

# Little House Kindergarten



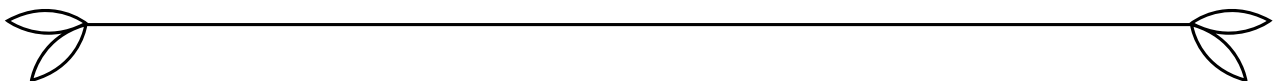
Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten  
*Parent Guide*



# Little House Kindergarten

## *Parent Guide*

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten



---

First published in the USA  
by Sherlock Homeschooling  
© Hannah Ward 2024

All rights reserved. This book or any portion thereof  
may not be reproduced or used in any manner  
whatsoever without the express written permission of  
the publisher.

Printed in the United States of America

First Printing, 2024

[www.sherlockhomeschooling.com](http://www.sherlockhomeschooling.com)  
[www.littlehousekindergarten.com](http://www.littlehousekindergarten.com)

*Cover design and illustrations by Hannah Ward.  
Stock images provided by Canva.*

---

# Simple Start Guide

The Little House Kindergarten curriculum is designed to provide a simple and effective learning experience for your child. Each day, there are two key components to focus on:

**Daily Practice Worksheets:** The curriculum includes one simple daily practice worksheet for English Language Arts and one for Mathematics that will be completed each day. These worksheets are designed to reinforce essential skills and concepts in a fun and engaging way. It's important for parents to be involved in their child's learning process. Your support will help ensure that your child understands the work they're doing. Take time to sit with your child while they complete their worksheets, offer guidance, and encourage them as they learn.

**Daily Reading:** In addition to the worksheets, it is crucial to read aloud from a high-quality book to your child every day. This daily reading helps build vocabulary, comprehension skills, and a love for stories. Be sure to include a mixture of fiction and non-fiction books during your read-aloud time.

## 3 Step Daily Learning Guide

- Complete a daily practice Mathematics worksheet together.
- Complete a daily practice English Language Arts worksheet together.
- Read a book aloud and have a family discussion about what you read.

## All Other Subjects

The Little House Kindergarten curriculum is designed to focus on building strong foundations in English Language Arts and Mathematics through simple, daily practice. These two subjects form the core of early learning because they are essential skills for all future education. Reading, writing, and math are tools your child will use across all subjects and in everyday life, so we ensure they get consistent practice to build confidence and mastery.

For all other subjects—like science, history, and health—the focus is on living book read-alouds selected by parents. We believe that for young learners in Pre-K and Kindergarten, subjects like science and history aren't neatly separated. In the real world, these subjects blend together naturally, and kids learn best when they see this integration.

By reading living books and exploring topics through stories, children can absorb information about the world around them in a way that feels natural and enjoyable. Field trips, nature walks, hands-on play, and discussions after reading allow children to connect the dots between what they learn and how it applies in the real world.

Whether they're learning about animals, farms, seasons, or even emotions, children gain a deeper understanding when subjects are woven together in a meaningful way. These experiences, combined with a mix of fiction and nonfiction read-alouds, offer a rich educational experience, making learning fun and memorable.

# Pre-Kindergarten Math Checklist

*By the end of Kindergarten your child should show mastery with all the foundational skills on this checklist.*

## **Count to ten**

- Can count out loud from 1 to 10

## **Identify numbers from 1-10**

- Can recognize and name numbers 1 through 10

## **Trace and write numbers 1-10**

- Can trace numbers 1 through 10
- Can write numbers 1 through 10

## **Identify basic shapes**

- Square
- Rectangle
- Triangle
- Circle
- Heart
- Pentagon
- Oval
- Diamond
- Octagon
- Parallelogram

## **Recognize and complete patterns**

- Can recognize simple patterns (e.g., AB, AAB, ABC)
- Can complete a pattern when given a sequence

# Pre-Kindergarten Math Extra Practice: Counting

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

## Counting with Snacks:

- Activity: Use small snacks like raisins, Cheerios, or crackers. Ask your child to count out loud as they place each snack in a bowl, counting from 1 to 10.
  - Tip: Encourage them to eat the snacks after counting to make it a tasty reward!

## Numbered Jumping Jacks:

- Activity: Turn counting into a fun exercise! Have your child do a jumping jack for each number as you count out loud together from 1 to 10.
  - Tip: You can also clap your hands or stomp your feet to match the numbers for added fun.

## Counting Songs:

- Activity: Sing songs that incorporate counting, like “Five Little Ducks” or “Ten in the Bed.” Use hand motions to represent the numbers as you sing.
  - Tip: Encourage your child to join in with the hand motions and count along with the song.

## Nature Count Walk:

- Activity: Go for a nature walk and ask your child to find and count objects along the way, like flowers, rocks, or leaves, counting out loud from 1 to 10.
  - Tip: Take pictures of the objects they count to create a little nature book together afterward.

## Counting with Toys:

- Activity: Gather a collection of small toys (like action figures, blocks, or stuffed animals). Have your child count them out loud, one by one, until they reach ten.
  - Tip: Create a little story about the toys as they count them, like “Once there were ten little bears...”.

## Finger Counting:

- Activity: Use fingers to count from 1 to 10. Hold up one finger for 1, two fingers for 2, and so on. Encourage your child to mimic you as you count.
  - Tip: Turn it into a game by challenging them to count their fingers and yours at the same time!

## Counting Crafts:

- Activity: Create a counting craft using paper plates or construction paper. Draw or stick on items (like stickers or cut-outs) to represent each number from 1 to 10, then count them out loud.
  - Tip: Decorate the craft together and hang it up as a counting reminder!

# Pre-Kindergarten Math Extra Practice: Numbers 1-10

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

## Number Hunt:

- Activity: Hide number cards (1-10) around the house. Ask your child to find each card and name the number out loud as they discover it.
  - Tip: Make it a fun game by timing them or turning it into a treasure hunt with clues!

## Number Art:

- Activity: Provide your child with various art supplies (crayons, markers, stickers) and have them create a collage for each number from 1 to 10. They can decorate each number with items representing the same quantity (e.g., 3 stickers on the number 3).
  - Tip: As they create, encourage them to say the number and count the items out loud.

## Counting Songs with Numbers:

- Activity: Sing counting songs like “Five Little Ducks” or “Ten in the Bed.” Use props like stuffed animals or toys to represent the numbers as you sing.
  - Tip: Encourage your child to join in by holding up their fingers to show the numbers.

## Numbered Sorting Game:

- Activity: Use small objects (like buttons, beads, or blocks) and create number cards (1-10). Ask your child to sort the objects into groups based on the number cards, naming each number as they do.
  - Tip: Make it a competition by seeing how fast they can sort the numbers!

## Number Matching:

- Activity: Create flashcards with numbers 1-10 and another set with pictures of corresponding quantities (e.g., one apple for the number 1, two ducks for the number 2). Have your child match the number cards to the correct quantity cards.
  - Tip: Use a timer to make it more exciting, encouraging them to match as many pairs as they can!

## Number Line Hop:

- Activity: Create a number line on the floor using tape or a long piece of paper with numbers 1-10. Have your child hop to each number while saying the number out loud.
  - Tip: Challenge them to hop in order or randomly while calling out the numbers they land on.

## Everyday Number Recognition:

- Activity: During everyday activities (like grocery shopping), point out numbers on signs, labels, or packaging. Encourage your child to read and name the numbers they see.
  - Tip: Ask questions like, “How many apples do we need?” to reinforce number recognition.

