

LANGUAGE TIPS FOR PARENTS

For Your 5 Year Old's Learning

 Parents can continue to support their child's learning and development in kindergarten. Here are some everyday activities for you to do with your 5 year old to support their success with Minnesota's Kindergarten Academic Standards in the Language Arts.

Play guessing games like "I am thinking of ..." or "In my bag I have a ..." and take turns with your child trying to discover the answers. Give simple clues and ask probing questions.



Involve your child in conversation and discussion, taking turns listening and talking.



Ask your child to tell family members or friends about what you did at the park or saw on your drive or walk to school. Encourage your child to remember and describe details.

Sing songs and read poems and rhyming books together. Emphasize the sounds and rhythm of the words.



Make a list or card file of words your child can read. Add to it as he or she learns a new word, and point out that the list or file is growing bigger!

Encourage your child to make and send letters, thank you notes, and greeting cards to friends and family. Have a special place for paper, glue, stickers, and other materials.



Use books as resources with your child when he or she has a question you can't answer: "Let's see if we can find an answer to that question."

While waiting in the doctor's office or in line at the store, ask your child questions about the surroundings: "Can you find something that starts with the 'B' sound?"

For more information, visit:

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★ For Your 4 Year Old's Learning ★

Parents are children's first and most important teachers. Parents and other family members can work with children to promote early language skills through simple, everyday activities. Here are some ideas to use with your 4 year old to prepare them for kindergarten.

Make storytelling and reading time special, and set aside time for it each day. Pick a special spot in your home where both you and your child can see the words and pictures.



Use rhymes and songs to increase her or his interest in language. Play rhyming games. Read poetry.



Listen carefully to your child when he or she is talking. Show that you are interested in what he or she has to say. Make eye contact, and take a break from your mobile device.

Engage your child in simple tasks that need a 2- or 3-step response: "Please pick out your cereal and pour it in the bowl. Then you can add the milk." or "Please pick up the toys, then put on your jacket before we go outside."



When you read or tell stories together with your child, pause to discuss new words. Talk about what the words mean and make a game of using the new words in other sentences.

Provide writing materials for your child, such as paper, pencils, crayons, and markers. Put them in an easy-to-find place at home and encourage your child to use them.



Point out the names of things. Read signs and labels out loud as you ride in the car, take the bus, or walk someplace together.



Help your child to recognize the letters in her or his name. Encourage him or her to practice writing the letters of the alphabet.

For more information, visit: