

# You are your child's best teacher

Kindergarten is more work than it used to be, which means it's never too early to start preparing your baby for being ready for school. Nearly 85 percent of a child's brain development occurs before the age of 4, that means moms, dads,

grandparents and caregivers are a young child's best resource for being ready. And when your child is 5 and close to starting kindergarten, this guide can be a checkup to help you see if he's ready to make the grade for school.

## Can your child?

### PRINT THEIR NAME

\_\_\_\_\_

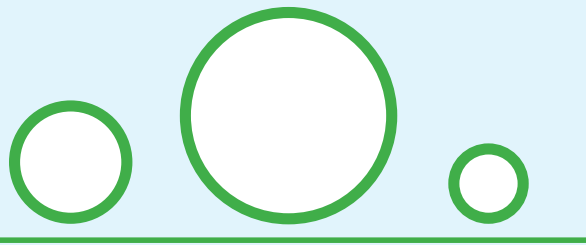
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### FOLLOW THREE DIRECTIONS GIVEN AT THE SAME TIME

1. Hang up your backpack.
2. Put your lunch bag on the shelf.
3. Sit on the rug for circle time.

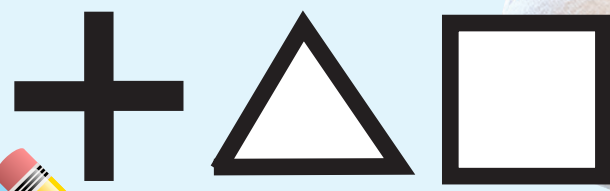
### TELL YOU WHICH IS THE SMALLEST CIRCLE



### FOLLOW BASIC RULES?

- Sharing and taking turns.
- Respecting people's property.
- Cleaning up after themselves.

### COPY THESE SHAPES



### IN THIS AREA



### READ AND WRITE THESE NUMBERS



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



Keetsa McKeithen reads to her 3-year-old class at T.R. Jackson Pre-K center in Milton. Photo by Michael Spooneybarger.

# Is your child ready?

## What your child should know and do before entering kindergarten



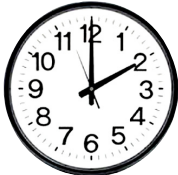
Latisha Phillips reads to her son, Kellen Phillips, 3, during the ECARE family night at Global Learning Academy in Pensacola. Photo by Michael Spooneybarger.

### COUNT THE LIGHT BULBS



■ Identify opposites such as big/little, hot/cold, front/back, left/right, happy/sad.

■ Dress himself without help, except for snaps, buttons and zippers.



■ Listen for 10 minutes without interrupting.

■ Identify the front cover, back cover and title page of a book.

### READ COMMON WORDS

the	my
of	is
to	are
you	do
she	does

### NAME THESE COLORS



### COPY THESE LETTERS

V H T C A

1. TRACE THIS LINE

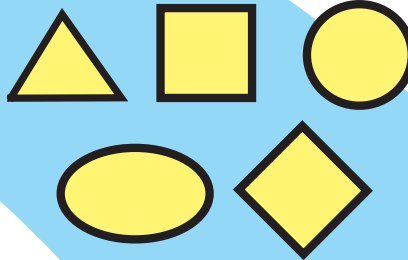
2. CUT THE LINE WITH SCISSORS



### MARK THE ONES YOUR CHILD KNOWS

- \_\_\_\_\_ First name
- \_\_\_\_\_ Age
- \_\_\_\_\_ City they live in
- \_\_\_\_\_ Last name
- \_\_\_\_\_ Boy or girl
- \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number

### NAME THESE SHAPES



"Jane hides her shoes for Maria to find."

### REPEAT SIMPLE SENTENCES BACK TO YOU WITHOUT MISTAKES



# PARENT GUIDE

A parent is the most powerful teacher a child will have.

So how can you help your baby grow into a 5-year-old who is ready for school and eager to learn?

■ Talk to your child, even before they can answer you back with words. Your baby's brain is like a sponge and every word they hear you say is food for it to grow. The more words a baby hears, the better prepared for learning they will be.

■ Sing, even if you don't have a pitch-perfect voice. Singing introduces the ideas of rhyme and poetry, which help build vocabulary.

■ Read to your child every day for at least 20 minutes.

■ Play with your child. Play with toys, crayons, blocks and things that inspire creativity. Play outside to build their bodies and minds by talking about nature and the world around them.

■ Ask questions, even before they are old enough to answer.

■ Help your child learn letter names by pointing them out on familiar items or signs. When driving and you see a STOP sign, say, "Look, that sign says S-T-O-P. It says for me to stop."

■ Look for letters on signs in the neighborhood. When you see the WALMART or MCDONALD'S sign, comment on the letter at the beginning of the sign. Ask your child to say the letter and what sound it makes.

■ At the grocery store, have your child find his or her favorite drink or cereal. For example, "You like Cheerios. Look for the box with a C on it." Point to the word Cheerios on the box and say the letters in the word.

■ Use Cheerios or Fruit Loops to have your child spell his or her name, and the names of friends or family. Use them to count, too. For example, "Your pile of Cheerios has 10 in it. My pile has five. Your pile has more than my pile."

■ Use the public library. Find books that have letters and pictures of things that begin with letters.

■ Make an ABC book. Let your child find letters in newspapers, magazines, cereal boxes, snack wrappers, or fast food bag and cut them out. Use a notebook and let your child glue each cut-out letter on its own page. When you find pictures of things or words that begin with that letter, add them to the letter page.



STUDER™  
COMMUNITY INSTITUTE

### Mission

To improve the quality of life for the people in the Pensacola Metro Community

Studer.org

RESEARCH : Shannon Nickinson / snickinson@studer.org  
GRAPHIC DESIGN : Ron Stallcup / rstallcup@studer.org