Getting Ready for Kindergarten

A CALENDAR OF LEARNING ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER 2020–AUGUST 2021
Welcome!

One of the most exciting days for you and your child is the first day of kindergarten. This calendar of activities was developed by Success By 6, United Way of Carlisle & Cumberland County, Cumberland County’s public school districts and the Cumberland County Library System to help you and your child get ready for that special day.

The School Readiness Calendar is filled with a year’s worth of ideas and activities.

As a parent,
• focus on spending special time with your child.
• do these activities together at home or in the community.
• give your child the skills needed for kindergarten.
• use materials found in your home that cost little or no money.

How to Use the School Readiness Calendar

The School Readiness Calendar runs from September through August. Each month focuses on a different learning topic with suggested daily activities you and your child can do together. This calendar is for 4 and 5 year olds preparing to enter kindergarten. Each month also includes additional ideas, a list of children’s books and web sites you can visit. Add your own creative ideas to those presented in the calendar.

It is important to be flexible while using this calendar. If your child is not interested in a suggested activity, move on to something else. Since children learn through repetition, allow - even encourage - your child to repeat activities.

A Special Report Card to Track Your Child’s Progress

School readiness is not just knowing the alphabet, numbers and identifying colors or shapes. It is a complex combination of age, individual growth and experience. Children who are ready for kindergarten also have good social, self-help and physical skills and are developing a love for learning.

At the end of the calendar you will find a Kindergarten Readiness Checklist that has been specifically designed for 4 and 5 year olds. This checklist will help you prepare your child for school by helping you track your child’s physical, social, emotional and cognitive development.

We know that children have their own time clock for growing and learning which means some children will be ready to learn more quickly than others. Your child does not need to master every item on this list to be ready for kindergarten. In fact, some children will do better in some areas than in others.

Create a Keepsake Diary

A “Memories of Our Year” section follows the calendar pages. Use this space to make notes about special activities you and your child do together each month. Make this memories section of the calendar a keepsake to be shared with your child.

The “Books We Have Read” page allows parents to fill in the titles of books read together with their child over the year.

Kindergarten Registration Information

General information needed to register your child for kindergarten, as well as, a list of the Cumberland County School Districts and elementary schools can be found on the last pages of the calendar.

Have a wonderful year together as you and your child get ready for the Big Day – Going To Kindergarten!
Cumberland County Library
System Administrative Office
158 W. High Street
Carlisle, PA 17013
Phone: (717) 240-6175
(888) 532-7286, Ext. 6175
(Shippensburg)
(888) 697-0371, Ext. 6175
(West Shore)
www.cumberlandcountylibraries.org

Amelia S. Givin Library
114 North Baltimore Avenue
Mount Holly Springs, PA 17065-1236
Phone: (717) 486-3688
www.ameliagivinlibrary.org

Bosler Memorial Library
158 West High Street
Carlisle, PA 17013-2988
Phone: (717) 243-4642
www.boslerlibrary.org

Cleve J. Fredricksen Library
100 North 19th Street
Camp Hill, PA 17011-2998
Phone: (717) 761-3900
www.fredricksenlibrary.org

East Pennsboro Branch
98 South Enola Drive
Enola, PA 17025-2796
Phone: (717) 732-4274
www.eastpennsborobranch.org

John Graham Public Library
9 Parsonage Street
Newville, PA 17241-1313
Phone: (717) 776-5900
www.johngrahamlibrary.org

Joseph T. Simpson Public Library
16 North Walnut Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-3362
Phone: (717) 766-0171
www.simpsonlibrary.org

New Cumberland Public Library
1 Benjamin Plaza
New Cumberland, PA 17070-1597
Phone: (717) 774-7820
www.newcumberlandlibrary.org

Shippensburg Public Library
73 West King Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257-1224
Phone: (717) 532-4508
www.shippensburglibrary.org

Programs and reading recommendations:
Parents: www.cumberlandcountylibraries.org/Parents
Children: www.cumberlandcountylibraries.org/Children
Create a reading area for your child.
♥ Store your child’s books in a special place that’s easy to reach such as a basket, drawer or on a low shelf.
♥ Place a small rug or pillow in the area to create a cozy and comfortable place for reading.
♥ Join your child and read together in this special place.
♥ Talk to your child about how to care for books, including how to return books to their storage place.

Give your child a variety of books for reading.
♥ Get a library card for you and your child. The card is free and easy to get.
♥ Visit your library. Let your child look at the picture books in the children’s section of the library and select several books to take home.
♥ Look for other places to find books:
  • Garage or yard sales
  • Thrift shops
  • Public library sales

Set aside a special time each day to read with your child.
♥ Read with your child in a special place such as a comfortable chair away from distractions.
♥ Hold your child close to you when you read to help develop a positive attitude toward reading.
♥ Read your child’s favorite books over and over.

Let your child participate in book reading.
♥ While reading a book with your child, talk about the illustrations and information on the cover of the book: for example the title, author (person who wrote the story) and illustrator (person who drew the pictures).
♥ Ask your child to look at the picture on the cover of the book and predict what he or she thinks the book is about.
♥ Show your child how to start at the beginning of the book and how to turn the pages.
♥ Ask your child to retell the story in his or her own words.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS
Take along a book bag containing some of your child’s favorite books when you leave home. Your child can read in the car, on the bus, at the laundromat or at the doctor’s office. You can read with your child as you wait together.

Web Site
www.scholastic.com/parents
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<td>Talk about your family tree.</td>
<td>Go outside with your child and kick a ball back and forth.</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>Talk with your child about how to care for books.</td>
<td>Make a sock puppet with a marker for eyes, nose, and mouth.</td>
<td>Ask your child to tell a story.</td>
<td>Create a special place for your child to read.</td>
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<td>Talk about your family tree.</td>
<td>Yellow week, look for things that are yellow this week.</td>
<td>Help your child write his/her name using sidewalk chalk.</td>
<td>Write a note together to a special older person.</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
<td>Together, look for words beginning with the same first letter.</td>
<td>Play a board game or a card game with your child.</td>
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<td>Grandparent’s Day</td>
<td>Go for a walk with your child and play follow the leader (skipping, hopping, running, etc.)</td>
<td>Show your child how to read from left to right, how to turn pages when reading, and how to read a book from front to back.</td>
<td>Together, find pictures of animals that begin with the same letter.</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
<td>Together, look for words beginning with the same first letter.</td>
<td>Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown</td>
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<td>Read your child a story and have him/her act it out using a sock puppet.</td>
<td>Collect some leaves and count them together.</td>
<td>First Day of Fall</td>
<td>Celebrate Fall!</td>
<td>Create a special place for your child to read.</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
<td>Celebrate with a walk outside.</td>
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<td>Yom Kippur begins at sundown.</td>
<td>Select a shelf or basket to keep library books.</td>
<td>Buy a set of magnetic numbers and letters for your child.</td>
<td>Take your child to the public library and get a library card for each of you.</td>
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**Books for Four & Five Year Olds**

The Adventures of Beekle by Dan Santat
Pete the Cat Rocking in My School Shoes by Eric Litwin
Corduroy by Don Freeman

If You Take a Mouse to School by Laura Numeroff
Roar! A Noisy Counting Book by Pamela Edwards
Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star by Jane Cabrera
Gather and organize materials for drawing, writing and cutting.

♥ Help your child select a storage container for drawing and writing materials. Help decorate and label it - for example, “Alyson's Drawing and Writing Box.”

♥ Decide on some simple rules for your child for using the drawing and writing materials - for example, “Markers may be used at the kitchen table or outdoors.” or “Scissors are for cutting paper.”

Encourage your child to explore with drawing materials.

♥ Have your child draw pictures in different places such as:
  • in the kitchen while you prepare dinner.
  • in the park while you enjoy the bright fall days.

♥ Draw pictures with your child about family events and experiences.

♥ Talk with your child about the pictures and decide on a place to display your favorites. Choose a picture to attach to the “Memories” page.

Let your child see that written words are a part of daily life.

♥ Make a grocery shopping list together.

♥ Clearly label your child’s belongings with his or her name.

♥ Encourage your child to use the materials in the drawing and writing box if he or she is interested in writing.

Support your child as he or she practices using scissors.

♥ Designate appropriate places for your child to use scissors and discuss safety rules.

♥ Be sure that your child knows how to hold the scissors, how to open and close the blades, and how to hold the paper.

♥ Provide strips of construction paper and cards from junk mail for your child to cut up.

Additional Ideas

Outdoors, allow your child to draw and write with chalk on the sidewalk. Draw in dirt or sand with a stick. Use small brushes to draw with water on the sidewalk. Make large play dough pancakes. Encourage your child to write or draw on the pancakes with pencils or with craft sticks.

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www.crayola.com
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<td>Fire Prevention</td>
<td>Help your child cut pictures from</td>
<td>Read your child a story</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
<td>Help your child find food items or</td>
<td>Have your child practice zipping</td>
<td>Help your child find food items or</td>
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<td>Orange Week</td>
<td>a magazine to make a collage.</td>
<td>and act it out using a sock</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
<td>animals that begin with the same</td>
<td>his/her coat or jacket before going</td>
<td>animals that begin with the same</td>
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<td>puppet.</td>
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<td>letter as your child’s first name.</td>
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<td>Together, look at the pictures in</td>
<td>Read or tell a story to your</td>
<td>Read your favorite</td>
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<td>Together, plan and follow through</td>
<td>Show your child how to write his/her</td>
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<td>a book before reading it to your</td>
<td>child about real people who</td>
<td>children’s book to your</td>
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<td>with a simple craft project.</td>
<td>name using upper and lower case</td>
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<td>child.</td>
<td>show imagination and</td>
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<td>creativity.</td>
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<td>Take your child to buy writing and</td>
<td>With your child sort coins</td>
<td>Talk about fall and have</td>
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<td>drawing supplies for the shoe box.</td>
<td>into groups by color or size.</td>
<td>your child draw a picture</td>
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<td>Read your child a story and act it</td>
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<td>Have your child practice zipping</td>
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<td>Together, cut shapes out of paper</td>
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<td>Make a grocery shopping list</td>
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<td>With your child sort coins into</td>
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<td>Read or tell a story to your child</td>
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<td>imagination and creativity.</td>
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<td>Read your favorite children’s book</td>
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<td>to your child.</td>
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<td>Talk about fall and have your child</td>
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<td>draw a picture of a tree.</td>
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<td>Together, look at the pictures in</td>
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<td>Tell a favorite story.</td>
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<td>Together, sort or count things</td>
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<td>like socks, canned soups or buttons.</td>
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<td>Say a word to your child and ask</td>
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<td>him/her to say words that rhyme.</td>
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<td>Look at a magazine together that</td>
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<td>has pictures of people. Talk about</td>
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<td>Library Day</td>
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<td>Let your child play on his/her own</td>
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<td>with puppets or stuffed animals.</td>
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<td>With your child write a note to a</td>
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<td>relative or friend.</td>
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<td>Take your child for a walk and</td>
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<td>collect fall leaves.</td>
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<td>Play dress up together.</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Teach your child how to cut strips</td>
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<td>With your child write the names of</td>
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<td>family members and help your child</td>
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<td>find the names.</td>
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<td>Read your child’s favorite book to</td>
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**BOOKS FOR FOUR & FIVE YEAR OLDS**

- *A Letter to Amy* by Ezra Jack Keats
- *Animalia* by Graeme Base
- *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type* by Doreen Cronin
- *Stuck* by Oliver Jeffers
- *Journey* by Aaron Becker
- *Dr. Seuss’s ABC* by Dr. Seuss
Collect safe toys and equipment to help your child develop large muscles.
♥ Empty plastic water bottles to use as bowling pins.
♥ Make bean bags by partially filling a sock with beans and tying a knot in the sock.
♥ Steer and pedal a tricycle.
♥ Throw, catch and bounce balls (9 to 12 inch rubber balls).

Let your child spend time outdoors and have space and freedom to use large muscles.
♥ Have a safe outdoor place for your child to run and play.
♥ Let your child pedal a tricycle outdoors.
♥ Hang a basketball hoop low enough so your child can successfully “make a basket.”

Join your child in active play.
♥ Play toss and catch with your child using 9 to 12 inch rubber balls.
♥ Set up an obstacle course and encourage your child to steer a tricycle through it.
♥ Draw a hopscotch pattern on your sidewalk or driveway. Show your child how to hop the pattern. Let your child hop according to his or her ability.
♥ Recall singing games from your childhood such as the “Hokey Pokey” and involve your child and other family members in playing the game.

Give your child opportunities to use large muscles indoors.
♥ Invite your child to toss bean bags or rolled up socks into a basket, or a masking tape circle on the floor.
♥ Put rolled up socks in a small basket. Let your child try balancing the basket on his or her head while walking.
♥ Create an obstacle course in a room with space for moving. Include a taped line to walk on, a table to crawl under, chairs to crawl through, a book to jump over and a large box to crawl through.
♥ Suggest that your child move like different animals: hop like a rabbit, slither like a snake, crawl like a bug and fly like a bird.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS
Invite your child to move or dance to your favorite music. Try different children’s songs to find your child’s favorite. Join your child in moving and dancing to the music.

Web Site
www.pbskids.org
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<tr>
<td>Daylight Saving Time Ends</td>
<td>Have your child lie on his/her stomach as you look at books together.</td>
<td>Provide uninterrupted time for your child to play.</td>
<td>Together, find pictures of animals that begin with the same letter.</td>
<td>Have your child tell a story to a family member.</td>
<td>Help your child begin to learn his/her address and phone number.</td>
<td>Have your child invite a grandparent over or call them on the phone.</td>
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<td>Brown week, look for things that are brown this week.</td>
<td>Put on some music and dance with your child and other family members.</td>
<td>Exercise with your child. Count the number of arm circles or hops.</td>
<td>Ask your child to help set the table and count the items.</td>
<td>Read a story and ask your child what his/her favorite part was and why.</td>
<td>Have your child draw a picture or write a note to a family member about something for which he/she is thankful.</td>
<td>Ask your child “what if” questions while playing or reading a story.</td>
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<td>Remember to add new titles to your book list!</td>
<td>Take your child to the grocery store and have him/her help pick items for Thanksgiving.</td>
<td>Do small jumping jacks inside.</td>
<td>Together, move like an animal such as a snake and wiggle on tummies on the floor.</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
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<td>Play hopscotch with your child.</td>
<td>Say a word to your child and ask him/her to say words that rhyme with it.</td>
<td>Have your child use the pictures in a book to tell or retell a story in his/her own words.</td>
<td>Help your child make a picture or decoration for Thanksgiving.</td>
<td>Make a chart together to record the weather each day next month.</td>
<td>With your child recite/sing the days of the week.</td>
<td>Teach your child to wash hands while singing the ABC song.</td>
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<td>Enjoy the day together.</td>
<td>Have your child invite a friend over to play.</td>
<td>PLAY DOUGH</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Day</td>
<td>Talk with your child about what you are going to do today and as you go through the day ask your child what comes next.</td>
<td>Teach your child to wash hands while singing the ABC song.</td>
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**BOOKS FOR FOUR & FIVE YEAR OLDS**

*Duck on a Bike* by David Shannon  
*Croaky Pokey!* by Ethan Long  
*Katie’s Too Big Coat* by Jane Stephens  
*It Looked like Spilt Milk* by Charles Shaw  
*Wiggle* by Doreen Cronin  
*Dancing Feet* by Lindsey Craig

**PLAY DOUGH**

1 cup of flour  
½ cup of water  
¼ cup of salt  
3 to 5 drops of natural food coloring

**Instructions**

1. Mix together the flour and the salt.
2. Mix together ½ cup of warm water with a few drops of food coloring.
3. Slowly pour the water into the flour mixture, stirring as you pour. Stir until combined, then knead with your hands until the flour is completely absorbed. If the dough is too sticky, add more flour until it doesn’t stick at all.
Help your child recognize his or her own first name in print.

