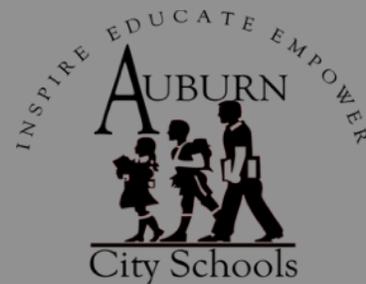
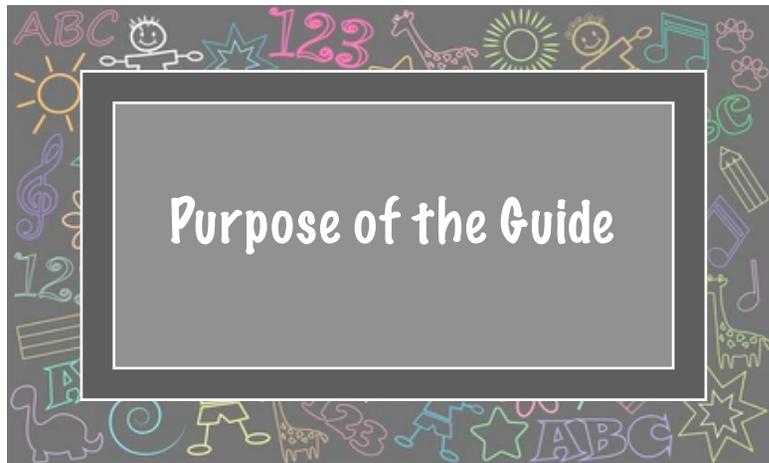


Parent Guide for Kindergarten Success

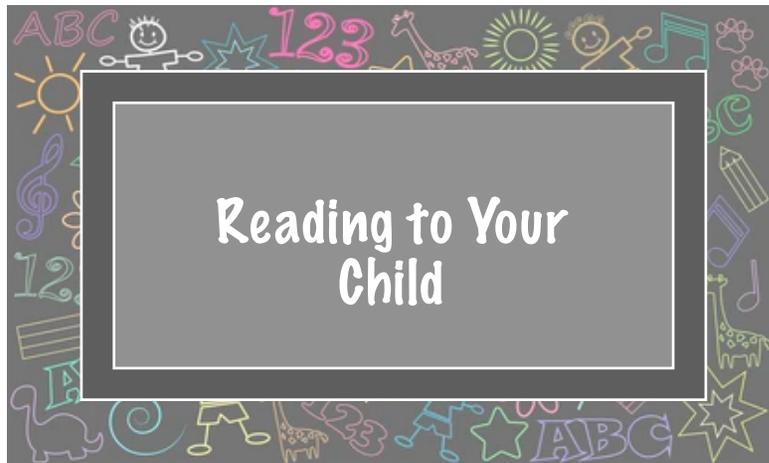




Children from ages 3-5 change in many ways. The purpose of this guide is to encourage quality time with children in ways that also encourage learning while those changes are happening. The guide provides strategies to support your child in the categories below.



- Reading to your child
- Language
- Beginning Sounds
- Letter Recognition Skills
- Rhymes
- Print Concepts
- Counting
- Number Recognition
- Shapes and Colors
- Writing Skills
- Fine Motor Skills
- Social Skills
- Encouraging Independence
- Play



Read to your child every day.

Use funny voices for characters to make reading fun and interesting.

Show your child different places with print other than books and read to them (cereal boxes, signs, television ads, phone contact lists).

When a new or interesting word is read, point it out your child and start using that word.





Oral language is the collection of all words a child hears and understands. The higher the number of words a child hears, the more likely the child will recognize that word in print when he/she learns to read.

Reading daily to your child will increase the number of words a child hears.

Talking with your child by asking questions and listening to your child answer will increase the number of words a child hears.

Ask your child questions that require more than one word answers.





Kids typically hear beginning sounds in words first. Overemphasize the first sound in a word and ask your child what letter makes the sound.

Find items around the house that have the same beginning sound. "Cat, couch, comb all start with the /k/ sound."

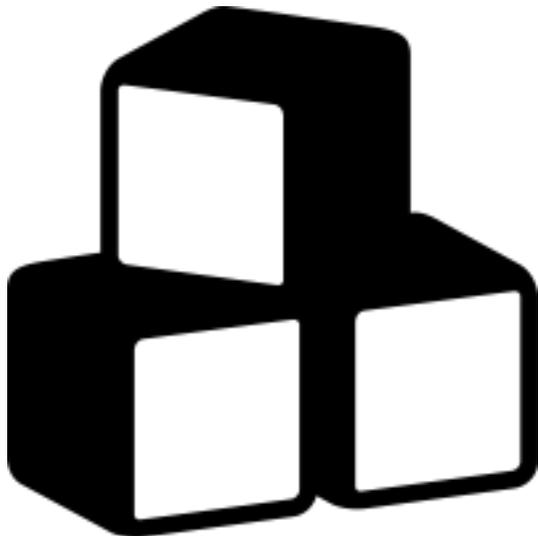
Make your child aware of the sound each letter makes. Use the short vowel sound for the vowel letters: /a/ as in bag; /e/ as in met; /i/ as in pig; /o/ as in log; /u/ as in bug.