# Pre-Kindergarten Math Extra Practice: Shapes

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

## Shape Hunt:

- Activity: Go on a shape hunt around the house or yard. Look for items that match basic shapes (e.g., a round clock for a circle, a book for a rectangle). Ask your child to name the shape when they find it.
  - Tip: Use a checklist of shapes to make it a game, and encourage them to check off each shape as they find it!

## Shape Art:

- Activity: Provide various colored paper cutouts of basic shapes (square, rectangle, triangle, circle, heart, pentagon, oval, diamond, octagon, and parallelogram). Have your child create a collage by gluing the shapes onto a larger piece of paper, naming each shape as they go.
  - Tip: Discuss the properties of each shape, like how many sides it has, while they create.

## Shape Sorting:

- Activity: Gather various objects or toys from around the house. Create bins labeled with different shapes and ask your child to sort the items into the correct shape bins while naming each shape out loud.
  - Tip: Use a timer to make it a fun challenge to see how quickly they can sort the shapes!

## Shape Building:

- Activity: Use building blocks or playdough to create shapes. Have your child form each shape using the materials, naming the shape as they build it.
  - Tip: Encourage them to experiment with combining shapes to make new ones, discussing what they create.

## Shape Movement:

- Activity: Create a shape game where you call out a shape, and your child has to make that shape with their body. For example, they can make a triangle with their arms or a circle by spinning.
  - Tip: Join in the fun to make it more engaging and active!

## Shape Books:

- Activity: Read books that focus on shapes, such as "Shapes, Shapes, Shapes" or "Mouse Shapes." Encourage your child to point out and name the shapes they see on each page.
  - Tip: Ask questions like, "Can you find a triangle?" to reinforce their shape recognition.

## Nature Shapes:

- Activity: Go outside and look for shapes in nature. Identify shapes in leaves, flowers, or rocks. For example, a round stone can represent a circle, while a heart-shaped leaf can represent a heart.
  - Tip: Take pictures of the shapes you find to create a nature shape book together.



# Pre-Kindergarten Math Extra Practice: Patterns

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

## Pattern Walk:

- Activity: Go for a walk and look for patterns in nature and everyday life. For example, point out stripes on clothing, leaves on trees, or the arrangement of tiles. Encourage your child to describe the patterns they see.
  - Tip: Ask questions like, “What comes next in this pattern?” to reinforce their recognition skills.

## Bead Patterns:

- Activity: Use colored beads or buttons to create simple patterns (e.g., red, blue, red, blue). Have your child recognize the pattern and then ask them to create their own using a different sequence.
  - Tip: Challenge them to create a pattern that uses three colors (e.g., red, yellow, green) to make it more complex!

## Pattern Music:

- Activity: Create a rhythm pattern using clapping, tapping, or using instruments (like drums or tambourines). For example, clap, clap, stomp (AB), and have your child repeat the pattern. Then ask them to come up with their own.
  - Tip: Encourage them to create a movement pattern to go along with the music!

## Pattern Crafts:

- Activity: Use colored paper or craft supplies to make patterns. For example, have your child glue alternating colors of paper shapes (circle, square, circle, square) onto a larger piece of paper.
  - Tip: Discuss the pattern as they create, asking them what comes next.

## Pattern Games:

- Activity: Play games with cards that show different patterns. Use a deck of cards or make your own pattern cards (like AB or ABC). Lay out a sequence and have your child identify the pattern and complete it.
  - Tip: Make it a race to see how fast they can recognize and complete patterns!

## Snack Patterns:

- Activity: Use snacks (like fruit, cereal, or crackers) to create patterns. For example, alternate between grapes and cheese cubes or use different colored candies to make a pattern. Ask your child to identify and replicate the pattern.
  - Tip: Enjoy the snacks together after identifying the patterns!

## Daily Life Patterns:

- Activity: Incorporate pattern recognition into daily activities. For example, while dressing, point out patterns in clothing (stripes, polka dots) or while setting the table, create a pattern with utensils and plates.

# Pre-Kindergarten English Language Arts Checklist

*By the end of Kindergarten your child should show mastery with all the foundational skills on this checklist.*

## **Can identify common colors**

- Red
- Orange
- Yellow
- Green
- Blue
- Purple
- Black
- Grey
- Brown
- Pink

## **Family**

- Can identify family members

## **Home**

- Can identify rooms in the home and their uses

## **Body**

- Can identify basic body parts

## **Clothing**

- Can identify common clothing items

## **Weather**

- Can identify basic weather terms

## **Seasons**

- Can identify the four seasons

## **Alphabet**

- Can identify letters A-Z
- Can identify words that include letters A-Z
- Can sing the alphabet song

# Pre-Kindergarten English Language Extra Practice: Colors

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

## Color Scavenger Hunt:

- Activity: Go on a scavenger hunt around the house or yard to find objects of different colors. Make a list of colors and ask your child to find something red, something blue, etc. Encourage them to name the colors as they collect items.
  - Tip: Use a basket or bag to collect the items and discuss the colors as you find them together!

## Color Art:

- Activity: Set up a painting station with different colored paints or crayons. Have your child create a colorful masterpiece, encouraging them to name each color they use while they paint or draw.
  - Tip: Talk about how mixing colors can create new colors, and let them experiment with blending.

## Color Sorting:

- Activity: Gather various colored objects (like blocks, buttons, or toys) and ask your child to sort them into groups based on color. Have them name each color as they sort.
  - Tip: Turn it into a game by timing how quickly they can sort the colors!

## Colorful Snacks:

- Activity: Use colorful fruits and snacks to create a rainbow plate (e.g., strawberries, oranges, bananas, grapes, blueberries). Ask your child to identify and name each color as they enjoy their snack.
  - Tip: Discuss how different foods can be different colors and what colors they see on their plates.

## Color Nature Walk:

- Activity: Take a walk outside and look for colors in nature. Ask your child to spot flowers, leaves, and other natural items of different colors, naming them as you go.
  - Tip: Collect leaves or flowers and create a color collage when you return home.

## Dress-Up Colors:

- Activity: Play dress-up with clothes or accessories of different colors. Encourage your child to choose items based on color, discussing the colors of each piece they put on.
  - Tip: Have a fashion show where they can show off their colorful outfits while naming the colors!

# Pre-Kindergarten English Language Extra Practice: Family

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

## Family Photo Album:

- Activity: Create a family photo album together. Collect pictures of family members and help your child label each person with their name (e.g., mom, dad, brother, sister, grandma, grandpa). As you look through the album, encourage your child to identify each family member.
  - Tip: Share a fun fact or story about each family member to deepen the connection!

## Family Tree Craft:

- Activity: Draw a family tree on a large piece of paper. Help your child add pictures or drawings of family members, labeling them as you go (e.g., "Aunt Sally" or "Cousin Jake"). This visual representation can help them understand relationships.
  - Tip: Use different colors for each family branch to make it more colorful and engaging!

## Family Role Play:

- Activity: Encourage your child to role-play different family members using props or costumes. For example, they can pretend to be a parent cooking or a sibling playing. Ask them to act out a family scenario while identifying each role.
  - Tip: Use this opportunity to discuss what each family member does in the household.

## Family Member Bingo:

- Activity: Create a bingo card with pictures or words representing different family members. As you call out names or show pictures, your child can mark them on their card. This is a fun way to reinforce recognition.
  - Tip: Play with other family members to make it a group activity!

# Pre-Kindergarten English Language Extra Practice: Home

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

## Room Scavenger Hunt:

- Activity: Go on a scavenger hunt around your home. Ask your child to find specific rooms (e.g., kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, living room) and name them as you go. Encourage them to describe what happens in each room.
  - Tip: Use a checklist with pictures of each room to make it more visual and exciting!