♥ Whenever a picture your child has created hangs on the refrigerator or bulletin board, print the child’s first name and ask for assistance spelling the name.
♥ Make a sign for your child’s room with your child’s name in big letters on the door.
♥ Invite your child to watch you write his or her name as you label personal belongings such as coat, sweater and backpack.

Help your child recognize the letters in his or her first name.

♥ Have your child play with alphabet letter magnets in your child’s name using a cookie sheet or the refrigerator.
♥ Encourage your child to arrange the letters in the correct order using his or her name card as a guide.
♥ Place the alphabet letter magnets in a sack or bag. Encourage your child to pull out the letters one at a time and name them.

Encourage your child to “read” familiar signs.

♥ Invite your child to read:
  • Road signs
  • Billboards
  • Store names

Give your child opportunities to recognize and name letters of the alphabet.

♥ Encourage your child to find letters in his or her own name in signs that you see.

♥ Read alphabet books with your child and allow him or her to name the letters he or she recognizes.
♥ Read a book and encourage your child to go back and look for a certain letter of the alphabet, such as the “b’s” found in the story.
♥ Place the alphabet letter magnets in order. Have your child touch each letter as you slowly sing the alphabet song.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS

Make a set of cards with the names of family members. Use upper and lower case letters as you did when writing your child’s name. Mix up the family name cards and encourage your child to find the name of each family member. These cards can also be used as place cards at the dining table.

Web Site
www.pbskids.org/lions/
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<td>Using a book cover, help your child find letters in her/his first name.</td>
<td>Organize a toy shelf or toy box together.</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
<td>Help your child trace and cut circles to make a snowman.</td>
<td>Together, play stopping and starting games like Freeze Tag or Red Light – Green Light.</td>
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<td>Help your child make a letter out of Play Dough™.</td>
<td>Blue week, look for things that are blue this week.</td>
<td>Have your child practice tying his/her shoes or the shoes of someone else.</td>
<td>Have your child write his/her name on a card and display it on the bedroom door.</td>
<td>Hanukkah begins at sundown</td>
<td>Have your child name five things that rhyme with “cat.”</td>
<td>Together, make cookies to share with your family or friends.</td>
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<td>Create a writing center for your child with notepaper, pens, markers, and pencils.</td>
<td>Together, point out the letter “B” in print. Look for things that begin with the letter “B”.</td>
<td>Take your child to the bank and talk about saving money. Make a piggy bank together out of a coffee can and start saving coins.</td>
<td>Help your child make an animal out of Play Dough™.</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
<td>Help your child build his/her name using magnetic letters.</td>
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<td>Bake cookies together. Count the number on each tray.</td>
<td>First Day of Winter</td>
<td>With your child practice the “ABC” song.</td>
<td>Together, write your child’s full name using upper and lower case letters.</td>
<td>Christmas Eve</td>
<td>Help your child practice writing the letters of his/her first name.</td>
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<td>Help your child practice zipping his/her coat and take an outdoor walk with a family member.</td>
<td>Play a matching game with your child.</td>
<td>Talk together and ask “why” questions about potentially dangerous situations in your home.</td>
<td>Have your child practice his/her phone number and address.</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
<td>Help your child find the first letter of his/her name on billboards.</td>
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**Books for Four & Five Year Olds**

- I Spy on the Farm by Edward Gibbs
- 1, 2, 3 vs. A, B, C by Mike Boldt
- Apple Pie A, B, C by Alison Murray
- LMNO Peas by Keith Baker
- Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin, Jr.
- Alpha Ooops! by Alethea Kontis

![SuccesBy6 Logo](image)
Collect materials your child may use for counting and learning about numbers.
♥ Items found around the house:
  • Blocks
  • Egg cartons
  • Coffee cans or k-cups

Use number words and point out written numerals as you and your child do things together.
♥ In the kitchen:
  • “On this package of rice it says to add 2 cups of water.”
  • “I need you to put 3 forks and 3 plates on the table.”
♥ Grocery shopping:
  • “That sign says bananas are 49¢ a pound.”
  • “Pick out 4 apples and put them in this bag.”

♥ At play:
  • “See how many scoops of sand it takes to fill a plastic cup.”
  • “Can you put 4 stuffed animals in a row?”

Involve your child in number and counting activities.
♥ Play “Simon says.” Say to your child “Simon says clap your hands 5 times.” “Simon says take 3 steps forward.” Let your child have a turn being Simon.
♥ Make number cards. Write on index cards the numerals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, one numeral per card. Ask your child to place the correct number of bottle caps on each card.

Read, tell stories, sing songs and say nursery rhymes about numbers and counting with your child.
♥ Read or tell stories to your child such as The Three Bears.
♥ Say nursery rhymes such as “One, Two, Buckle My Shoe” and “Baa Baa Black Sheep” with your child.
♥ Sing songs you remember such as “This Old Man.”

ADDITIONAL IDEAS
Ask your child to look for numbers in your home. Your child may see an apartment number, time on a microwave, phone, or laptop.
Play “I Spy Numbers” as you and your child go places by car or take a walk in your neighborhood. Your child may see numbers on auto license plates, mailboxes, house numbers, and signs with gasoline prices.

Web Site
www.readyrosie.com
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<td>Ask your child to make a castle with his/her building blocks.</td>
<td>Help your child choose two or three play activities to do today and encourage asking for help if needed.</td>
<td>Using junk mail or newspaper, have your child circle numbers between 1 and 5.</td>
<td>Read your child’s favorite book to him/her.</td>
<td>Have your child practice counting to 10 and higher.</td>
<td>Help your child write letters with their fingers in shaving cream on a tray or plate.</td>
<td>Play counting games with your child like “How many windows are in this room?”</td>
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<td>Have your child pick a favorite topic and make a list of words that describe the topic.</td>
<td>Cut the tops off whole carrots and help your child put them into water and watch them grow.</td>
<td>Continue teaching your child his/her home address and parent phone number.</td>
<td>Recite nursery rhymes with your child.</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
<td>Together, string Fruity Cheerios™ on yarn to make a colorful necklace with a pattern.</td>
<td>Help your child make his/her favorite sandwich.</td>
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<td>Read a book about winter with your child.</td>
<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</td>
<td>Ask your child to tell you a story.</td>
<td>Play “I Spy Numbers” with your child.</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
<td>Together, point out the letter “C” in print. Look for things that begin with the letter “C”.</td>
<td>Play “dress-up” and “make believe” with your child.</td>
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<td>Have your child turn the pages as you read a story.</td>
<td>Count backward from 10.</td>
<td>Reminder… Book List!! How many titles do you have now?</td>
<td>Take your child to visit a friend at work and talk about what they do. Read books about what people do at work.</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
<td>Together, count groups of ten pennies. How many groups?</td>
<td>Act out a favorite part of a story using puppets, dolls or animals with your child.</td>
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| Books for Four & Five Year Olds
Fish Eyes- A Book You Can Count On by Lois Ehlert
Your Hand in My Hand by Mark Sperring & Britta Teckentrup
Mouse Count by Ellen Stoll Walsh
Beep! Beep! Go to Sleep! by Todd Tarpley
Mother Bruce by Ryan T. Higgins
Count by Denise Fleming |
Take time each day to listen to and talk with your child.

♥ While traveling together:
- Turn off the music in your car as you and your child are going places together.
- Encourage your child to talk with you about where you are going and what might happen when you get there.
- Invite your child to tell you something he or she enjoyed doing that day.

