

# Preparing My Child for Kindergarten



Ready Kids  
Ready Schools  
Ready Families  
Ready Communities

“Reading aloud to their children is the single most important thing a parent can do to prepare a child for future success.”

Carroll County United

CCU is an initiative of the  
Lakes Region United Way



## Fun Things to Do with your Child

**Talk, sing and read to your child.** Your child learns words by hearing them. The more you talk, the more they learn!

**Provide creative materials** to encourage music, drawing, painting and writing.

**Ask your child questions that can't be answered by just “yes” or “no”.** Instead of asking “Do you see that pretty bird?” ask “What other things fly?”

Talk positively about Kindergarten and school. **Your child picks up on your feelings about school.**

**Turn grocery shopping into learning fun.** Ask your child to look for items, find colors, count things.



**Notice what excites your child!** Is it animals, planes or dinosaurs? Follow up their interest with a book, song, rhyme, game or visit somewhere.



**Encourage your children to play.** Let them sort, stack and match stones, blocks or socks.

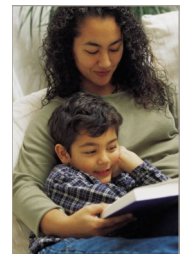
**Take a walk outdoors.** Explore and talk about what you see, hear and feel.

**Choose screen and TV time wisely:** PBSkids.org, starfall.com and Sesame Street.

**Play games together:** Candy Land, Memory, Go Fish, etc.

**Play the “I Spy Game”.** Say “I spy something red.” Ask your child to guess what it is.

**Read with your child every day,** whether it's a book, traffic sign, cereal box, grocery list.



**Some resources to help you prepare your child for Kindergarten: call your local school, visit your local library, recreation department or see [CarrollCountyUnited.org](http://CarrollCountyUnited.org)**  
This document can be copied and can be found electronically at [CarrollCountyUnited.org](http://CarrollCountyUnited.org)

# Guidelines for Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten

Your child was born ready to learn. You are your child's first and best teacher. Raising an eager learner is the goal and can be achieved easily through play and day to day activities. Here are the top skills that kindergarten teachers are looking for.

**(Your child may not have mastered all of these skills but should be practicing them.)**

## Physical

- mostly dresses independently, including shoes, buttons, zippers, coats and jackets
- independently use toilet and wash hands
- use pencils, crayons and scissors
- practice hop, skip, and jump
- can wait their turn



## Intellectual/Academic

- Sing simple songs, like ABC song
- Use numbers and counting to express quantities
- Sort objects by color, size or shape
- Understands time sequences – day/night and today/tomorrow/yesterday
- Understand up/down, over/under, in/out, different/alike, more/less
- Notice, copy and create patterns
- Express ideas with drawings and/or symbols/letters
- Recognize and practice own name using capital and/or lower case letters



- Show an interest and awareness of books and stories
- Identify some letters of the alphabet
- Understand that letters represent sounds
- Recognize and say simple nursery rhymes
- Recognize words within the environment (ex: stop sign)

## Emotional/Social Development

- can be away from parents/family
- follow routines, rules and multi-step directions
- express his/her own wants and needs appropriately
- express concern for other peoples' feelings
- respect self, others and learning environment
- understand how their actions effect others
- play cooperatively; take turns with others
- can sit at the table and can feed self
- participate in large and small group activities



If you are concerned that your child is having difficulty with several of these skills, call your local elementary school or superintendent's office.