## Room Mapping:

- Activity: Create a simple map of your home together. Draw the layout and label each room, discussing the purpose of each one (e.g., “The kitchen is where we cook,” “The bedroom is where we sleep”).
  - Tip: Use stickers or drawings to represent furniture in each room for a fun touch!

## Room Role Play:

- Activity: Set up role-play scenarios for different rooms. For example, pretend to cook in the kitchen, read a book in the bedroom, or have a tea party in the living room. Encourage your child to identify the room and describe what they do there.
  - Tip: Use props from each room to enhance the experience and spark creativity!

## Home Craft Project:

- Activity: Create a model of your home using craft supplies (like cardboard boxes, paper, and markers). Help your child label each room and discuss its purpose while building.
  - Tip: Allow them to decorate each room according to its function for added creativity!

## Nature Walk with Home Discussion:

- Activity: Go for a walk and discuss homes you see in your neighborhood. Talk about what each room might be used for in those homes. Encourage your child to think about what they like most about their own home.
  - Tip: Ask them to point out differences and similarities between your home and others.

# Pre-Kindergarten English Language Extra Practice: Body

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

## Body Part Scavenger Hunt:

- Activity: Go on a scavenger hunt around the house. Ask your child to touch or point to different body parts while saying their names (e.g., “Can you show me your elbow?”).
  - Tip: Use a checklist with pictures of body parts to make it visual and exciting!

## Body Part Song:

- Activity: Sing songs that mention body parts, like “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes.” Encourage your child to point to each body part as you sing.
  - Tip: Add movements to make it more engaging; for example, dance or hop as you sing!

## Body Outline Drawing:

- Activity: Create a large outline of your child’s body on a piece of paper. Help them label the basic body parts (head, arms, legs, feet) and decorate the outline with colors or drawings.
  - Tip: Allow your child to draw on the outline where they feel each body part is located.

## Mirror Play:

- Activity: Use a mirror to help your child identify and name their body parts. Stand in front of the mirror and point to parts of the body while saying their names together.
  - Tip: Encourage them to make funny faces or poses while identifying different parts to keep it lighthearted!

## Body Part Movement Game:

- Activity: Play a game where you call out a body part (e.g., “wiggle your fingers” or “stomp your feet”). Your child has to move that body part accordingly.
  - Tip: Mix in actions for extra fun, like jumping or spinning while moving the designated body part.

## Nature Walk and Body Parts:

- Activity: Go for a walk and have your child identify body parts while exploring. For example, “What do you use to feel the leaves?” or “Which part helps you run?”
  - Tip: Encourage them to use their body to interact with nature, like reaching up to touch branches.

# Pre-Kindergarten English Language Extra Practice: Clothing

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

## Dress-Up Box:

- Activity: Create a dress-up box filled with different clothing items like hats, shirts, shoes, and scarves. Encourage your child to explore the box and name each item as they try them on.
  - Tip: Ask them to describe the colors and textures of the clothing items as they play!

## Clothing Sorting Game:

- Activity: Gather various clothing items (or pictures of clothing) and have your child sort them into categories, such as tops, bottoms, outerwear, and accessories.
  - Tip: Use a laundry basket or bins to make it feel like a fun sorting game!

## Fashion Show:

- Activity: Host a mini fashion show at home. Have your child choose outfits and walk down a “runway,” naming each piece of clothing as they showcase their style.
  - Tip: Let them use props like a toy microphone to add excitement to their performance!

## Clothing Collage:

- Activity: Create a collage using cut-out pictures of clothing from magazines or online resources. Help your child glue them onto a poster board and label each item.
  - Tip: Encourage them to describe the outfits and when they might wear them (e.g., “I wear a hat when it’s sunny!”).

## Clothing Scavenger Hunt:

- Activity: Organize a scavenger hunt at home. Give your child clues or a list of clothing items to find around the house, like “Find something you wear on your feet.”
  - Tip: Include different textures or colors in your clues to make it more engaging!

## Dress for the Weather:

- Activity: Talk about different types of clothing suitable for various weather conditions (e.g., shorts for summer, jackets for winter). Have your child choose clothing for a specific weather scenario.
  - Tip: Create a weather chart and have them match clothing items to different weather symbols.

# Pre-Kindergarten English Language Extra Practice: Weather

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

## Weather Chart:

- Activity: Create a simple weather chart with different weather conditions (sunny, rainy, cloudy, snowy, windy). Each day, have your child observe the weather outside and place a sticker or draw a picture on the chart to represent the day's weather.
  - Tip: Discuss the characteristics of each weather type as you fill in the chart together!

## Weather Dress-Up:

- Activity: Use clothing items from your dress-up box or real clothes to match different weather types. Have your child choose what to wear for a sunny day, a rainy day, or a snowy day, and discuss why those choices are appropriate.
  - Tip: Use props like sunglasses for sunny weather and umbrellas for rainy days to enhance the activity!

## Weather Songs and Rhymes:

- Activity: Sing songs or recite rhymes about the weather, such as "Rain, Rain, Go Away." Encourage your child to act out the weather conditions described in the song.
  - Tip: Incorporate movements, like pretending to fall like rain or blow like the wind, to make it more interactive!

## Nature Walk:

- Activity: Go for a walk outside and observe the weather. Ask your child to describe what they see (e.g., fluffy clouds, falling leaves) and talk about how it feels (e.g., warm, chilly).
  - Tip: Collect items from nature that relate to the weather, such as leaves or stones, to discuss how weather affects the environment.

## Weather Art:

- Activity: Provide your child with art supplies to create weather-themed artwork. They can paint or draw sunny skies, rainy days, or snowy scenes, then label each piece with the corresponding weather term.
  - Tip: Encourage creativity by adding elements like cotton balls for clouds or glitter for sunshine!

## Weather Station:

- Activity: Set up a mini weather station at home with tools like a thermometer (to measure temperature) and a rain gauge (to measure rainfall). Teach your child how to use these tools to track the weather.
  - Tip: Discuss the significance of different weather conditions and how they impact our daily lives.



# Pre-Kindergarten English Language Extra Practice: Seasons

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

## Seasonal Sorting:

- Activity: Create a set of cards or pictures representing different elements from each season (e.g., snowflakes for winter, flowers for spring, sun for summer, leaves for fall). Have your child sort the cards into four groups based on the seasons.
  - Tip: Discuss the characteristics of each season as you sort together!

## Seasonal Nature Walk:

- Activity: Take a walk outside and observe the changes in nature for each season. Discuss what you see (e.g., blooming flowers in spring, colorful leaves in fall) and encourage your child to collect items that represent each season (like leaves, flowers, or acorns).
  - Tip: Take photos of seasonal changes to create a visual scrapbook of the seasons.

## Seasonal Art:

- Activity: Provide your child with art supplies to create a picture for each season. They can paint or draw scenes like a snowy landscape for winter, a sunny beach for summer, or a pumpkin patch for fall.
  - Tip: Use seasonal items for crafts, like gluing real leaves for fall art or cotton balls for winter snow!

## Seasonal Sensory Bins:

- Activity: Create sensory bins for each season. For winter, use fake snow; for spring, use flower petals; for summer, use sand or water; and for fall, use dried leaves. Let your child explore the materials while discussing each season.
  - Tip: Include seasonal toys or figurines, like snowmen for winter or beach toys for summer!

## Seasonal Songs and Rhymes:

- Activity: Sing songs or recite rhymes about the seasons, such as “Spring is Here” or “Jingle Bells.” Encourage your child to act out the changes that occur in each season as you sing.
  - Tip: Incorporate movements, like pretending to rake leaves for fall or making snow angels for winter!

## Seasonal Calendar:

- Activity: Create a simple calendar at home with your child. Mark the start of each season and add drawings or pictures that represent the weather and activities for each season.
  - Tip: Use stickers to mark special seasonal events, like holidays or family activities!

## Cooking with the Seasons:

- Activity: Involve your child in cooking or baking seasonal recipes, such as making pumpkin pie in the fall or fruit salad in the summer. Discuss the seasonal ingredients you use.
  - Tip: Talk about how certain foods are associated with different seasons and why that is!

# Pre-Kindergarten English Language Extra Practice: Alphabet

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

## Alphabet Hunt:

- Activity: Create a scavenger hunt around your home or yard. Hide objects that start with each letter of the alphabet (e.g., an apple for A, a ball for B). As your child finds each item, have them say the letter and the corresponding word.
  - Tip: Keep a checklist of the letters and words found to track progress!

## Alphabet Art:

- Activity: Provide your child with a large sheet of paper and art supplies. Have them draw or color pictures of items that start with each letter, creating an "Alphabet Book."
  - Tip: Encourage them to decorate each letter with fun designs or textures (like cotton balls for "C" for cloud).

## Singing the Alphabet Song:

- Activity: Sing the alphabet song together regularly. To make it more fun, incorporate movements like jumping for each letter or clapping along.
  - Tip: Use a musical instrument (like a tambourine or maracas) to add rhythm while singing!

## Alphabet Games:

- Activity: Play games like "Alphabet Bingo" or "Alphabet Memory." Create cards with letters and words. As you play, encourage your child to say the letters and words out loud.
  - Tip: Mix in uppercase and lowercase letters to reinforce recognition!

## Letter of the Day:

- Activity: Choose a letter of the day and focus on it throughout the day. Find objects, toys, or foods that start with that letter. Encourage your child to point them out or draw them.
  - Tip: At the end of the day, review the letter and the words they discovered together!

## Storytime with Letters:

- Activity: Read books that emphasize the alphabet, such as "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom" or "The Alphabet Book". Point out the letters and words as you read.
  - Tip: Ask your child to find certain letters in the book while you read together.

## Alphabet Collage:

- Activity: Create a collage using cut-out pictures from magazines or printed images that start with each letter of the alphabet. Glue them onto a poster board next to the corresponding letter.
  - Tip: Hang the collage in a prominent place to reinforce letter recognition!

## Alphabet Sensory Bin:

- Activity: Fill a bin with rice or sand and hide plastic letters or small toys that represent each letter. Encourage your child to dig through the bin to find and identify the letters.
  - Tip: Let them practice writing the letters in the sensory material with their fingers!

# Kindergarten Math Checklist

*By the end of Kindergarten your child should show mastery with all the foundational skills on this checklist.*

## **Numbers to 20**

- Can count out loud from 0 to 20
- Can recognize and name numbers 0 through 20
- Can write numbers 0 through 20

## **Count to 100 with assistance**

- Can count out loud from 1 to 100 with assistance
- Can count by 10s to 100 with assistance
- Can count by 2s to 100 with assistance
- Can count by 5s to 100 with assistance

## **Identify and draw basic shapes**

- Triangle
- Circle
- Rectangle
- Square
- Oval
- Star
- Heart
- Diamond
- Hexagon
- Pentagon
- Octagon
- Parallelogram

## **Addition Problems and Subtraction Problems**

- Can solve addition problems up to 10
- Can solve subtraction problems up to 10

## **Size comparison**

- Can compare sizes (bigger, smaller, the same)

## **Bar graphs**

- Can read basic bar graphs
- Can create basic bar graphs

## **Reading clocks**

- Can read digital clocks to the hour
- Can read analog clocks to the hour

## **Recognize and complete patterns**

- Can recognize patterns (ABA, ABC, AAB, etc.)
- Can complete basic patterns

## **Positional words**

- Can recognize positional words (beside, above, under, behind, inside, between)

# Kindergarten Math Extra Practice: Counting

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

## Numbers to 20

### Counting Out Loud:

- Activity: Have your child count out loud from 0 to 20. You can make it a game by counting together while jumping, clapping, or doing silly dances.
  - Tip: If they get stuck, gently remind them of the next number.

### Number Recognition:

- Activity: Create flashcards with the numbers 0 through 20. Show a card and ask your child to say the number out loud. You can also mix up the cards and ask them to find specific numbers.
  - Tip: Use everyday items like toys or snacks to represent each number. For example, “Can you find the card for 5? Let’s count out 5 toys!”

### Writing Numbers:

- Activity: Provide paper and crayons or markers for your child to practice writing numbers from 0 to 20. You can write the numbers first and let them trace over them, or ask them to write them independently. Children can also write their numbers on the sidewalk with chalk, in a shallow tray of sand or salt, or on a plate covered in shaving cream.
  - Tip: Make it fun by having them decorate their numbers with drawings or stickers!

## Count to 100 with Assistance

### Counting to 100:

- Activity: Sit together and count out loud from 1 to 100. You can use a number chart to help guide them.
  - Tip: If they struggle, count a few numbers together, then let them continue while you support them.

### Counting by 10s:

- Activity: Use objects like blocks or coins to help count by 10s. Count out 10 items, then another 10, and so on, up to 100.
  - Tip: Make a song or rhyme to help remember the sequence (10, 20, 30...).

### Counting by 2s:

- Activity: Gather pairs of items (like socks or shoes) and count them by 2s. For example, “Let’s count these 6 socks by 2s: 2, 4, 6!”
  - Tip: Use a fun visual like hopping or skipping to demonstrate counting by 2s.

### Counting by 5s:

- Activity: Use items like fingers or groups of 5 toys to count by 5s. For example, “Let’s count these 15 blocks by 5s: 5, 10, 15!”
  - Tip: Create a game where you clap your hands together while counting by 5s.

# Kindergarten Math Extra Practice: Shapes

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

## Shape Hunt:

- Activity: Go on a shape hunt around your home or yard. Ask your child to look for items that match the following shapes: triangle, circle, rectangle, square, oval, star, heart, diamond, hexagon, pentagon, octagon, and parallelogram.
  - Tip: Encourage them to point out shapes they see in everyday objects, like a clock (circle) or a window (rectangle).

## Shape Sorting:

- Activity: Gather a variety of objects (like blocks, buttons, or paper cutouts) and have your child sort them by shape. Create separate piles for each shape.
  - Tip: While sorting, name each shape together to reinforce recognition.

## Drawing Shapes:

- Activity: Provide paper and crayons or markers for your child to draw each shape. Start by showing them how to draw a shape, and then let them try on their own.
  - Tip: Encourage them to decorate their shapes with colors, patterns, or stickers to make it more fun!

## Shape Art:

- Activity: Create a shape collage by cutting out shapes from colored paper. Help your child glue the shapes onto a larger sheet of paper to make a picture or design.
  - Tip: Ask them to tell you about their artwork and the shapes they used.

## Shape Songs and Rhymes:

- Activity: Sing songs or read rhymes about shapes together. You can find fun videos or songs online that teach shapes in an engaging way.
  - Tip: Encourage your child to act out the shapes with their body (like making a star shape with their arms).

## Shape Games:

- Activity: Play games like “Simon Says” using shapes. For example, say, “Simon says touch something that is a circle,” or “Simon says draw a star in the air.”
  - Tip: Incorporate movement by asking them to hop to different shapes if you have them drawn on the ground.