Point to letters on packages in the grocery store or the pantry and say the name of the letter.

Use magnetic letters to play letter recognition games. The surface of a refrigerator or a cookie sheet can be used. Allow your child to touch the letter as they say the name of the letter.



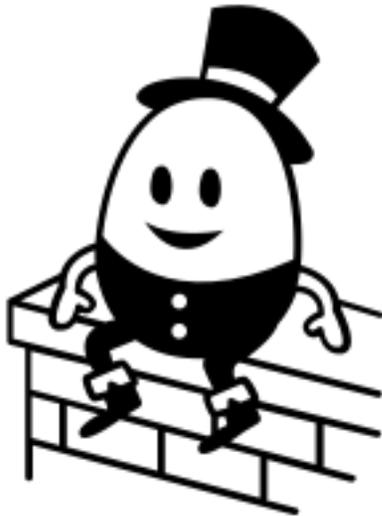
Look for specific letters on car rides on signs or car tags.

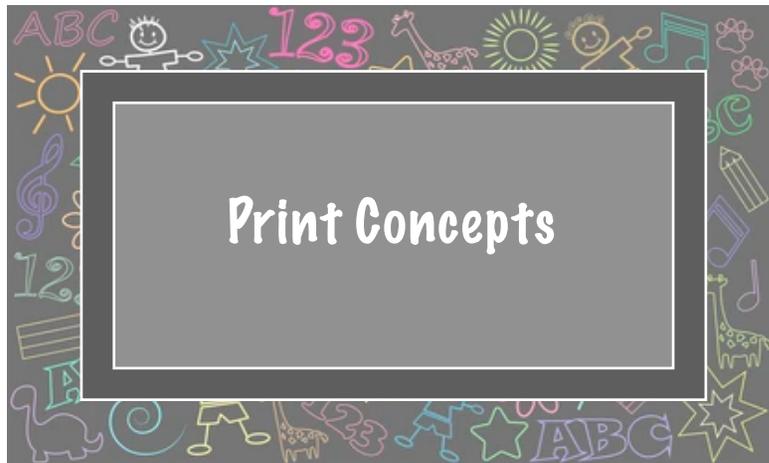
Practice with both uppercase and lowercase letters.



Read books and stories with rhymes. Even simple nursery rhymes are important.

Play games that involve making rhymes with three letter words. Model replacing the beginning sound on those words. "Let's name as many words that rhyme with bat. We will jump every time we name a rhyme." The rhymes can be real words or nonsense words.





Run your finger under each word as you read a book so your child begins to understand print is read left to right.

Show your child the front of a book and point out the title of the book and the author of the book.

Ask your child to "read" the pictures in a book. Ask your child to identify parts of the picture and tell about it.

Ask your child to retell a story after you have read the story. Ask questions about the story.





Count throughout the day. Count the number of crackers on a plate, the number of socks in a drawer, the number of fingers on a hand.

Ask your child to count a group of objects or toys in a pile. Start with piles up to 5 objects and then move to piles of up to 10 objects. Counting objects within 5 and 10 are the priority.



The game Hi Ho Cherry-O is a good game that reenforces early counting.

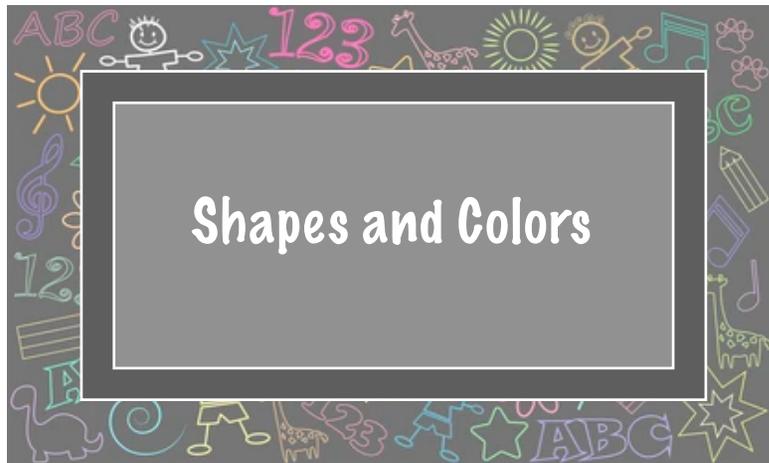


Use dice often so your child transitions from counting dots to recognizing common representations of the numbers 1-6.

Use playing cards often so your child can transition from counting the number of hearts/spades, etc. to recognizing the numeral in the corners of the card.



Identify numbers in the environment (signs, car tags) and call them out, especially numbers 1-20.



Use color words frequently as part of directions to your child. "Put the blue cup in the sink."

Point out and name colors and shapes as you drive or walk outside.

Add food coloring to cookie dough, milk, or vanilla pudding to emphasize certain colors.