♥ At home together:
- Turn off the TV and music and spend a few minutes talking with your child about things which interest him or her.
- Talk with your child about some things each of you did that day.

Involve your child in activities which require listening and following directions.

♥ Give your child directions that involve two steps. Here are some examples:
- Take off your shoes and put them in the closet.
- Pick up your plate and put it in the sink.
- Hop to the door and open it.

♥ Give your child an object such as a small ball or a bean bag. Ask your child to do certain things with the object. Here are some examples:
- Put the ball under your chin.
- Put the ball up in the air and then down on the floor.
- Let your child tell you some things to do with the ball. Encourage him or her to use words such as under, over, behind, in front of, beside, on top of, etc.

Use pictures to encourage your child to express ideas.

♥ Collect pictures which show action: pictures of children playing together, a family in a car or a team playing a sport, for example. Let your child look at the pictures one at a time. Ask your child to tell you what he or she thinks is happening in each picture.

Read or tell stories which have characters of different sizes.

♥ Read or tell the story The Three Billy Goats Gruff.
- Have your child show you the pictures of the little Billy Goat, the middle Billy Goat and the big Billy Goat.
- Suggest that your child draw pictures of the three Billy Goats Gruff. Notice if he or she draws three sizes of goats.

Additional Ideas

Go through your pictures with your child. Find pictures of recent events such as a block party, Halloween parade or family trip. Encourage your child to talk about the people who were there and the things that happened at the event.

Web Site
www.kidsource.com/
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<td>Black History Month</td>
<td>Together, point out the letter “D” in print. Look for things that begin with the letter “D”.</td>
<td>Groundhog Day</td>
<td>Tell a favorite winter story.</td>
<td>With your child make and send homemade Valentine’s Day cards.</td>
<td>Help your child zip up his/her jacket, put on boots and take a walk together.</td>
<td>Stack paper cups or blocks together matching each other’s towers.</td>
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<td>Dental Health Month</td>
<td>Play “Simon Says” with your child.</td>
<td>Trace and cut heart shapes together.</td>
<td>Put a puzzle together with your child.</td>
<td>Red week, look for things that are red this week.</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
<td>Lincoln’s Birthday</td>
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<td>Valentine’s Day</td>
<td>President’s Day</td>
<td>Washington’s Birthday</td>
<td>Together, sing the “ABC” song.</td>
<td>Play a board game or card game with your child.</td>
<td>Role-play a pretend argument with your child and discuss ways to solve it.</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
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<td>Make a special breakfast together.</td>
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<td>Help your child locate pictures of objects in two sizes.</td>
<td>Help your child locate pictures of objects in two sizes.</td>
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<td>Give your child two-step chores: take off your coat and hang it on the hook.</td>
<td>Have your child count the number of steps from his/her bedroom to the kitchen.</td>
<td>Read a story to your child and then let your child “read” it to you.</td>
<td>Together, go outside and look for shadows.</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
<td>With your child make a paper bag puppet of a character from a book.</td>
<td>Read a story and ask your child what his/her favorite part was and why.</td>
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<td>Read a book to your child. Have your child retell the story.</td>
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**BOOKS FOR FOUR & FIVE YEAR OLDS**

*Big Dog, Little Dog* by P.D. Eastman  
*Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown  
*A Splendid Friend Indeed* by Suzanne Bloom  
*The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats  
*The Winter Visitors* by Karel Hayes
Collect materials which focus on rhyming and beginning sounds.
♥ Collect objects or pictures of things that rhyme. Some examples are cat, hat, rock, sock, soap, rope, spoon and moon.
♥ Collect magazines and/or catalogs so your child can cut out pictures.

Read rhymes with your child.
♥ Read Mother Goose Rhymes with your child. Encourage your child to complete the rhymes with the correct rhyming word, such as “Hickory, Dickory, Dock, The mouse ran up the_____ (clock).”
♥ Invite your child to say with you his or her favorite rhymes over and over again. Your child will soon be able to say the rhymes alone.
♥ Read simple poems with your child. Encourage your child to complete the poem with the correct rhyming word.

Play with rhyming sounds.
♥ Use a collection of objects or pictures of objects such as sock, rock, hat, cat, soap, rope, spoon and moon. Invite your child to choose the two objects or pictures that rhyme and name them.
♥ Use objects found around the house - such as a sock, ball, and hat. Encourage your child to say a word that rhymes with the chosen object. Accept nonsense words that rhyme as well.

Help your child match letters to objects or pictures.
♥ Using alphabet letter magnets, select one of the objects or pictures you have collected: a banana, for example, and have your child say the name of the object so he or she can hear the beginning sound of the word.
♥ Ask your child to find the alphabet letter that matches the beginning sound of the word.
♥ Provide five alphabet letter magnets and let your child choose a picture from your collection and match it with the beginning letter sound of the word.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS
Involve your child in creating an alphabet book over several weeks. Write one letter in upper and lower case at the top of a piece of paper - for example, write Pp. Provide a magazine or catalog for your child to cut out one or more pictures that begin with that letter: example, a picture of pizza and a pig.
Begin with the letters that your child recognizes. When your child has glued and completed as many pages as he or she can, put the pages in alphabetical order. Staple or tie the pages together. Encourage your child to name the pictures representing the letters on each page.

Web Site
www.readyrosie.com
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<td>National Nutrition Month</td>
<td>Let your child paint or draw a picture. Talk about the lines, colors, shapes, patterns, and designs your child included.</td>
<td><strong>1</strong> Read Across America Day (Dr. Seuss Day)</td>
<td>Practice saying phone number and address with your child.</td>
<td><strong>3</strong> Talk about how we get from one place to another. Look at a map together and make a map of the inside of your house.</td>
<td>Together, point out the letter “F” in print. Look for things that begin with the letter “F”.</td>
<td>Together, begin to make an alphabet book.</td>
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<td>Women's History Month</td>
<td>Using letters, have your child find items around the house beginning with these letters.</td>
<td><strong>7</strong> Daylight Savings Time Begins</td>
<td><strong>8</strong> Play a game with at least 3 family members or friends. Talk about taking turns and waiting for your turn.</td>
<td><strong>9</strong> Give your child a measuring cup, turkey baster, egg beater and clean sponge and have water play time in the tub or in the sink.</td>
<td><strong>10</strong> Library Day</td>
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<td>Give your child dried beans to pour with measuring cups and containers.</td>
<td><strong>14</strong> Give your child props to pretend to play “grocery store” or “restaurant” with a friend.</td>
<td><strong>15</strong> Continue teaching your child his/her phone number and address.</td>
<td><strong>16</strong> St. Patrick’s Day</td>
<td><strong>17</strong> Give your child a problem independently today when possible and safe.</td>
<td><strong>18</strong> First Day of Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Together, make a miniature kite or draw a picture of a kite.</td>
<td><strong>21</strong> Have your child count the titles on your book list.</td>
<td><strong>22</strong> Make an obstacle course out of chairs to crawl over, under, around.</td>
<td><strong>23</strong> With your child cut out shapes and play a matching game.</td>
<td><strong>24</strong> Library Day</td>
<td>Passover begins at sundown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Go outdoors and let your child draw on the sidewalk with chalk.</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>25</strong> With your child make a bunny out of paper bags, cotton balls, and other things you have around the house.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Practice opposites with your child (up/down, in/out, over/under).</td>
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**BOOKS FOR FOUR & FIVE YEAR OLDS**

*Barnyard Banter* by Denise Fleming  
*The Bear Ate Your Sandwich* by Julia Sarcone-Roach  
*My Very First Mother Goose* by Iona Opie  
*Napping House* by Audrey Wood  
*The Cow Loves Cookies* by Karma Wilson  
*Number One Sam* by Greg Pizzoli
Add to the materials you began collecting in January - materials that can help your child learn more about math.

♥ Items found at home:
- Plastic berry baskets that can become cages and caves
- Small boxes that can become garages and barns

♥ Purchased items:
- Small toy cars
- Small toy animals

Use the materials you have collected to involve your child in addition and subtraction and “more” or “less” activities.

