



# Count Down to Kindergarten Packet!



A helpful guide for parents of future North Allegheny  
kindergarteners

**Revised 2016**



Welcome to North Allegheny kindergarten! Kindergarten is a very special year in your child's life! This packet will provide you with some practice and activity suggestions for your future kindergarten student. The items listed are skills that are important to work on to help your child have a successful transition to kindergarten. These skills do not need to be mastered, but should be familiar to your child. We are glad you are here! Welcome to kindergarten!

## **Self-help and Beginning Kindergarten Skills**

Kindergarten students are encouraged to gain independence in many areas. Practicing these skills will help foster independence in your child while helping to make the transition to kindergarten a little easier.

Important areas to focus on include:

- Feeling comfortable separating from a parent or caregiver
- Zipping a backpack and jacket
- Buttoning, zipping, snapping, buckling a seat belt
- Putting on and taking off a coat independently
- Using the bathroom independently
- Tying a shoe lace
- Following simple rules
- Getting along with others
- Completing tasks independently
- Following direction following and listening skills
- Waiting to take a turn
- Talking with other children and adults
- Saying their full name (first and last)
- Recognizing their written name
- Identifying colors

## **Literacy and Phonemic Awareness Skills**

- Listen to books and stories
- Discuss the characters, setting, plot, and sequence of events of stories read together
- Recite the alphabet, sing the alphabet song
- Practice writing the upper and lower case letters
- Practice identifying the upper and lower case letters and the sounds they make
- Practice identifying beginning sounds in spoken words
- Rhyming (discerning if two words rhyme, providing a word that rhymes)
- Draw a picture to express an idea
- Reading environmental print, such as logos and signs

## **Math Skills**

- Practice counting from 1-20
- Practice writing and recognizing the numbers 1-10
- Practice identifying the basic shapes (square, circle, rectangle, triangle)
- Count using one-to-one correspondence (pointing to objects as they are being counted)
- Sort objects by size, shape, and color
- Making basic patterns

## **Motor Skills**

- Practice cutting straight and curved lines
- Practice tracing lines and basic shapes
- Hold a pencil with a proper pencil grip
- Participate in physical activities: run, throw, jump, hop, play
- Climb stairs with alternating feet
- Catch a ball with two hands



## Additional Activities and Resources

### English Language Arts

#### Reading with your child

When reading with your child:

- Ask your child to make predictions about what the story will be about based on the cover and/or title.
- Ask your child comprehension questions about the story (what happened, how did the story end, etc.).
- Ask your child if they liked the book or not and ask them to explain their answer.
- Ask your child what happened at the beginning, middle, or end of the story.

#### Letter Recognition

- Have a letter hunt! Give your child a brown paper lunch bag and write a letter on the front of the bag. Have your child "hunt" around your house for items that start with a specific letter (or cut things out of magazines) to fill their bag. After several bags are full, have your child empty each bag and sort the items back into the correct bag. It is a good idea to start with a few letters your child is familiar with to help their self-confidence.
- Play letter recognition bingo.
- Hang letters on index cards around your house (in cupboards, on doors, etc...). Have your child name the letters they find as they discover them. See how many letters your child can name.
- Ask your child to go through magazines and cut out specific letters or ask your child to see how many times they can find a certain letter in a story or in the newspaper.

#### Sounds

- Ask your child to say the sound a given letter makes and give your child a sound and ask them what letter makes that sound.
- Play "sound sort": say 2 words and ask your child to give thumbs up if they start with the same sound or thumbs down if they do not.
- Ask your child to find pictures or objects that begin with a specific letter or sound.

#### Writing

- To practice letter writing, ask your child to practice writing letters on dry erase or chalkboards (upper and lower case). Call out letters in random order and see if your child can write the letters (this works for numbers too).
- Cook pasta and have your child shape it into letters.
- Have your child write the letters in shaving cream (put on the table or on the wall of your shower).

## Rhyming

- Play rhyming bingo or read Nursery Rhymes with your child.
- Read stories with rhymes. Ask your child to fill in the blanks with rhyming words. "Do you like green eggs and ham? Do you like them Sam I \_\_\_\_\_?"
- Play Rhyme Challenge. See how many words your child can come up with to rhyme with a given word. Then ask your child to give you a word and see how many words you can produce that rhyme. See who has the higher score at the end. This game is great for car rides.

## **Math**

### Counting and Number Recognition

- Ask your child to count out certain numbers of objects.
- Ask your child to recognize a certain number and then count out that many objects to match.
- Count with your child and when you stop, ask them to fill in the missing number.
- Practice number writing (see letter writing for ideas).
- Practice recognizing the numbers on the calendar or on price tags in the grocery store.

### Patterns and Sorting

- Use blocks, candy, cereal, etc. to have your child create and extend a pattern.
- Start a pattern for your child and ask them to finish it.
- Sing patterns together (red, blue, red, blue).
- Ask your child to sort objects by SIZE, COLOR and SHAPE. Cereal, candy, and blocks are great items to sort! Even sorting the laundry can be fun.

## **Fine Motor**

### Fine Motor

- Use play dough to strengthen finger muscles.
- Use a "Light Bright" to help hand/eye coordination and to strengthen finger muscles.
- Use Legos, Lincoln Logs, and other items that snap together.
- Practice cutting straight, squiggly, or zigzag lines. Move to cutting out pictures.
- Practice buckling a seat belt and opening and shutting a car door.

## **Additional Resources**

- Visit some fun kindergarten-aged websites, such as:
  - <http://www.abcya.com>
  - <http://www.starfall.com>
  - <http://www.kinderwebgames.com/>
  - <http://pbskids.org>,
  - <http://www.kindersite.org>,
  - <http://twistynoodle.com>
- Visit the local library.
- Play games with your child. Candy Land, Chutes and Ladders, and Cootie are just a few examples of games kindergarten students love to play.
- Visit your kindergarten teacher's webpage, located on the North Allegheny website ([www.northallegheny.org](http://www.northallegheny.org)).

D'Nealian Alphabet and Numbers