# Kindergarten Math Extra Practice: Addition and Subtraction

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

## Using Objects:

- Activity: Use everyday items like buttons, blocks, or snacks for both addition and subtraction. For example, place 3 blocks down and ask, "If I add 2 more blocks, how many do we have now?" Then, remove 2 blocks and ask, "Now how many blocks are left?"
  - Tip: Encourage your child to count the blocks out loud as they add or take away to reinforce their understanding.

## Finger Counting:

- Activity: Have your child use their fingers to solve both addition and subtraction problems. For example, if you say, "What is 2 plus 3?" they can hold up 2 fingers on one hand and 3 on the other, then count all their fingers. For subtraction, if you say, "What is 5 minus 2?" they can start with 5 fingers and fold down 2 to see how many are left.
  - Tip: This method helps them visualize addition as combining groups and subtraction as taking away.

## Nature Walk:

- Activity: Go on a nature walk and collect small items like leaves, rocks, or flowers. Once home, use these items to create addition and subtraction problems. For example, if you collect 4 leaves and then find 3 more, ask, "How many leaves do we have now?" Then, if you take away 2 leaves, ask, "How many are left?"
  - Tip: Use this opportunity to talk about nature while practicing math!

## Cooking Together:

- Activity: Involve your child in cooking by measuring ingredients. For example, if a recipe calls for 2 cups of flour and you want to double it, ask, "How many cups do we need?" ( $2 + 2 = 4$ ). If you need to remove 1 cup for a smaller batch, ask, "How many cups are left now?" ( $4 - 1 = 3$ ).
  - Tip: This activity not only reinforces math skills but also teaches them about cooking and measuring.

## Math Stories:

- Activity: Create simple stories involving both addition and subtraction. For example, "You have 2 apples, and I give you 3 more apples. How many do you have now?" Then say, "If you eat 2 apples, how many do you have left?"
  - Tip: Use drawings, toys, or real objects to represent the stories visually for better understanding.

## Number Line:

- Activity: Draw a number line from 0 to 10 on a piece of paper. Help your child use the number line for both addition and subtraction problems. For addition, start at the first number and hop forward. For subtraction, start at the first number and hop backward.
  - Tip: Make it a fun game by asking them to "jump" with their finger to the right number for addition and to the left number for subtraction.

# Kindergarten Math Extra Practice: Size Comparison

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

## Nature Exploration:

- Activity: Go on a nature walk and collect different natural items like leaves, rocks, or sticks. Once home, help your child compare the sizes of the items. Ask questions like, “Which leaf is bigger?” or “Are these rocks the same size?”
  - Tip: Encourage them to group the items by size (big, medium, small) to reinforce their understanding.

## Crafts:

- Activity: Gather various craft supplies, such as different sizes of paper, fabric scraps, or buttons. Have your child create a collage using the items, and while they work, ask them to compare the sizes. For example, “Which paper is bigger?” or “Is this button smaller than that one?”
  - Tip: This hands-on activity allows them to explore size in a creative way.

## Cooking Together:

- Activity: When cooking, compare the sizes of ingredients. For instance, use different-sized measuring cups to show which one is bigger or smaller. Ask, “Which cup holds more?” or “Is this teaspoon bigger or smaller than the tablespoon?”
  - Tip: This not only helps with size comparison but also reinforces measurement concepts.

## Comparing Animal Sizes:

- Activity: Use books or pictures to explore different animals and compare their sizes. Ask questions like, “Which animal is bigger, an elephant or a mouse?” or “Are a dog and a cat the same size?”
  - Tip: You can create a fun chart showing different animals and their sizes for visual comparison.

## Clothing Sorting:

- Activity: Gather a pile of clothing items, such as shirts, pants, or socks. Have your child sort them by size (big, medium, small). You can also compare items, asking questions like, “Which shirt is bigger?” or “Do these socks look the same size?”
  - Tip: This practical activity reinforces size comparison while helping with organization skills.

## Using Everyday Objects:

- Activity: Gather a variety of household objects like toys, utensils, or books. Have your child compare the sizes of the objects and group them accordingly. For example, “Which toy is bigger?” or “Do you think this book is smaller than that one?”
  - Tip: Encourage them to use descriptive words like “bigger,” “smaller,” or “the same” as they compare.

# Kindergarten Math Extra Practice: Bar Graphs

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

## Using Everyday Objects:

- Activity: Collect different household items, such as toys, blocks, or fruit. Have your child categorize the items by type (e.g., cars, dolls, blocks) and then create a simple bar graph using paper or a whiteboard. Each type of item can have a different colored bar that corresponds to the number of items in each category.
  - Tip: Help them label the graph with the names of the items and count how many of each item there are to create the bars.

## Nature Exploration:

- Activity: Go on a nature walk and collect items like leaves, rocks, or flowers. Once home, help your child categorize the items and create a bar graph to represent how many of each type they collected. For example, if they found 3 maple leaves and 5 oak leaves, the bar graph can show these quantities visually.
  - Tip: Use chalk to make a bar graph and create the nature bar graph on the sidewalk with the objects you found.

## Favorite Foods Survey:

- Activity: Conduct a mini-survey with family members about their favorite foods. Ask each person to choose their favorite from a list (e.g., pizza, pasta, salad, ice cream). Create a bar graph with your child that represents the results of the survey, with each bar showing how many people chose each food.
  - Tip: Encourage your child to color the bars and label them with the food drawings.

## Bar Graphs with Cooking:

- Activity: While cooking or baking, use measuring cups or spoons to measure different ingredients. For example, if you use 2 cups of flour, 1 cup of sugar, and 3 cups of water, help your child create a bar graph showing the amount of each ingredient used.
  - Tip: This practical application helps them understand the concept of bar graphs in a fun and delicious way!

## Daily Activities Chart:

- Activity: Keep track of daily activities for a week, like how many minutes they spend reading, playing outside, or watching TV. At the end of the week, help your child create a bar graph that shows the amount of time spent on each activity.
  - Tip: Use different colors for each activity and encourage them to discuss their graph and what it shows.

## Comparing Sizes:

- Activity: Create a bar graph comparing the sizes of various items around the house. For example, measure the height of different books or toys and create a bar graph that shows which item is the tallest, shortest, and so on.
  - Tip: Use a ruler for measuring and emphasize the importance of accurately representing data in their graph.



# Kindergarten Math Extra Practice: Clocks

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

## Digital Clock Practice:

- Activity: Use a digital clock or a digital clock app on a tablet or phone. Set the clock to different hours and ask your child to read the time. For example, show them “2:00” and ask, “What time is it?”
  - Tip: Play a game where you set the clock to random hours, and your child has to call out the time quickly. This builds their confidence in reading digital clocks.

## Analog Clock Creation:

- Activity: Make a simple analog clock using paper plates. Draw the numbers around the plate and attach a movable hand (you can use a paper arrow and a brad fastener). Practice setting the clock to different hours and asking your child to read the time.
  - Tip: Encourage your child to set the clock to their favorite hours, like the time they eat lunch or go to bed.

## Time Matching Game:

- Activity: Create cards with digital times (like “3:00”) and matching analog clock faces showing the same time. Mix them up and have your child match the digital time with the correct analog clock face.
  - Tip: This can be turned into a fun memory game where they have to find pairs.

## Daily Routine Chart:

- Activity: Create a daily schedule chart with activities and their corresponding times (e.g., breakfast at 8:00, playtime at 10:00). Use both digital and analog clock representations for the times. Discuss the chart with your child and ask them to point out the times using both types of clocks.
  - Tip: This helps them connect telling time with real-life routines.

