

# WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN

## (And how do I help my child get ready?)

All children enter Kindergarten at different levels. Our teachers know this. They are trained to meet their students where they are and build on from there.

By the end of the year, most Kindergartners are reading simple books using patterns and easily decodable text.

Read to your child EVERY day – and make it a happy experience! Enjoy this time with your child.

Let your child hear lots of language by talking during the book: about the pictures, about the story, predicting what's next, discussing the character's feelings and why he did what he did. Encourage your child to make predictions as well. Draw him into what the story is about.

Look for rhymes, rhythms, and repetitions in books for young children.

Help your child understand how books work. Show the title, author, illustrator, and the front and back of the book. Follow under the words with your finger sometimes, and point out some of the punctuation. Show and talk about capital and lower case letters.

Write down some of the stories your child tells you and allow him to illustrate them. "Read" these stories together.

Point out print around your home and in the environment, such as tablet APPs, traffic signs, stores & restaurants, and packaging on their favorite food and toys.

## The Nitty Gritty

Phonemes are the individual sounds in words. Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear and manipulate those sounds. Children need to hear those sounds before they try to read or write them.

There are many activities that can be done to help your child develop phonemic awareness including rhyming, blending, and segmenting.

- Rhyming is hearing how word endings sound the same.
- Blending helps students connect sounds into words.
- Segmenting helps children learn to separate sentences into words and words into sounds.

Phonics is the understanding that sounds and print letters are connected. As your child learns the letters of the alphabet, help him connect the letters to their sounds.

The Pre-K Summer Packet ([PreKinders.com](http://PreKinders.com)) provides tips and various games to promote phonemic awareness and phonics. These activities should be done aloud with your children and are not reading activities.

Be sure to keep the learning lots of fun!