♥ Pretend you are a zoo keeper. Put 3 animals in one cage (berry basket) and 5 animals in another. Say to your child “Show me the cage that has more animals.”

♥ Add variety to the math games. Use berry baskets as caves for the counting bears and small boxes as garages for cars.

♥ Play domino dots with your child. Place dominoes face down. Each person turns over a domino and counts the dots. Decide which domino has more dots. Some dominoes will have the same number of dots. You may need to help your child count the dots on the dominoes. Continue this activity as long as your child remains interested.

♥ Let your child play with the materials on his or her own. You will see your child’s creativity and imagination at work.

Include addition and subtraction words as you talk with your child.

♥ “You have 5 crackers and I have 3. Do you have more crackers or less crackers than I do?”

♥ “You put 4 crayons in the box. Now add 2 more. How many crayons are in the box?”

Tell stories and read books that include math ideas, books in which characters are added or subtracted as the story progresses.

♥ Read a book such as *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed*. As a monkey falls off the bed, ask your child to say how many monkeys are left on the bed.

**ADDITIONAL IDEAS**

Help your child prepare a “math-on-the-go” bag or shoe box for travel. Let your child choose which materials to put in the bag; for example, the berry baskets and animals one time and the small boxes and cars the next. Your child can play with the materials in the car, on the bus or as you wait in the dentist’s office.

**Web Site**
www.ed.gov/pubs/EarlyMath/activities1.html
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passover ends</td>
<td>National Library Week</td>
<td>Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed by Eileen Christelow</td>
<td>Reminder…. Book List!! Have your child count the titles on your booklist.</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>Give your child three simple directions to follow.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter</td>
<td>Pink week, look for things that are pink this week.</td>
<td>Have your child name things that go together (cup/saucer, hammer/nail).</td>
<td>Read a story to your child and then have your child “read” the same story to you.</td>
<td>Take your child and a friend to visit a “kid friendly” museum.</td>
<td>Have your child name things that are pink this week.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read a book about Spring with your child.</td>
<td>Week of the Young Child</td>
<td>Have your child count the titles on your booklist.</td>
<td>Together, point out the letter “L” in print. Look for things beginning with the letter “L”.</td>
<td>Work with your child on two puzzles. Have your child tell you which is his/her favorite and why.</td>
<td>Help your child learn to do a forward roll or somersault.</td>
<td>Have your child zip up his/her jacket. Take your child for a walk and look for spring flowers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Together, sing Five Little Monkeys.</td>
<td>Encourage your child to steer a bicycle through a simple obstacle course.</td>
<td>Play a card game together like War, Go Fish, or Uno.</td>
<td>Talk about ways we use the earth (water for drinking, soil for planting food and trees). Have your child draw a picture of the outdoors.</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
<td>Earth Day</td>
<td>Re-pot a house plant together or plant seeds for a new plant.</td>
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<td>Have your child practice his/her phone number and address.</td>
<td>Have your child pick a book about a farm.</td>
<td>Have your child count the trees in your yard or on your street.</td>
<td>Together, point out the letter “M” in print. Look for things that begin with the letter “M”.</td>
<td>Sing a song with your child (BINGO, This Old Man).</td>
<td>Arbor Day</td>
<td>Tell your child a story about trees.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Books for Four & Five Year Olds**

*Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed* by Eileen Christelow

*Have You Seen My Dragon* by Steve Light

*I Went Walking* by Pat Hutchins

*Bear Counts* by Karma Wilson

*The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle

SUCCESS

The Early Childhood Initiative of United Way of Carlisle & Cumberland County
Collect materials for learning games.
♥ Materials to make:
• Cut out 2 circles, 2 squares and 2 triangles, all the same color and about the same size.
• Make matching pairs of cards with stickers or pictures of animals. For example; cut cardboard in 3” x 3” squares, place a sticker or picture on a card. Make a second card exactly like the first one.

Involve your child in matching activities.
♥ Matching game:
• Start with six pairs of matching cards. Use either the cards you have made or the cards you have purchased.
• Shuffle the cards and lay them face up on the table or on the floor.
• Invite your child to find the two cards that match.
• Add additional pairs of cards as your child becomes more skilled at finding the pairs.

Have fun as you play color games with your child.
♥ Play “I Spy Colors” game indoors and outdoors.
• Play the game by spying different colored objects in your home or outdoors.
• Begin with one color such as red. Say “I spy something red. Its round and you can throw it. What is it?” (red ball)
• Add another color such as yellow. Say “I spy something yellow. You peel it and eat it. What is it?” (banana)
• Continue playing the game by adding other colors of objects such as blue, green and orange.

Play “shapes” and “sizes” games with your child.
♥ Find the shapes:
• Show your child the shapes you have cut out. Help your child name each shape: circle, square and triangle.
• Hide one set of shapes somewhere in the room - each shape in a different place.
• Give your child one shape at a time and have him or her find the matching shape and name it.

♥ Sorting coins by size:
• Show your child a collection of coins: quarters, nickels and dimes.
• Invite your child to put together all the coins that are the same size.
• Tell your child the names of the coins.
• Ask your child to show you the coins that are the biggest, middle size and smallest.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS
Cut out a larger circle, square and triangle from paper grocery bag. Help your child cut out smaller circles, squares and triangles from construction paper. Suggest that your child paste all the small circles on the large circle, the small squares on the large square and the small triangles on the large triangle. Your child may want to add drawings to the creation.

Web Site
www.funbrain.com/kidscenter.html
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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>![Square]</td>
<td>![Triangle]</td>
<td>![Circle]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Teacher Appreciation Week</strong>&lt;br&gt;Use Rainbow Goldfish™ to help your child create patterns.</td>
<td><strong>Teacher Appreciation Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Play school with your child as the teacher.</td>
<td><strong>Library Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;With your child create and deliver a thank you card for a teacher or friend.</td>
<td><strong>Library Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Let your child solve a problem independently today when possible and safe.</td>
<td><strong>Library Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Let your child solve a problem independently today when possible and safe.</td>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Give your child a ball and practice directions such as “put the ball under your chin.”</td>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Together, point out the letter “N” in print. Look for things that begin with the letter “N”.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Give your child a ball and practice directions such as “put the ball under your chin.”</td>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Have your child name words that rhyme with “can.”</td>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sing a favorite song or do a finger play together.</td>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Check out puzzles.</td>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Go outside and help your child write his/her name using sidewalk chalk.</td>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Together, point out the letter “P” in print. Look for things that begin with the letter “P”.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Have your child count from 1 to 10 or as high as he/she can count.</td>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Black week, look for things that are black this week.</td>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Talk about things you can do outdoors in spring and have your child tell you what his/her favorite is.</td>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;After listening to a story, have your child tell you what happened first, next and last.</td>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Use this calendar to talk about what will happen tomorrow or later this week.</td>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Practice drawing squares, triangles, and circles.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Practice the “ABC” song with your child.</td>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Visit a playground and climb together.</td>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Play a game together such as “Memory” or “Go Fish.”</td>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Have your child use their fingers to count small items – like sunflower seeds.</td>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Together, point out the letter “P” in print. Look for things that begin with the letter “P”.</td>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Practice drawing squares, triangles, and circles.</td>
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<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Have your child use their fingers to count small items – like sunflower seeds.</td>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Together, point out the letter “P” in print. Look for things that begin with the letter “P”.</td>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Practice drawing squares, triangles, and circles.</td>
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**BOOKS FOR FOUR & FIVE YEAR OLDS**

- *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt
- *You Are Not Small* by Anna Kang
- *Spectacular Spots* by Susan Stockdale
- *Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stohl Walsh
- *Friendshape* by Amy Rosenthal
- *Circle, Square, Moose* by Kelly Bingham
JUNE

Invite your child to think and solve problems.