## Time in Nature:

- Activity: Go outside and look at the shadows made by trees, buildings, or other objects. Discuss how the position of the sun changes the length of the shadows at different times of the day. Ask your child to think about what time it might be when the shadows are long versus when they are short.
  - Tip: While outside, ask them to find and read any public clocks they see, like those on buildings or park monuments.

## Clock Reading Board Game:

- Activity: Create a simple board game where players roll a die to move spaces. Each space can have a time (either digital or analog) that the player must read to continue. For example, if they land on a space that says “4:00,” they must say the time before they can move again.
  - Tip: Make it colorful and fun to keep your child engaged.

# Kindergarten Math Extra Practice: Patterns

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

## Colorful Bead Patterns:

- Activity: Provide your child with a set of colored beads or blocks. Start by creating a simple pattern (e.g., red, blue, red, blue) and ask them to identify the pattern. Then, challenge them to continue the pattern by adding more beads.
  - Tip: Encourage them to create their own patterns and explain them to you!

## Nature Patterns:

- Activity: Go on a nature walk and collect leaves, stones, or flowers. Help your child arrange the items into patterns based on size, color, or type (e.g., small leaf, large leaf, small leaf, large leaf). Ask them to identify and complete the pattern.
  - Tip: Discuss the different patterns they can create with the items they collected.

## Silly Sound Patterns:

- Activity: Create a sound pattern using claps, stomps, or snaps. For example, clap, stomp, clap, stomp. Have your child listen and then repeat or complete the pattern by adding more sounds.
  - Tip: Encourage creativity by allowing them to create their own sound patterns for you to repeat.

## Snack Time Patterns:

- Activity: Use snack items, like fruit slices, crackers, or cereal, to create edible patterns. For instance, arrange apple slices, cheese cubes, apple slices, cheese cubes, and ask your child to complete the pattern.
  - Tip: Enjoy the snack together afterward, discussing the patterns you made!

## Art and Craft Patterns:

- Activity: Provide materials like stickers, stamps, or colored paper to create art. Help your child create a pattern on a piece of paper (e.g., star, heart, star, heart). Ask them to identify the pattern and complete it.
  - Tip: Display their finished artwork as a fun reminder of their learning!

## Clothing Sorting:

- Activity: Gather clothes from your child's wardrobe. Ask them to sort the clothing items by color or pattern (e.g., red shirt, blue shirt, red shirt). This helps them recognize patterns based on clothing designs or colors.
  - Tip: Make it a fun game by timing how quickly they can sort the items!

# Kindergarten Math Extra Practice: Positional Words

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

## Positional Word Scavenger Hunt:

- Activity: Create a scavenger hunt around the house or yard. Give your child clues using positional words, such as "Find something that is under the table" or "Look for a toy that is beside the couch."
  - Tip: Encourage your child to describe where they found the items using the positional words.

## Stuffed Animal Adventures:

- Activity: Gather some stuffed animals or toys and create a story. Ask your child to place the toys in different positions based on your instructions (e.g., "Put the bear inside the box" or "Place the rabbit behind the chair").
  - Tip: After positioning the toys, have your child tell a story about what the toys are doing based on their positions.

## Obstacle Course:

- Activity: Set up a simple obstacle course using pillows, chairs, and other furniture. As your child navigates the course, use positional words to guide them (e.g., "Crawl under the table" or "Jump between the pillows").
  - Tip: Make it a fun race and encourage them to use positional words to describe their movements!

## Drawing Positional Words:

- Activity: Have your child draw a simple scene (like a park or a room) and label the positions of different objects. For example, "The dog is beside the tree" or "The sun is above the house."
  - Tip: Encourage them to use different colors for each position to make their drawings more vibrant.

## Cooking Together:

- Activity: Involve your child in cooking by asking them to place ingredients in specific positions. For example, "Put the flour inside the bowl" or "Set the salt beside the pepper."
  - Tip: Discuss the positions of the ingredients as you cook, reinforcing the vocabulary in a fun context.

## Story Time with Positional Words:

- Activity: Choose a picture book that includes illustrations that can incorporate positional words. As you read, pause to point out the positions of characters and objects in the illustrations (e.g., "The cat is under the bed").
  - Tip: Ask your child to find objects in the pictures that match the positional words being discussed.

# Kindergarten English Language Arts Checklist

*By the end of Kindergarten your child should show mastery with all the foundational skills on this checklist.*

## **Vocabulary Awareness and Background Knowledge**

- Can identify and understand vocabulary related to emotions, farms, body parts, food, animals, and opposites

## **Story and Poem Discussion**

- Can discuss stories and poems, talking about characters, events, and favorite parts

## **Writing and Identifying Letters A-Z**

- Can write and identify uppercase and lowercase letters A-Z

## **Recognizing Words with Letters A-Z**

- Can recognize words that contain letters A-Z

## **Identifying Letters A-Z in Alphabetical Order**

- Can identify uppercase and lowercase letters A-Z in alphabetical order

## Kindergarten English Language Arts Extra Practice: Vocabulary and Background Knowledge

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

### Story Time with a Twist:

- Activity: Choose a mix of fiction and nonfiction books that focus on themes like emotions, farms, body parts, food, animals, and opposites. After reading a story, ask your child questions about the vocabulary used. For example, "How do you think the character feels when they are happy?" or "What animals did we learn about on the farm?"
  - Tip: Encourage your child to identify new words and share what they mean in their own words.

### Field Trips to Local Farms:

- Activity: Plan a visit to a local farm or petting zoo. During the trip, discuss the different animals they see and the emotions they might feel (e.g., happiness when petting a friendly goat). Talk about farm-related vocabulary like "barn," "tractor," and "harvest."
  - Tip: Take photos during the visit and create a scrapbook together that labels the animals and includes related vocabulary.

### Emotions Chart:

- Activity: Create a chart with different emotions (happy, sad, angry, excited, scared) and corresponding facial expressions. Ask your child to identify these emotions and share times when they felt that way. Use stories to reinforce these feelings.
  - Tip: Encourage them to draw or color faces that represent different emotions to visualize the vocabulary.

### Cooking Together:

- Activity: Involve your child in cooking activities using recipes that include various food items. As you cook, talk about the different ingredients, their names, and how they feel or taste (e.g., crunchy, sweet, soft). Discuss vocabulary related to food.
  - Tip: Encourage your child to help create a "food vocabulary" book by drawing or taking pictures of the ingredients used.

### Children's Documentaries:

- Activity: Watch age-appropriate children's documentaries about animals, farms, or food. Discuss what they learned and ask questions to reinforce vocabulary. For example, "What animal did we see? Can you tell me what it eats?"
  - Tip: Pause the documentary to discuss new words or concepts, encouraging your child to express their understanding.

### Opposite Games:

- Activity: Play games that focus on opposites. For example, use toys to demonstrate opposites like "big/small," "hot/cold," or "fast/slow." You can ask your child to find examples around the house or outside.
  - Tip: Make it a fun challenge by timing how quickly they can find items that represent each pair of opposites.

## **Kindergarten English Language Arts Extra Practice: Understanding Stories**

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

### Story Time Chats:

- Activity: After reading a story or poem, sit down with your child and ask open-ended questions about the characters and events. For example, "Who was your favorite character, and why?" or "What do you think will happen next?"
  - Tip: Encourage your child to explain their thoughts and feelings about the story, helping them articulate their ideas.

### Character Puppets:

- Activity: Create simple puppets using socks or paper bags to represent the characters from a story or poem. After reading, have your child use the puppets to act out their favorite scenes or discuss what the characters did.
  - Tip: Ask them to describe the characters' traits (e.g., brave, funny) and how those traits influenced the story.

