.
Who's there?
Justin.
Justin who?
Justin time
for dinner!

Together, pick out the clothes your child will wear for the first day of kindergarten. Talk about why that outfit is being chosen for this special day. Ask, "How are you feeling about your first day?" Talk about those feelings.

Make your own bowling alley. Set up several empty, clean plastic bottles at the end of a room or outside on your sidewalk. Give your child a small ball and show her how to gently throw or roll the ball to knock down the bottles. Count how many. Set them back up and try again.

Find your kindergarten school's website, together, on the internet. Look at pictures of the school building and find out if the principal's picture is posted. See what information about the school can be learned.

Make napkin holders out of cardboard tubes. Cut one-inch pieces out of a tube and give your child crayons or markers to decorate them. Add stickers if you have them too. Show your child how to put a napkin through the hole, then put one at each place at the table before dinner.

Help your child make cookies for a special person in your family, a friend, or neighbor. Talk about why it is nice to do something special for someone else. Deliver them and, afterwards, talk about how it made the person feel.

Sort clothes together. Ask your child to help you put each person's clothes in separate piles. All the big shirts belong to Daddy; all the small shirts belong to your child!

Learn about a new country location on a map, in a book, or on the computer. Find out about how the countryside looks, what language the people speak or what the people like to wear and eat.

Show your child a picture from a book, computer or a photo. Ask him to tell you a story about it. What is happening? What are the people thinking or talking about? What might happen next?

"Name Bingo." Draw squares on a card and write each letter of your child's name in the squares. Make another card using your name. Leave a "FREE" box in the middle. Write on another card the letters of both names, cut into small squares. Mix the cards and put in the center of the table. Match them, one at a time, to the letters on the big cards. First one to fill the card wins!

Ask your child to pretend to be a parent, preparing a doll or stuffed animal for kindergarten. What would he or she tell it on the first day?

At bedtime, talk about what you did today, what you might do tomorrow, and what's coming up next week. Talk about what the first day of kindergarten might be like.

Clean your pennies. Mix one tablespoon of vinegar, one teaspoon of salt and some water into a paste. Show your child how to rub it onto pennies and watch how they begin to shine.

Ask your child to put together different shapes of paper to make a new creation. How can he put together circles, squares, and triangles to make a person or a house?

Ask your child to help you set the table but don't give him enough spoons or napkins. When he realizes that he is short the needed supplies, ask, "how many do you need?"

Make bubbles! Put some water into a shallow tub and add a very small amount of dish detergent. Give your child a straw and show how to blow OUT of the straw onto the top of the water to make bubbles.

FINISH

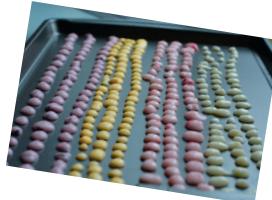
Approaches to Learning	Motor
Creativity	Science
Language and Literacy	Social Emotional
Math	Social Studies

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Recipes

FROZEN YOGURT DOTS

Fill a plastic sandwich bag half-full with your favorite flavor of yogurt. Add 1-2 drops of food coloring. Seal the bag and knead the color into the yogurt. With scissors, snip off a very small corner of the bag and pipe or press the yogurt onto a cookie sheet that has been lined with waxed paper. Put the sheet into the freezer for about 30 minutes, then pop off. They're ready to eat!



HAMBURGER COOKIES

Separate white icing into two bowls. Add a few drops of yellow food coloring into one bowl to make "mustard". Add red food coloring into the other bowl to make "ketchup." Layer: vanilla cookie (bun), mustard icing, mint cookie or peppermint patty (burger), ketchup icing, vanilla cookie. If desired, for lettuce, tint coconut green and add sesame seeds to the top.

SAND PUDDING

Crumble vanilla cookie crumbs at the bottom of a bowl or unbreakable glass. Spoon vanilla pudding over the cookie crumbs. Repeat the layers, ending with cookie crumbs on the top. Put gummy or chewy fish on top.



FRUIT SALAD CONES

Simply spoon a little bit of cut up fresh fruit in the bottom of a cone, add a spoonful of yogurt, another layer of fruit then another spoonful of yogurt until you get to the top. Add a small squirt of whipped cream as a special treat and you're done!



FROZEN BANANA POPS

Peel bananas and cut in half. Lay them on wax paper on a cookie sheet and put in the freezer for about 15 minutes. Meanwhile melt chocolate chips and 1 tablespoon of cooking oil in the microwave, stirring until completely melted. Dip each banana half into the chocolate mixture, then roll in crushed peanuts, sprinkles, coconut or granola. Put them back on the cookie sheet and in the freezer to cool. They will keep in a covered container for about a week. Thaw for about 30 minutes before eating.



Arts & Crafts

PAPER PLATE SUN VISOR

Draw a half moon shape on a paper plate and cut it out. Decorate it with markers or crayons. Punch holes in each end of the plate and attach a string or piece of elastic. Tie it around your child's head to fit.



COFFEE FILTER BUTTERFLY

Flatten out a coffee filter and have your children decorate it with water paints, markers or crayons. Color both sides of the filter. Next fold it up from top to bottom, using accordion pleats. Tie it together by knotting a pipe cleaner in half in the middle, making antennae with the top of the pipe cleaner.



BUG CATCHER

Use an empty and clean 2-litre soda bottle with the lid. Cut out a large (3 inches) window on the side of the bottle, using a sharp knife or kitchen scissors. Put dirt and some plants in the bottom of the bottle and cover the hole with netting - old panty hose or an old piece of screen works great. Tape the netting in place. Open the lid to catch bugs, then seal shut to watch the bugs in action.



Reading with your child...

BOOKS FOR THE SUMMER SEASON

A Summery Saturday Morning
Margaret Mahy

I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly
Glen Rounds

Ladybug Girl
Jackie Davis

Blueberries for Sal
Robert McCloskey

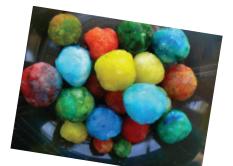


Fireflies
Julie Brinckloe

It's Summer
Linda Glaser

BOUNCING BALLS

1 tablespoon of white school glue
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of Borax (laundry detergent aisle)
 3 tablespoons of cornstarch
 4 tablespoons of warm water
 Food coloring



Pour 4 tablespoons of warm water, 3 tablespoons of cornstarch and $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of Borax in one cup. Put 1 tablespoon of glue in a separate cup or bowl. Add food coloring to the glue and stir. Stir the Borax mixture to make sure it's combined, then add into the glue. Stir until it begins to stay together. Remove from the bowl and knead it in your hands until it makes a ball. It will be sticky at first, but the more you roll it in the palm of your hands, the more rubbery it will become.