

June 13, 2011

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

As kindergarten teachers here at St. Joseph School we want your child to be ready for the start of the 2011 – 2012 school year. We have put together a list of ideas, activities, and web sites for you to do with your child. Here are some suggestion of what we would like you to do:

Try to read to your child every day. While reading with your child see if they can **predict** what will happen next, have them **retell** you the story when you are finished reading and ask them what came **first, next, and last.**

Say and sing the alphabet, correct them if they say “elemeno” instead of “l, m, n, o.” Practice recognizing upper and lower case letters with your child to see how many he/she can pair up (matching upper to lower). The website www.abcya.com has on-line activities under **Kindergarten** to practice this skill.

Have your child practice printing their first and last name. Make sure the first letter of their name is upper case and the rest are lower case, e.g., **Peter Piper**. You can make personalized handwriting worksheets for your child at www.handwritingworksheets.com, use the **basic** print option.

See if your child can rote count from 1 – 20, if not work with him/her on learning that skill. Show your child the numerals 1 – 10 and see if they can identify those numerals. If your child can not recognize the numerals you can practice with him/her using play dough to shape the numerals, shaving crème to draw the numerals, or cereal/pasta to glue the numerals on paper. Try the multisensory approach before having them write them on paper with a pencil or crayon.

The website www.kidzone.ws/ has printable worksheets and activities on tracing shapes, pre-printing practice, alphabet recognition, scissor skills, numeral recognition, and many other concepts appropriate to kindergarten.

Start working with your child on their personal information such as address, phone number, and birthday.

We do not want to give you the impression that a couple of web sites with on-line games and printables will make your child ready for kindergarten. Getting your child ready is a process that started the day he/she was born. Please visit these web sites to see what is expected of a kindergartener and do the activities suggested but continue to read, play, sing, talk, and play games with your child.

Children come to kindergarten at various developmental levels. These activities are only suggestions. You may already be working with your child and have other activities that you do. But if you haven't been working with your child see how much of what we listed he/she can do and go from there.

Sincerely

Andrea Lyden and Shelley Zabroske