



Getting Ready for Kindergarten

School District No. 40 (New Westminster)

Revised December 2012

As September approaches a mixture of excitement and curiosity comes over schools and households. It's time for school! Here is a list of things that young children can do that will help them as they begin their school experience.



Singing songs that have a rhythm or a rhyme

Songs that have a *rhythm* or a *rhyme* really help children *learn the sounds of language*. This understanding of *the sounds of a language* really *helps children learn to read*. You can sing to children in any language!



Drawing and painting

Drawing and painting helps children learn to *express their ideas* and *share those ideas* with others, as well as helping them *learn to hold a pencil* so that they can learn to write more easily.



Building

Building helps children develop a number of very important mathematical concepts like *more* versus *less*; positioning such as *on-top*, *inside*, and *beside*, as well as *learning basic numbers* such as *one*, *two* and *three*.



Playing and cooperating with others

Playing and cooperating with others helps children *learn to expand their growing ideas about the world*. Through play *children learn to share with others* and *develop an understanding of how others feel*.



Communicating needs and ideas

Talking with the family is a very important skill that is related to school success. Talk to children about what is happening in their daily family life. Ask children questions about things going on around them — **listen to them when they talk**.



Tying one's own shoes and doing up one's own coat

These are skills that help children feel **confident about their ability to take care of themselves** when they are away from home. These tasks also promote their ability to use their fingers to get things done.



Holding a fat pencil or marker

Holding a pencil or a marker to draw or make lists **helps children learn to hold a pencil and understand the importance of the printed word.**



'Reading' (looking at books)

Reading books with children helps them **understand the importance of the print**, and to learn the language of stories and books, new words, ideas and information. It also helps children learn empathy for others and develops attention skills. **Reading together is a critical first step in learning to read.** Talking about books with children creates an interest in reading. When children see you read, they know it's an important thing to learn.



Counting to 10

Counting to 10 helps children **become aware of the basic number system. Children learn to count when they are involved with you in activities such as helping with cooking, setting the table, buying groceries, and activities like counting stars, cars, shoes, etc.** There are also some great number books available at the local library.



Reciting the alphabet

Reciting the alphabet **helps children learn both the letters of the alphabet and the sounds of those letters.**