



WHAT SKILLS DOES YOUR CHILD NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN KINDERGARTEN?



★ **EXPOSURE TO BOOKS!** Children who are read to are more successful in school and grow to become life-long readers. When reading to your child, point out the author, illustrator and the letters that form words and sentences.

★ **PRACTICE COMPUTER SKILLS WITH YOUR CHILD.** Help your child become familiar with the keyboard and mouse.

★ **WRITING HIS/HER NAME AND NAME RECOGNITION.** Help your child recognize his/her first name in print and write their first name on unlined paper.

★ **LETTER RECOGNITION.** Work with your child to identify the letters in his/her name and then build on these skills by identifying letters in the names of other family members and finally to letters in print or the environment. By beginning with your child's name, they have a personal connection to the letters they are learning.

★ **SCISSOR SKILLS & PROPER PENCIL GRIP.** Advance the development of your child's fine motor skills by allowing them to use scissors and pencils in the play activities. Other materials that help build their small muscles are play dough, painting and lacing activities. Fine motor skills will make the transition to writing in Kindergarten less difficult for your child.

★ **COUNTING SKILLS.** Encourage your child to count objects throughout your house. Some examples of counting objects including counting socks, beans or toys as your child clean-up his/her room.

★ **SHAPE & COLOR RECOGNITION.** Work with your child to identify the ten basic colors (red, blue, green, yellow, orange, brown, purple, black, white, gray & pink) and common shapes, such as circle, triangle, square, rectangle, oval and diamond. If your child is ready, learn how to read the color words!

★ **SELF-HELP SKILLS.** Encourage your child to wash his/her hands after using the restroom and fasten their own clothes. Your child should learn how to tie their shoes. *Independence is a key factor to a successful Kindergarten year!*