Collect materials which encourage thinking and problem-solving.
♥ Cut out pictures of things that go together and paste each picture on a separate card. Examples of pictures to collect include:
  • shoe and sock
  • flowers and vase
♥ Collect real objects that go together, Examples of things to collect:
  • baseball and bat
  • comb and brush
♥ Cut out pictures that your child can put in order and paste each picture on a separate card. Have sets of 3 picture cards. Here are examples:
  • baby, boy and man
  • planting flower seeds, flowers growing and picking flowers

Involve your child in discovering things that go together.
♥ Begin with real objects:
  • Place the real objects you have collected on a table or on the floor.
  • Make sure the objects that go together are separated from each other.
    • Ask your child to find the two objects that go together.
♥ Invite your child to tell you why the two objects go together.
♥ Use pictures next.
♥ Lay the picture cards of things that go together face up on the table or floor. Make sure pictures that go together are separated.
  • Ask your child to find the two pictures that go together and tell you why they do.

Play pattern games with your child.
♥ Create a movement pattern and ask your child to repeat it. For example:
  • step, step, jump – step, step, jump (take 2 steps forward, then jump)
  • clap, clap, pat – clap, clap, pat (clap your hands twice, pat your knees once)
♥ Start a pattern using objects and ask your child to “Make a pattern just like this one.”
  • with eating utensils: fork, spoon, fork, spoon
  • with small colored blocks: red, yellow, red, yellow

Involve your child in putting pictures in order.
♥ Give your child 3 photos of himself or herself at different ages: baby, toddler and now.
♥ Ask your child to put the pictures in order, starting with the picture when he or she was the youngest.
♥ Invite your child to put in order a set of the picture cards you have made; for example, a baby, girl and woman.
♥ Continue this activity with photos or pictures. You might use 3 photos of other family members at different ages.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS

Make and purchase puzzles for your child to complete. Cut up greeting cards or the front of a cereal box in puzzle-like shapes. Give your child the cut-up pieces to fit back together.

Web Site
www.freejigsawpuzzles.com
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Have your child talk about the steps in the flower seeds planting project.</td>
<td>Read a story to your child, pointing to each word as you read.</td>
<td>Celebrate something your child has recently accomplished – make it fun!</td>
<td>Sing a favorite song or do a finger play together.</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
<td>Have your child talk with grandparents about what it was like when they were young.</td>
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<tr>
<td>White week, look for things that are white this week.</td>
<td>Have your child practice his/her phone number and address.</td>
<td>Flag Day</td>
<td>Go to the store and name the fruits and vegetables. Have your child name the colors, too.</td>
<td>Make a picnic lunch with your child and eat it outside.</td>
<td>Have your child practice counting from 1 to 15.</td>
<td>Go outside and have your child practice a step-step-jump and a clap-clap-pat pattern.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Go to the store and name the fruits and vegetables. Have your child name the colors, too.</td>
<td>Have your child practice saying words that rhyme with “stop.”</td>
<td>Make a new recipe/food together and encourage your child to try it.</td>
<td>Together, “read” a picture book by making up a story to go along with the pictures.</td>
<td>Start a nursery rhyme and have your child finish it.</td>
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<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Have your child draw a picture of fun things to do in the summer.</td>
<td>Go outside and “paint” with water on the sidewalk using a brush or sponge.</td>
<td>Go outside and “paint” with water on the sidewalk using a brush or sponge.</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
<td>Have your child help fold clothes and count how many he/she folded.</td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Go out to a restaurant, read over the children’s menu and let your child order what he/she would like to eat.</td>
<td>Play one of your favorite songs and dance together to the beat!</td>
<td>Go outside and repeat a pattern activity like step-step-jump.</td>
<td>Together, point out the letter “R” in print. Look for things that begin with the letter “R”.</td>
<td>Together, make a collage of summer pictures.</td>
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<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Read with your child each day.</td>
<td>Together, count groups of ten using cereal like Cheerios™.</td>
<td>Go outside and repeat a pattern activity like step-step-jump.</td>
<td>Together, make a collage of summer pictures.</td>
<td>Together, make a collage of summer pictures.</td>
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**Books for Four & Five Year Olds**

*Rosie’s Walk* by Pat Hutchins  
*Sam and Dave Dig a Hole* by Mac Barnett  
*If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Numeroff  
*If You Give a Cat a Cupcake* by Laura Numeroff
Create with your child an “All About Me and My Family” book.

♥ Help your child make a book by stapling or tying together with yarn blank sheets of paper.
♥ Help your child create the cover of the book. Use a photo of your child or a picture he or she draws for the cover page.
♥ Let your child decide on the title of the book and write that on the cover.
♥ Add your child’s name to the cover as the author of the book. Write or have your child write his or her own name on the cover of the book. Include both the first and last name.

Involve your child in adding personal information to the book.

♥ Begin writing a sentence and ask your child to complete it. Add to the sentence what your child says; helping as needed, with items such as height and weight. The information should be correct and complete.
♥ Here are some examples of what to include:
  • My name is________________ (include child’s first and last name).
  • Sometimes my family calls me________________ (nickname).
  • I am a ________ (girl or boy).
  • I was born on____________ and I am_________ years old.
  • My eyes are____________ (color) and my hair is ______(color).
  • I am_________ inches tall and weigh__________ pounds.

Help your child add a family section to the book.

♥ Add family photos and help your child decide what to write about each family member in the photo. Here are some examples:
  • This is my mother. Her name is____________ (first and last name) She makes good spaghetti.
  • This is my grandfather. He lives with us. His name is __________.

♥ Include all of the family members living in your home as well as other family members your child would like to add.
♥ Ask your child to draw all of the members of his or her family on one page of the family section. Write their names under each figure as your child tells you who each one is.

Create with your child a section of the book about your family’s favorite things.

♥ Go through photos with your child of family events such as reunions, outings, and trips. Select some that are favorites. Add these to the book. With each photo write what your child has to say about the event.
♥ Make “Family Favorites” lists. Some examples to include: favorite songs, movies, TV shows, places to visit, restaurants, foods, sports.
♥ Let your child use washable markers or crayons to draw pictures of his or her favorite things. Write on the picture what your child tells you about the drawing.

Additional Ideas

Let your child share the “All About Me and My Family” book and the family tree with other family members and with neighbors. Suggest that he or she “read” what is written in the book and on the family tree. Your child may not be able to actually read all of the words. With your help he or she can recall what is written.

Web Site
www.behindthename.com
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<tr>
<td>Independence Day</td>
<td>Have your child draw a picture using red, white and blue.</td>
<td>Go outside and play hopscotch with your child.</td>
<td>Together, write a story about the flower you planted last month.</td>
<td>Have your child find things that are his/her favorite color.</td>
<td>Together, point out the letter “S” in print. Look for things that begin with the letter “S”.</td>
<td>Together, note the different types of flowers in your garden or park.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent’s Day</td>
<td>Together, act out a familiar story and use/make simple props to go with the story.</td>
<td>Create a list of four tasks for your child to complete today.</td>
<td>Have your child draw a picture of your family and have your child say the first and last names of each person.</td>
<td>Have your child describe her/his hair and eye color.</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
<td>Have your child retell a story or event in order (first, middle, last).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent’s Day</td>
<td>Work together on a project or household job. Talk about how working together helps get things done faster and is more fun.</td>
<td>Have your child describe your hair and eye color.</td>
<td>Have your child count pennies…count as high as he/she can.</td>
<td>Have your child practice writing his/her first and last name.</td>
<td>Encourage your child to dress himself/herself.</td>
<td>Talk about how many family members you have – how many boys, how many girls, who is the oldest, and who is the youngest.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent’s Day</td>
<td>Have your child name things that rhyme with “pig.”</td>
<td>Have your child count the number of steps from his/her bed to the bathroom.</td>
<td>Visit a playground and climb together.</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
<td>Together, point out the letter “T” in print. Look for things that begin with the letter “T”.</td>
<td>Together, sort a handful of various coins.</td>
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**BOOKS FOR FOUR & FIVE YEAR OLDS**

