



TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN LET'S GET READY! FOR FAMILIES



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS EVERYWHERE LEARNING

Did you know that talking, reading, and singing with your child, strengthens your bond with your child and helps build their brain as well as important language, math, reading and social-emotional skills?

We encourage you to talk to your child about the things you do and see each day—in whatever language you feel comfortable speaking at home. The more conversations, songs, and stories you share during your everyday moments together, the more you are preparing your child to succeed!

#EVERYWHERELEARNING TIP SHEET



TALK WITH YOUR CHILD...

- Label and describe experiences as they occur.
- Ask open-ended questions that require more than “yes”, “no” or “one-word” answers.
- Ask “how” and “why” questions.
- Use new words with your child and encourage them to use new words.
- Repeat and build upon what your child says.
- Have fun with language and encourage them to be curious.



AROUND THE HOUSE...

- Provide opportunities to make every day experiences at home “learning experiences”. Make writing tools accessible and promote their use. Allow your child to write “in their own way” (scribbling, drawing, letter-like forms, invented spelling, conventional spelling).
 - Ask your child to help you write shopping lists of everyday household items.
 - Encourage your child to write letters to family and friends.
 - Provide opportunities to label objects at home.
 - Allow your child to draw regularly about their feelings and discuss their illustrations.
- Have your child go on a “letter-hunt” using boxes and cans found in the pantry.
- While looking through the mail, encourage your child to read environmental print they are familiar with such as logos of favorite foods and stores advertised in weekly newspapers.
- Ask your child to make comparisons (smallest, shortest, heaviest, same as, etc.) of cans, bottles, fruits and vegetables found in the kitchen.
- Let your child sort the laundry by color; who it belongs to; type of clothing.
- Engage your child to participate in cooking, cleaning, and yard work experiences.



IN THE CAR...

- Keep an activity box with books, drawing materials, large dice, card games, puzzles and any other materials that are of interest to your child.
- Encourage your child to keep a pictorial journal during car rides. Add dictations about each picture once you arrive at the location.
- Provide sing-along or storybook audio experiences while riding in the car.
- Before a long trip, research and read with your child about the destination to help your child look forward to the journey. Map out points of interest along the way together.
- Play Family Games such as "I Spy", searching for animals, letters and numbers; counting colored cars, matching sign shapes, and having fun with language by making up silly rhymes. When your child's attention begins to wander, switch to another game or take a break.
- Plan frequent stretch-and-bend stops to satisfy wiggles. Always remember to pack comfort toys like favorite pillow or stuffed animal!



READ WITH YOUR CHILD EVERY DAY...

Designate a "reading time" for the whole family or a time when "you and your child" sit down to read. As you read:

- Let your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- Engage in picture walk-talks by encouraging your child to read the pictures and talk about what they see.
- Promote word awareness by moving your finger along under the words.
- Point to and talk about the pictures that go with the words.
- Pause while you read and ask your child what they think might happen next.
- Encourage your child to ask questions about what is being read including "why" questions.
- Introduce and talk about a word that is new to your child.
- At the end of the story, talk about your child's favorite parts and why they liked or disliked the story.
- Ask your child to tell a story for you to write down. Read the story back to your child.
- Make a book out of your child's writing. Have your child draw pictures to go with the words or scribbles.
- Read and talk about numbers in counting books, pointing and counting the objects on each page.
- Share stories about your child's life as a baby and a toddler, as well as stories about when you were a child. Share photo albums of when your child was little and discuss how much they have changed.
- Choose books based on your child's interests.
- Choose fiction and non-fiction books and discuss differences.
- Choose nursery rhyme books and point out rhyming words. While reading rhyming books, pause before the rhyme and see if your child is able to tell the rhyme.
- Discuss the parts of a story - beginning, middle and end.
- Identify letters and words that are familiar.
- Have your child read a favorite book and use pictures for clues to the story.
- Describe the feelings of the characters in the story.
- Choose books from the same author. Help your child make comparisons between books.
- Discuss the conclusion and create a new ending for it. What would have happened if.....?
- Read the same books over and over again.
- Be **excited** about reading with your child. **It's contagious!**



DRAWING & WRITING WITH YOUR CHILD...

Allow your child to write “in their own way” (scribbling, drawing, letter-like forms, invented spelling, conventional spelling).

- Assign a consistent location for drawing and writing tools.
- Encourage your child to write “in their own way” about summer experiences.
- Ask your child to read to you what they write.
- Talk about the formation of letters (Letter Tt-line top to bottom/line left to right) as you model making the letter.
- Have your child practice writing their first and last name with only the first letter capitalized.
- Allow your child to write a shopping list, a letter to grandma, a text to daddy, a hopscotch outside, labels for his drawers, etc.
- Model writing for your child.

Celebrate your child’s writing! Display their writing around the house 😊

MORE TIPS...

- Practice following 2-3 step **instructions** “Please go get your shoes and then put them on”.
- Talk about and model **social skills**: sharing, taking turns, positive words, social problem solving.
- Help your child take **responsibility**: clean up messes, dress themselves, get their own snacks.

MOST IMPORTANT: Build **self-esteem**: Praise your child often and make them feel special.