### Illustrated Storyboard:

- Activity: After finishing a story, ask your child to draw a storyboard with three or four key events from the plot. Have them present their drawings and explain what happened in each scene.
  - Tip: Encourage them to include their favorite part and discuss why it stood out to them.

### Poetry Recital:

- Activity: Choose a short poem and read it aloud together. Discuss the imagery and emotions in the poem. Ask questions like, "What pictures do you see in your mind when you hear this poem?" or "How does this poem make you feel?"
  - Tip: Have your child memorize a few lines and perform it for family members, emphasizing expression and emotion.

### Favorite Parts Collage:

- Activity: After reading multiple stories or poems, ask your child to create a collage of their favorite parts using drawings or cut-out images from magazines. Have them share their collages and explain why they chose those moments.
  - Tip: Encourage them to use descriptive words when sharing, enhancing their vocabulary.

### Compare and Contrast:

- Activity: After reading two stories or poems, discuss the similarities and differences between them. Ask questions like, "What is the same about the characters?" and "How are the events different?"
  - Tip: Use a simple chart to list the similarities and differences, helping your child visualize their thoughts.

## **Kindergarten English Language Arts Extra Practice: Write A-Z**

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

### **Sensory Letter Tracing:**

- **Activity:** Create a sensory tray filled with materials like sand, rice, or shaving cream. Have your child use their finger to trace both uppercase and lowercase letters A-Z in the tray.
  - **Tip:** Encourage them to say the letter sound aloud as they trace to reinforce recognition.

### **Letter Crafting with Playdough:**

- **Activity:** Use playdough to form both uppercase and lowercase letters. Let your child roll out the dough and shape it into the letters of the alphabet.
  - **Tip:** While crafting, discuss words that start with each letter, such as “A is for apple,” to help with word recognition.

### **Letter Scavenger Hunt:**

- **Activity:** Create a scavenger hunt around the house. Place items that start with different letters in various locations (e.g., an apple for A, a book for B). Have your child find the items and say the letter they represent.
  - **Tip:** After the hunt, have them write down the letters and the corresponding words they found.

### **Rainbow Writing:**

- **Activity:** Provide your child with paper and colorful markers or crayons. Ask them to write each letter of the alphabet multiple times, using a different color for each letter.
  - **Tip:** Encourage them to say the letter sounds as they write to connect letters to their sounds.

### **Word Collage Creation:**

- **Activity:** Collect magazine cutouts or print pictures of objects that start with each letter. Help your child create a collage by gluing the images next to the corresponding letters on a poster board.
  - **Tip:** Discuss each word while creating the collage, reinforcing letter-sound connections.

### **Letter-Word Matching Game:**

- **Activity:** Create cards with letters on one set and corresponding word cards (like “cat” for C, “dog” for D) on another. Have your child match the letter cards to the correct word cards.
  - **Tip:** Turn it into a memory game by laying the cards face down and having them find pairs.

## Kindergarten English Language Arts Extra Practice: Alphabetical Order

*Kindergarten students will benefit from extra practice with key skills. Choose activities from this list that are meaningful and enjoyable for your family.*

### Alphabetical Order Puzzle:

- Activity: Create a simple alphabet puzzle by cutting out uppercase and lowercase letters from colorful paper or cardboard. Mix them up and have your child put them back in alphabetical order.
  - Tip: Encourage them to say the letters aloud as they arrange them to reinforce recognition and order.

### Singing the Alphabet Song:

- Activity: Sing the alphabet song together, emphasizing the order of the letters. You can even make up your own song or rhythm to make it more engaging!
  - Tip: Use hand gestures or dance moves for each letter to incorporate movement and make it memorable.

### Letter Sorting Activity:

- Activity: Provide your child with a collection of objects or pictures that begin with different letters. Ask them to sort the items into groups based on their starting letters and then arrange the groups in alphabetical order.
  - Tip: Discuss the sounds of each letter and the items as they sort them, reinforcing both letter identification and sound recognition.

### Alphabet Hopscotch:

- Activity: Create a hopscotch grid with letters A-Z. As your child hops on each letter, have them say the letter and its position in the alphabet (e.g., “A is first!”).
  - Tip: Challenge them to hop in alphabetical order or to call out letters as they land on them.

### Letter Matching Game:

- Activity: Make cards with uppercase letters on one set and lowercase letters on another. Shuffle them and have your child match the uppercase letters to their corresponding lowercase letters, then arrange them in alphabetical order.
  - Tip: Use a timer to add a fun challenge, encouraging them to beat their previous time.

### Outdoor Alphabet Hunt:

- Activity: Go on a nature walk and look for items that start with different letters (e.g., “A” for acorn, “B” for bird). Collect pictures or drawings of these items and arrange them in alphabetical order when you return home.
  - Tip: Create a simple chart to display the collected items in alphabetical order, discussing their names as you do so.



# **What to Read in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten**

Anthologies and collections of stories are a great way to cover a lot of ground in your homeschool. They're affordable, easy to find, and packed with rich stories that can be read and re-read. Research shows that reading the same books over and over helps your child get familiar with vocabulary and ideas, making it easier for them to understand and remember what they've learned.

Here's our list of 10 anthologies and story collections we recommend for helping to cover all subjects outside of English Language Arts and Mathematics in Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten. These books naturally incorporate science and social studies into the stories, connecting children with the real world through living books.

## **1. Brambly Hedge Collection**

## **2. Slow Down: 50 Mindful Moments in Nature**

## **3. James Herriot's Treasury for Children**

## **4. Frog and Toad Collection**

## **5. Children Just Like Me**

## **6. Henry and Mudge Series**

## **7. Magic Treehouse Series**

## **8. Winnie the Pooh and The House at Pooh Corner**

## **9. Beatrix Potter Collection**

## **10. Heartwood Hotel Series**

# What to Read in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

## Brambly Hedge Collection

**Author:** Jill Barklem

**Illustrator:** Jill Barklem

*This series takes children into the heart of a community in the English countryside, with beautifully detailed illustrations. The stories revolve around the lives of little creatures who work together in their tight-knit community. Themes of community helpers, seasons, homes, plants, and animals are woven into each story. The collection gives kids a strong sense of how a community works together and how nature changes with the seasons.*

### **Topics and Discussions:**

- Talk about how different characters help their community. Compare with real-life community helpers (bakers, farmers, builders).
- Discuss the different seasons in the stories (spring, summer, autumn, winter). Ask questions like: "What changes do we see in nature during each season?"
- Explore how the characters' homes are built and why they are suited to their environment. Compare them to human homes and animal habitats.
- Point out the plants and animals in the story and discuss how they are part of the community's everyday life. How do the seasons affect the animals and plants?
- Highlight how the characters work together to solve problems. How do we work together in our families or communities?
- Many of the books feature seasonal celebrations. Talk about how the community celebrates and compare it to your family's traditions.

# What to Read in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

## Slow Down: 50 Mindful Moments in Nature

**Author:** Rachel Williams

**Illustrator:** Freya Hartas

*This is a stunning book that invites children to observe small moments in nature—like a seed sprouting or a bird building a nest. It helps kids slow down and notice the world around them, teaching them about plants, animals, weather, and the relationship between humans and nature. Each story encourages mindfulness and appreciation for the natural world while connecting to science and seasonal changes.*

### **Topics and Discussions:**

- Talk about the process of seeds sprouting, flowers blooming, and trees growing. What do plants need to grow?
- Discuss the different animals in the book—like birds building nests or squirrels collecting nuts—and their roles in the ecosystem.
- Explore how weather and seasonal changes affect plants, animals, and even humans. What happens to nature during different seasons?
- Discuss how humans impact nature and how we can take care of the environment. What can we do to help plants and animals thrive?
- Encourage your child to observe the world around them during walks or outside play, noticing the small details they might usually miss.