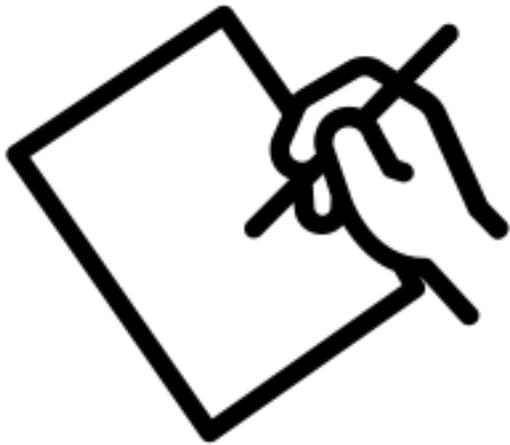
Ask your child to draw shapes on paper and cut the shapes out with scissors.



Practice writing letters, especially the letters in your child's name.

Teach your child to write his/her name with an uppercase letter first followed by lowercase letters.

Teach your child to hold a pencil or crayon correctly. Children should not "fist" writing utensils.



Practice writing letters in shaving cream (in bathtub) or with sugar or salt (on a cookie sheet) or with finger-paints. Students learn faster when using their senses, like touch.



Let your child use different kinds of writing tools of different sizes and colors (pencils, crayons, markers).

Let your child play with play dough to develop hand strength for writing.

Let your child use safety scissors and model the correct way to hold and cut with scissors. Let your child cut out pictures from old magazines and glue them on paper to create a collage.



Let your child cut play dough with scissors.



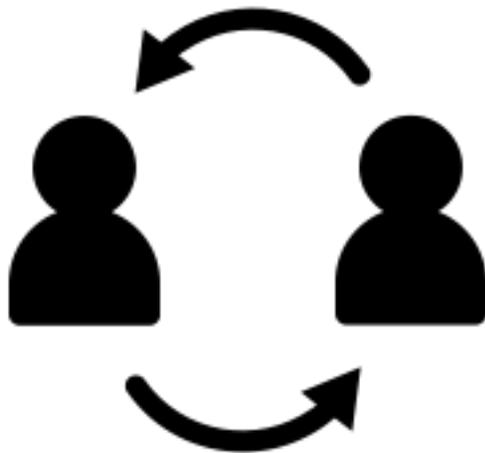
Play games in which you and your child must take turns.

Help your child learn his/her full name, your full name and, his/her birthday, and his/her address.

Teach your child to use words to express his/her feelings, especially when angry or frustrated.

Give your child opportunity to play with other children (playgrounds, church events, neighborhood).

Help your child think of solutions in different scenarios especially when your child is afraid, sad, or angry.





Teach your child to follow routines (washing hands before eating, flushing toilets, brushing teeth, putting dirty clothes in hamper).

Teach your child to be independent in the bathroom.

Encourage independence with dressing and undressing. Show your child how to put his/her shoes on independently.

Use multistep directions with your child. "Put on your pajamas, brush your teeth, and choose a book to read."

Play Simon Says using more than one command. "Simon says jump up and down and clap your hands."





It is a happy talent to know how to play.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Play is our brain's favorite way of learning.

Diane Ackerman

A child loves his play, not because it's easy, but because it's hard.

Benjamin Spock

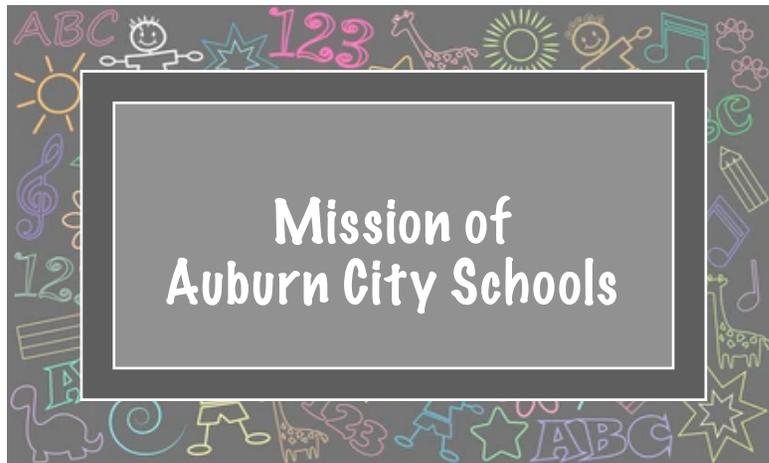


Play is the work of the child.

Maria Montessori

Children learn as they play. More importantly, in play, children learn how to learn.

O. Fred Donaldson



The mission of Auburn City Schools, the pinnacle of educational excellence, is to ensure that each student realizes and embraces their own unique talents and intellectual gifts to achieve personal aspirations while admirably contributing to the greater good, through a vital system distinguished by:



- Compassion for others
- Sound stewardship of all resources
- Synergistic relationships within an engaged community
- The creation and sharing of knowledge
- Inspired learners with a global presence
- The courage and perseverance to create our future