

COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN

School Transition Newsletter

In this issue:

- The Importance of Play
- The Benefits of Play

The Importance of Play

Pretend play is an important part of your child's learning. It allows children to form thoughts and opinions about the world around them. When you and your child engage in play time, you are creating new words, ideas, and thoughts.

The Benefits of Play

Pretend play is a great way for children to explore their feelings and it helps to instill a sense of empathy in them. By pretending to be someone else, children literally place themselves in another person's shoes. The following are activities to think about as you explore playtime with your child. get ready.

1. **"What if":** Pretend to go places or act out events that interests him or her. Pretend to go to a restaurant, traveling, or a movie. This type of pretend play is a good way for children to practice dealing with unfamiliar situations or places. You can also use this game as an opportunity to introduce new vocabulary words.
2. **I spy:** You can play this game anywhere: in a car, grocery store, on the bus. Pick a letter in your child's name and see if you can find the letters in a sign or something that begins with that letter.

"Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning."

~Mr. Rogers

For more resources on how playtime connects to learning, please visit:



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In this issue:

- Reading
- Reading Activities

Reading

The best thing parents can do to instill a love of reading in their children is to read with them at an early age. Infancy is a great time to begin this exposure. As you are reading to your child, show them how to turn and handle the pages gently. Show your child the pictures in the book while discussing the colors used and making predictions. Talk about your own ideas about the book and ask your child questions.

.Reading Activities

The following are activities you can do with your child to him or prepare for reading.

1. **Making up a story from pictures:** Before reading the actual story, look at the pictures in the story with your child. Have your child draw a picture about what he or she thinks will happen in the story. Then read the book to your child to discover if the picture is the same as what actually happened.
2. **Let's find out:** Spark your child's curiosity by finding out more about something by looking in a book or going to the library.
3. **Chiming in:** After you have read a story to your child a couple of times, have your child say some of the words and read with you.
4. **Let's act it out:** Read a story to your child a couple times and then act it out together. Involve siblings or friends to make it more fun.

Additional Resources

Atlanta Public Schools online resources

myBack.apsk12.org

Atlanta Fulton Public Library

afpls.org

*"Today a reader
tomorrow a
leader."*

~Margaret Fuller



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In this issue:

- Writing
- Helpful Tips
- Resources on writing

Writing

Early writing is about exploring and developing. Don't focus too much on spelling. Writing can be a fun experience that you and your child can do together. Provide large markers, pens, and crayons for young children to grasp. Also provide a variety of paper so that your child can freely explore writing at his or her own pace. You can also use non traditional materials. For example fill a Ziploc bag with 1 cup of flour and 6 teaspoons of water. You can also add glitter or food coloring. Mix it all up and you have a sensory writing bag that you can enjoy practicing with your child!

Writing

The following writing tips can help your child develop ideas, language, and fine motor skills. .

1. **Drawing Pictures**
2. **Writing your child's name**
3. **Scribbling-Beginning stages of writing**
4. **Making up stories from pictures and writing it down.**
5. **Dictate— have your child tell you about their picture and write it down.**

Resources on writing:

www.readwritethink.org

www.scholastic.com

www.pbs.org

*“Writing is the
painting of the
voice.”*



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School Transition Newsletter

In this issue:

- Social & Emotional Development
- SEL Books

Social & Emotional Development

How children feel is as important as how they think. Young children learn better when they are able to develop positive relationships and feel safe. Positive social and emotional development also takes place when children are able to have empathy for others and have developed a positive sense of self. The early learning community has recognized the importance of providing classrooms that foster an environment where valuing respect, responsibility, and care for self and others.

Books for children on social & emotional development

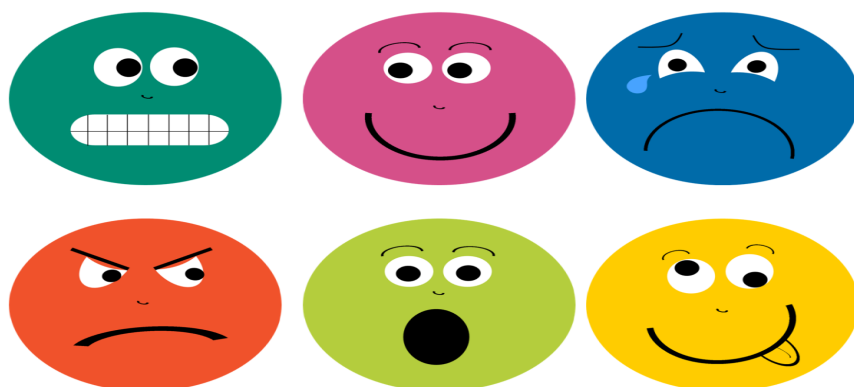
The following books are a great way to explore social and emotional development with your child.

1. "All are Welcome" by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman
2. "Hair Love" by Mathew Cherry & Vashti Harrison
3. "The Day You Begin" by Jacqueline Woodson
4. "Those Shoes" by Maribeth Boelts
5. "Ish" by Peter Reynolds
6. "Me and My Fear" by Francesca Sanna
7. "Pies from Nowhere" by Dee Romito
8. "Malala's Magic Pencil" by Malala Yousafzai
9. "What do you do with an idea?" by Kobi Yamada
10. "Rainbow Weaver" by Linda Elovitz Marshall & Elisa Chavarri

"You can't always control what goes on outside. But you can always control what goes on inside."

-Raffaella Bonaldi

For more on social and emotional development please visit www.parenttoolkit.com/topics/social-and-emotional



COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN

School Transition Newsletter

In this issue:

- Preparing for school
- Learning Begins at Home

Preparing for School

Preparing for Kindergarten can be a scary and stressful process but knowing what to expect can help. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information that can be helpful to the transition process. Take time now to begin taking the steps to be kindergarten ready! As you begin this journey, it is important to remember that as a parents, you are your child's 1st and most important teacher.

Learning Begins at Home

The following are things to think about as you help your child get ready for school.

1. **Everyday counts! Make memorable moments with your child by encouraging curiosity and communicating family values which helps to instill a strong sense of self in your child.**
2. **Talk often with your child and actively listen to what he or she has to say. This helps to increase vocabulary skills and helps raise their self esteem.**
3. **Begin talking to your child about Kindergarten so that he or she can gain excitement about this new experience.**

*“A parent is
a child’s 1st
and most
important
teacher.”*

For additional resources on preparing for Kindergarten transition, please visit <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/transitions/article/transition-kindergarten>