# What to Read in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

## James Herriot's Treasury for Children

**Author:** James Herriot

**Illustrator:** Ruth Brown

*This treasury shares the warmth and joy of life on a farm, as seen through the eyes of a vet in the English countryside. The stories incorporate themes of community helpers, farmers, animals, lifecycles, and weather, making them perfect for covering both science and social studies. The rich language and timeless stories of helping others make this a great living book.*

### **Topics and Discussions:**

- Talk about the role of the veterinarian and farmers in caring for animals and how these helpers contribute to their community.
- Discuss the different animals in the stories and their lifecycles, from birth to adulthood. What do animals need to stay healthy?
- Explore how weather affects life on a farm, from caring for animals to planting crops. What challenges do farmers face?
- Highlight the theme of helping others, both animals and people, and why kindness and responsibility are important in a community.

# What to Read in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

## Frog and Toad Collection

**Author: Arnold Lobel**

**Illustrator: Arnold Lobel**

The Frog and Toad stories are gentle, humorous tales about two friends who navigate life's adventures together. Each story beautifully illustrates ideas like friendship, community, weather, and seasons. The simple but rich language helps children see how daily life is affected by the natural world around them, and the stories show how friends and community can support each other.

### **Topics and Discussions:**

- Talk about how Frog and Toad support each other through everyday challenges. How do friends and communities help each other?
- Explore how the stories reflect different seasons and weather, and how this affects Frog and Toad's activities and moods.
- Discuss how nature plays a role in their daily lives, like planting a garden or enjoying a swim. How do we interact with nature in similar ways?

# What to Read in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

## Children Just Like Me

**Authors:** Anabel Kindersley & Barnabas Kindersley

*This nonfiction collection gives children a glimpse into the lives of kids from around the world. They'll learn about different countries, cultures, and lifestyles, making this book perfect for social studies. Through photos and stories, children gain an understanding of community and diversity, building their background knowledge and making connections to the larger world.*

### **Topics and Discussions:**

- Talk about how children in different countries live, what they wear, eat, and how they learn. How are their lives similar to or different from your child's?
- Explore where different children live on a map. Discuss different countries, climates, and landscapes.
- Discuss how communities are structured around the world. How do people live and work together in different parts of the world?

# What to Read in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

## Magic Tree House Series

**Authors:** Mary Pope Osborne

**Illustrators:** Sal Murdocca

*The Magic Tree House series takes readers on adventures through time and around the world. This series is easily one of the best ways to build lifelong background knowledge for your child to reference back to in all further learning. Jack and Annie explore historical events, different cultures, and natural phenomena, making these books perfect for introducing a wide range of social studies and science topics in an engaging way.*

### **Topics and Discussions:**

- Talk about the different time periods and cultures Jack and Annie visit. What did people wear, eat, or do for work in those times? How were their lives different from today?
- Explore the places Jack and Annie travel to on a map. Discuss the geography, climate, and landscapes of these areas.
- Discuss the natural phenomena or animals Jack and Annie encounter. How do these events or creatures fit into what we know about science and the environment?
- Discuss historical figures that show up as characters in the stories. Why were they important in our history?

# What to Read in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

## Henry and Mudge Series

**Author:** Cynthia Rylant

**Illustrator:** Suçie Stevenson

*The Henry and Mudge series follows the adventures of a boy named Henry and his big dog, Mudge. These heartwarming stories focus on themes like friendship, family, holiday traditions, and exploring the world around them, making them perfect for young children to connect with their own experiences of community, nature, and special celebrations.*

### **Topics and Discussions:**

- Talk about the bond between Henry and Mudge. What makes a good friend? How does Henry take care of Mudge, and what responsibilities come with having a pet?
- Discuss how Henry interacts with his family and neighbors. How does Henry's family support him, and how do they all work together in their community?
- Explore the outdoor adventures that Henry and Mudge go on. Talk about what animals, plants, and seasons they experience during their walks and how your child experiences nature in their own life.
- Some stories feature special holiday celebrations. Talk about how Henry's family celebrates these holidays and how your family's traditions are similar or different. Discuss the importance of family traditions and the fun of celebrating together.



# What to Read in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

## Winnie-the-Pooh Series

**Author:** A. A. Milne

**Illustrator:** E. H. Shepard

*Winnie the Pooh's adventures in the Hundred Acre Wood are full of charm and wonder. Each story blends friendship, nature, and community life, as Pooh and his friends interact with the world around them. These timeless stories cover everything from seasonal changes to problem-solving, making them a delightful way to integrate social studies and science.*

### **Topics and Discussions:**

- Discuss how Pooh and his friends work together and support each other. What does it mean to be a good friend and help others?
- Explore the different roles of the characters in their community. How does each character contribute to their little world?
- Talk about how Pooh and his friends experience seasonal changes. What do they observe in nature during different times of the year?

# What to Read in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

## Beatrix Potter Collection

**Author & Illustrator:** Beatrix Potter

*Beatrix Potter's beloved animal characters, like Peter Rabbit and Squirrel Nutkin, help children explore animals, plants, and weather through delightful tales set in the English countryside. The stories focus on lifecycles and the interaction between humans and nature, making them a rich source for both science and social studies. Potter's exquisite illustrations add depth to these living stories.*

### **Topics and Discussions:**

- Discuss where the animal characters live and how their homes relate to their environment. What do they need to survive?
- Talk about the lifecycles of the animals in the stories. How do these lifecycles connect to the seasons and nature?
- Explore how the stories depict the relationship between humans and animals. How do the characters affect their environment, and vice versa?

# What to Read in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

## Heartwood Hotel Series

**Author:** Kallie George

**Illustrator:** Stephanie Graegin

*This series follows the adventures of animals who live and work at the Heartwood Hotel, a grand woodland inn. Through these stories, children learn about community roles, seasons, animals, and teamwork. The blend of nature and social studies gives kids a deeper understanding of how different elements of the world fit together, all through the eyes of relatable animal characters.*

### **Topics and Discussions:**

- Discuss the different roles the animal characters play at the hotel. What jobs do they have, and how do they contribute to the community?
- Talk about how the characters work together to solve problems and support one another. Why is teamwork important in both nature and human communities?
- Explore how the changing seasons affect life at the hotel. What do the animals do differently in each season?



*You can find more free homeschool learning guides for all ages at:*

[sherlockhomeschooling.com](http://sherlockhomeschooling.com)

[littlehousekindergarten.com](http://littlehousekindergarten.com)



Hannah Ward is a homeschool mom, educational designer, and English teacher. Hannah is the creator of Sherlock Homeschooling and Little House Kindergarten. With extensive experience in both classroom and online teaching, she has educated students from preschool to the university level. Hannah holds a Master of Education degree in Education Technology and Instructional Design, with a dual specialization in K-12 and Adult Learning Experience Design, as well as a Master of Science degree in Management and Leadership. Her graduate research focused on global lifelong learning and empowering parents as their child's first and most important teacher.

Currently, Hannah is a full-time doctoral student specializing in Educational Leadership and English. She is passionate about community-supported education, global literacy, and resilient educational design. Residing in the beautiful Ozarks with her husband and three children, Hannah continues to create family literacy curriculum, aiming to inspire and support parents and educators around the world.