*Are You My Mother?* by P.D. Eastman  
*Happy in Our Skin* by Fran Manushkin  
*Bark, George* by Jules Feiffer  
*The Relatives Came* by Cynthia Rylant  
*Dragons Love Tacos* by Adam Rubin  
*Families, Families, Families!* by Suzanne Lang and Max Lang
Support your child’s independence.
♥ Make an “I Did It Myself” poster for your refrigerator or for your child’s room. Celebrate all of the things that your child has learned to do on his or her own by writing those things on the chart. Here are some examples:
• Put on my shoes
• Brush my teeth
• Button my shirt
• Zip my backpack
• Ride my bicycle

Practice going to kindergarten.
♥ Begin to gather school supplies for your child.
♥ Play school with your child. Take turns being the teacher. Walk, ride in the bus or car, read stories, sing songs, draw pictures, play outdoors, eat lunch, and play a game.
♥ Eat a meal on trays with your child. Encourage your child to carry his or her own tray to the table and return the tray to the kitchen after the meal. Eat a meal from lunch boxes and bags. Show your child what can be thrown away after eating and what should be brought back home.
♥ Pretend to take your child to school. With your child, think of lots of ways to say good-bye. Decide how you will say good-bye to each other on the first day of kindergarten.

Visit your child’s school and preview school activities.
♥ Attend your school’s family open house or “meet the teacher day.” Here are some things to do when you visit:
• Explore the classroom. Look at the books and materials, find out where the children store backpacks and hang coats.
• Find out about the daily schedule for your child’s class. For example, when do they have story time, lunch, outdoor play and rest time?
• Locate the restrooms and water fountains.
• Look for the cafeteria, the playground, the principal’s office, the nurse’s office, media center and other special features of your school.

Maintain predictable family routines.
♥ Establish a regular bedtime for your child. We are healthier when we go to bed and wake up at about the same time every day.
♥ Be prepared for your morning “before school” time. Getting everyone up and off to school can be hectic. Planning can eliminate some of those morning hassles.
• Designate a place to collect things that need to go to school.
• Before bedtime, talk with your child about what clothes he or she will wear tomorrow. Be sure that everything is ready.
• Have pleasant conversations with your child on the way to school or as your wait for the bus.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS
Create a school prop box. Gather items that can be used to play school and put them in a special decorated box - such as a shoebox or clean laundry detergent box. Items for your school prop box might include paper, pencils, crayons, books, watercolor paints, glue, scissors, a ball, a lunch bag, or index cards with the names of family members and friends written on them. Use the school prop box when you and your child play school together.

Web Site
www.pbskids.org/rogers/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recite nursery rhymes with your child.</td>
<td>Reminder...Books We Have Read List!!</td>
<td>Have your child practice skipping, galloping and marching.</td>
<td>Together, point out the letter “V” in print. Look for things that begin with the letter “V”.</td>
<td>Have your child write a list of words that rhyme with “can.”</td>
<td>Explore an unfamiliar fruit or vegetable together and talk about what it smells like, feels like, looks like, and tastes like. Does it make any noise?</td>
<td>Have your child put magnetic numbers in order from 1 to 5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measure your child to see how tall he/she is. If you keep a growth chart, check to see how much he/she has grown. If not, start one today!</td>
<td>Help your child “write” numbers with his/her finger in a container of uncooked rice.</td>
<td>Have your child count the spoons and forks in the silverware drawer.</td>
<td>Together, pretend it is the first day of school. Practice ways to say goodbye.</td>
<td>Have your child name letters found on cereal boxes, cans, etc.</td>
<td>Have your child practice bouncing a ball and counting the number of bounces.</td>
<td>Have your child show you what numbers he/she can write or copy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use sidewalk chalk and draw a picture on the sidewalk or driveway together.</td>
<td>Use addition and subtraction words like “I have one cookie and you have two cookies. That makes three cookies.”</td>
<td>After listening to a story, have your child tell you what happened first, next and last.</td>
<td>Together, begin to organize what your child will need for the first day of school.</td>
<td>Talk with your child about his/her feelings as the school year begins.</td>
<td>Read a book about going to school and ask your child to retell the story.</td>
<td>Have your child put a puzzle together with a friend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have your child draw a picture of his/her new school.</td>
<td>Together, pick out clothes for the first days of school.</td>
<td>Read your child’s favorite book to him/her.</td>
<td>Have your child practice writing his/her name and identifying each letter.</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help your child find words that rhyme with “me.”</td>
<td>Have your child practice his/her phone number and address.</td>
<td>Have your child practice his/her phone number and address.</td>
<td>Practice the “ABC” song with your child.</td>
<td>Together, count the titles in the book list!</td>
<td>Have your child tell you about his/her favorite part of school.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Books for Four & Five Year Olds**

*Mom, It’s My First Day of Kindergarten* by Hyewon Yum  
*Owen* by Kevin Henkes  
*The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn  
*Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons* by Eric Litwin  
*Pigeon Needs a Bath* by Mo Willems  
*Dinotux* by Chris Gall

**SUCCESS BY 6**

The Early Childhood Initiative of United Way of Carlisle & Cumberland County
Not sure if your child is ready to tackle the world of kindergarten? This checklist has been developed to help you prepare your child for school. It is a GUIDE designed to help you look at your child’s physical, social, emotional and academic development. It is intended for **four and five year olds**. The criteria on the checklist should not be applied to children three years old or younger.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I can do this consistently</th>
<th>I am making progress</th>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health, Wellness &amp; Physical Development</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Runs, jumps, hops, throws, kicks and bounces a ball</td>
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<td>Rides a tricycle</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Uses pencils, crayons and markers for drawing and writing; cuts with scissors; uses a glue stick</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Follows set routine for preparing for bed, personal hygiene and eating meals</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Uses good habits: uses a spoon to eat, closes mouth when chewing, blows own nose, and washes hands before eating</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Follows simple safety rules</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Visits doctor and dentist regularly</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tells first and last name</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Knows his or her full address and parent phone number</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tells if she or he is a girl or boy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Social and Emotional Development | | |
| | | Takes care of own needs such as toileting, washing hands, dressing and trying to tie his or her own shoes |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language &amp; Literacy Development continued</th>
<th>I can do this consistently</th>
<th>I am making progress</th>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Follows directions with at least two steps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asks “what if” and “how” questions about how things work</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Says or sings familiar songs and nursery rhymes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expresses ideas through pictures he or she draws: for example, a child draws a picture of 3 family members and says who each one is</td>
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<tr>
<td>Answers simple questions in complete sentences: who, what, where and when</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shows growing interest in reading and being read to</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holds and looks at books correctly turning pages one at a time</td>
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<tr>
<td>After listening to story, tells what might happen next</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retells simple story such as the Three Little Pigs after listening to it while looking at the pictures in the book</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matches two pictures that are alike</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recognizes and names at least 8 colors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tells things go together: a spoon and fork are for eating and a fish and a boat go in the water</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language &amp; Literacy Development</td>
<td>Mathematics &amp; Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recognizes and names at least 10 letters of the alphabet, especially those in his/her name</td>
<td>Counts from 1 to 10 in correct order</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matches beginning sounds with objects: matches the letter “b” with banana or ball</td>
<td>Puts written numbers in order from 1 to 5: 1,2,3,4,5</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hears rhyming words when spoken such as “cat” and “hat”</td>
<td>Counts at least 5 objects such as 5 apples and 5 cookies</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Begins to write his or her own first name</td>
<td>Sees a number, from 1-5, such as 3 and understands this means 3 objects such as 3 cookies</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognizes her or his own first name in print</td>
<td>Recognizes and names 3 shapes: circle, square and triangle</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shows “top” and “bottom”, “in” and “on”, and “under” and “over”</td>
<td>Uses “more” and “less” correctly</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognizes words or signs he or she sees often: McDonalds, Wal-Mart or stop signs and exit signs</td>
<td>Repeats a pattern you start: for example, step, step, jump, step, step, jump</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speaks in complete sentences of 3 to 5 words</td>
<td>Puts three pictures in order: 1. Planting flower seeds 2. Flowers growing 3. Picking flowers</td>
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<tr>
<td>continued...</td>
<td>Copies a line, circle, square and triangle</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sorts groups of objects and says which are the same shape, color or size</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Puts puzzles together</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Remember that play is an important part of learning. Your child learns best when he or she is spending time with you and doing activities which are interesting and fun!
Cumberland County School District Information

**BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT**
45 Mt. Rock Road, Newville 17241
Phone: (717) 776-2000
- Mount Rock Elementary School
- 43 Mt. Rock Road, Newville
- Newville Elementary School
- 100 Steelstown Road, Newville
- Oak Flat Elementary School
- 334 Centerville Road, Newville

**CAMP HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT**
2627 Chestnut Street, Camp Hill 17011
Phone: (717) 901-2400
- Eisenhower Elementary School
- 340 N. 21st Street, Camp Hill
- Hoover Elementary School
- 420 South 24th Street, Camp Hill

**CUMBERLAND VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT**
6746 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg 17050
Phone: (717) 697-8261
- Green Ridge Elementary School
  1 Green Ridge Road, Mechanicsburg
- Hampden Elementary School
  441 Skyport Road, Mechanicsburg
- Middlesex Elementary School
  250 N. Middlesex Road, Carlisle
- Monroe Elementary School
  1240 Boiling Springs Road, Boiling Springs
- Shaull Elementary School
  1 Shaull Drive, Enola
- Silver Springs Elementary School
  6746 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg
- Sporting Hill Elementary School
  210 S. Sporting Hill Road, Mechanicsburg
- Winding Creek Elementary School
  34 Bali Hai Road, Mechanicsburg

**CARLISLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**
632 West Penn Street, Carlisle 17013
Phone: (717) 240-6800
- Bellaire Elementary School
  899 Waggoner’s Gap Road, Carlisle
- Crestview Elementary School
  240 Long’s Gap Road, Carlisle
- Hamilton Elementary School
  735 Clay Street, Carlisle
- Letort Elementary School
  110 East South Street, Carlisle
- Mooreland Elementary School
  329 Wilson Street, Carlisle
- Mt. Holly Springs Elementary School
  110 Mooreland Avenue, Mt. Holly Springs
- North Dickinson Elementary School
  151 N. Dickinson School Road, Carlisle

**MECHANISBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**
100 E. Elmwood Avenue,
Mechanicsburg 17055
Phone: (717) 691-4500
- Broad Street Elementary School
  200 S. Broad Street, Mechanicsburg
- Elmwood Elementary School
  100 E. Elmwood Avenue, Mechanicsburg
- Kindergarten Academy at Filbert Street
  505 S. Filbert Street, Mechanicsburg
- Northside Elementary School
  411 N. Walnut Street, Mechanicsburg
- Shepherdstown Elementary School
  1849 S. York Street, Mechanicsburg
- Upper Allen Elementary School
  1790 S. Market Street, Mechanicsburg

**MECHANICSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**
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- Shepherdstown Elementary School
  1849 S. York Street, Mechanicsburg
- Upper Allen Elementary School
  1790 S. Market Street, Mechanicsburg

**EAST PENNSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**
890 Valley Street, Enola 17025
Phone: (717) 732-3601
- East Pennsboro Elementary School
  840 Panther Parkway, Enola
- West Creek Hills Elementary School
  400 Erford Road, Camp Hill

**SHIPPENSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**
317 N. Morris Street, Shippensburg 17257
Phone: (717) 530-2700
- James Burd Elementary School
  600 Brad Street, Shippensburg
- Nancy Grayson Elementary School
  301 Lurgan Avenue, Shippensburg
- Grace B. Luhrs University Elementary
  University Campus, Shippensburg

**SOUTH MIDDLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT**
4 Forge Road, Boiling Springs 17007
Phone: (717) 258-6484
- W.G. Rice Elementary School
  805 Holly Pike, Mt. Holly Springs

**WEST SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT**
507 Fishing Creek Road,
New Cumberland 17070
Phone: (717) 938-9577
- Fairview Elementary School
  480 Lewisberry Road, New Cumberland
- Fishing Creek Elementary School
  510 Fishing Creek Road, Lewisberry
- Highland Elementary School
  1325 Carlisle Road, Camp Hill
- Hillside Elementary School
  516 7th Street, New Cumberland
- Lower Allen/Rossmoyne Elementary Schools
  4100 Gettysburg Road, Camp Hill
- Newberry Elementary School
  2055 Old Trail Road, Etters
- Red Mill Elementary School
  700 Red Mill Road, Etters
- Washington Heights Elementary School
  531 Walnut Street, Lemoyne
Getting Ready for Kindergarten!

Contact your local school district to find out the dates for pre-registration. You may need to bring the following items to register your child for public school:

- ✔ Birth certificate
- ✔ Social Security card
- ✔ Current immunization record
- ✔ History form completed by parent or guardian (obtain from school at time of registration)
- ✔ Physical and dental exam performed by a health care professional
- ✔ Proof of residency (i.e. driver’s license, rental or mortgage agreement, etc.)
- ✔ Your child

- Check with your local school district to see if additional information is required for registration.

Tom and I understand the importance of ensuring that our children enter kindergarten ready to succeed. As parents, we have also seen firsthand how critical the early years are in a child’s development. When children arrive on the first day of school ready to learn, they are best able to take advantage of the educational benefits of classroom learning.

The Success by 6 program’s Getting Ready for Kindergarten calendar is an excellent resource for families, caregivers and educators to help build and reinforce the skills our kids need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. I applaud the work of the United Way of Carlisle & Cumberland County, Cumberland County’s public school districts and the Cumberland County Library System in preparing this valuable tool for children throughout Central Pennsylvania.

On behalf of Tom and all Pennsylvanians, I am grateful for this contribution to our early learning efforts. I encourage families and educators to take advantage of the interactive educational opportunities available in this calendar, which will help our kids build a solid foundation for a lifelong love of learning – beginning on the first day of kindergarten.

Sincerely,

Frances Wolf, First Lady
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
The *Getting Ready for Kindergarten 2020-2021 School Readiness Calendar* is made available through Success By 6™, The Early Childhood Initiative of United Way of Carlisle & Cumberland County. Success By 6™ is committed to improving the quality, availability and affordability of early childhood education in Cumberland County to ensure that our children enter school ready to succeed!

Cumberland County school districts provided guidance and expertise in the development of this calendar to ensure alignment to current academic standards. This project has been funded through the generous contributions of our Project Sponsors.

**SPECIAL THANKS**

This School Readiness Calendar is based on the “Getting Ready for Kindergarten” calendars produced by the Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Education through Federal Child Care Development Fund and the Arkansas Head Start – State Collaborative Project. Our special thanks for their willingness to share their work with us.

Special thanks to author *Laura Numeroff* and *HarperCollins Publishers* for allowing us to use the images from her books: *If You Give A Mouse A Cookie* and *If You Take A Mouse To School*. These delightful images are sure to bring smiles to children and parents alike as they complete the activities in the 2020-2021 *Getting Ready for Kindergarten Calendar*.

Thank you to the following Cumberland County School Districts for their $500 contribution to the 2020-2021 *Getting Ready for Kindergarten Calendar*:

- Carlisle Area School District
- Cumberland Valley School District
- Shippensburg Area School District
- Big Spring School District
- South Middleton School District
- West Shore School District

**SUCCESS By 6™, The Early Childhood Initiative of United Way of Carlisle & Cumberland County**

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