

# Academic Growth Charts Kindergarten

Adult & Child

Therapeutic Foster Care Licensing Program

# Academic Benchmarks

- \* States across the country are implementing new standards for student achievement, designed to better prepare young people for careers and college.
- \* These academic benchmarks are meant to help parents understand the course material for each grade.
- \* They are based on the standards in most of the country and are intended as a general resource for parents, not as a comprehensive breakdown of the contents of your child's curriculum.
- \* <http://www.parenttoolkit.com/>

# Kindergarten Overview

- \* Your kindergartener's journey through school begins with mastering the building blocks of reading and writing and of math.
- \* He/She'll be learning the alphabet and the sounds that each letter is associated with, and will also start doing simple addition and subtraction.

# English/Language Arts

- \* In kindergarten, children learn the letters of the alphabet and their sounds.
- \* They discover that sounds and letters can be combined to make words, words can be put together to make sentences and that sentences can be written down for us to read.
- \* In kindergarten, students learn to listen carefully to stories, poems, and informational books and to read common words and simple books.
- \* Through books, conversations and experimenting with language, kindergarteners learn many new words.
- \* They use this growing vocabulary to share ideas and information in discussions with classmates.
- \* They begin to write and use a combination of writing, drawing, and dictating to describe their experiences and to give information.

# Reading

- \* Matching Letters to Sounds
  - \* Name upper and lowercase letters and match them to their sounds.
- \* Recognizing and Blending Sounds
  - \* Recognize beginning sounds and blend sounds into simple words.
- \* Sight Words
  - \* Quickly read short, common words (e.g. a, the, and, to) “by sight”.
- \* Understand Books & Writing
  - \* Develop basic understandings about books and writing.
  - \* Read simple books with understanding.
  - \* Actively engage with many different kinds of books and printed materials.

# Reading

- \* Asking & Answering Questions
  - \* Ask and answer questions about stories and informational books.
- \* Retelling Familiar Stories
  - \* Retell familiar stories- identify characters, settings and major events.
- \* Understanding Words & Pictures
  - \* Get information from the words and the pictures in a book.

# Writing

- \* Uppercase & Lowercase Letters
  - \* Print most uppercase and lowercase letters.
- \* Capitalizing & Punctuating
  - \* Capitalize the first word in a sentence and end each sentence with a period or question mark.
- \* Phonemic Awareness
  - \* Use knowledge of letters and sounds to spell words the way they sound.

# Writing

- \* Stories, Information, & Opinions
  - \* Use a combination of drawing, speaking and writing to:
    - \* tell a story
    - \* give information
    - \* state an opinion



# Listening & Speaking

- \* Vocabulary
  - \* Understand and use many new words.
- \* Articulation & Expression
  - \* Express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.
- \* Conversations & Discussions
  - \* Participate in conversations and follow rules for discussions (e.g., listen to others and take turns speaking).

# Tips & Advice

- \* ***Read Every Day***

- \* Perhaps the single most important thing you can do at this stage to foster your child's reading and writing skills is to read to him/her every single day. A recent OECD study comparing the role of parents in education in several countries found that the factor that best predicts better reading performance when a child is 15 is whether he/she was read to during his/her early years. So read as often as you can to your child, even if just for 20 minutes a day, and do your best to make reading time a fun experience that both of you enjoy.

- \* ***Develop Your Child's Curiosity for Books***

- \* Before you actually start to read a new book to your child, read just the title and look at the picture on the cover or first page. Ask him/her, "What do you think this book will be about?" "Tell me what you know about...?" These questions will help your child develop curiosity about books.

- \* ***Read Non-Fiction Books***

- \* Make sure to include non-fiction books in the titles you choose. Kindergarteners are fascinated by the world around them and learn a lot about how it works from non-fiction books. They especially love books about animals (including dinosaurs, of course!), outer space, and trucks and machines.

# Tips & Advice

- \* ***Develop Good Reading Habits***

- \* Reading skills will always be essential to your child's academic success, so do everything you can to make sure that he/she develops good reading habits. It's especially important that he/she sees you and other adults enjoying reading. This will help him/her view reading in a positive light.

- \* ***Sing Songs to Your Child***

- \* Reading to your child isn't the only way to insure that he/she becomes a strong reader as he/she gets older. Singing songs with him/her and familiarizing him/her with a range of lyrics will also help develop language skills.

- \* ***Play Word Games***

- \* Play simple word games like I Spy With My Little Eye, seeking out things that begin with a certain letter. In the car, play games with road signs or license plates, such as having your kindergartener spot words or plates that begin with a specific letter.

# Tips & Advice

- \* ***Play Vocabulary Word Games***

- \* Make a game out of broadening your child's vocabulary. Choose five unfamiliar new words for your child to learn each week and see how often everyone in the family can use those words in everyday conversation. This will help improve your kindergartener's vocabulary, reading comprehension, and speaking skills.

- \* ***Encourage Writing and Drawing***

- \* As a parent, you can do so much to help your kindergartener feel like a writer. Encourage drawing, scribbling, and writing. Successful and fluent writers are confident in their abilities and writing every day, in whatever form, will help your child gain that confidence.

- \* ***Explore Different Uses for Writing***

- \* Make sure that your child sees how you use writing in different ways for different tasks, purposes, and audiences. Provide a running commentary as you write, explaining what you're writing, to whom, and why. Explain why you're making sure to use more formal language and capital letters in a thank you note to your mother, compared to the conversational tone of a note to your spouse about groceries.

# Mathematics

- \* In kindergarten, children focus most on learning numbers and what numbers represent.
- \* They learn to count to tell how many objects, to read and write numbers up to 20, and to add and subtract to 10.

# Numbers

- \* Words & Numerals for Numbers
  - \* Know the words for numbers (“one,” “two,” “three,” “four” for 1, 2, 3, 4) through 20.
  - \* Write numbers from 0 through 20.
- \* Counting to 100
  - \* Count to 100, by ones and by tens.
- \* Counting Objects in Groups
  - \* Count how many objects are in a group (to 20).
  - \* By counting or matching objects, tell whether the number of objects in one group is greater than (more) or less than (less), or equal to (the same as) the number of objects in another group.

# Numbers

- \* Comparisons Between Small Numbers
  - \* Compare any two numbers between 1 and 10, and tell which is greater than or less than the other.
- \* Understanding Numbers 11-19
  - \* Understand numbers 11 through 19 as ten ones and some additional ones.

# Addition & Subtraction

- \* Addition & Subtraction Mastery
  - \* Understand addition as “putting together” and “adding to.”
  - \* Understand subtraction as “taking apart” and “taking away from.”
  - \* Add and subtract within 5 (1 to 5) quickly and accurately.
- \* Solving Word Problems
  - \* Using objects, fingers, simple math drawings, or mental images, solve addition word problems involving numbers that add up to 10 or less, and subtraction word problems involving subtraction from 10 or less.



# Addition & Subtraction

- \* Adding to 10

- \* For any number, 1 through 9, find the unknown number (quantity) needed to total 10.
- \* Show the answer with a drawing or equation (number sentence).

- \* Breaking Up Numbers

- \* Break up numbers, 3 through 10, into pairs, in more than one way.

# Measurement

- \* Measuring in Different Ways
  - \* Understand that objects can be measured in different ways: length (“how long”), height (“how high” or “how tall”), and weight (“how heavy”).
  - \* Compare the length, height, and/or weight of two objects.
- \* Relative Position of Objects
  - \* Describe the relative position of objects – for example, above, below, in front, behind.

# Shapes

- \* Naming Common Shapes
  - \* Name common shapes, such as squares, rectangles, circles, triangles.
  - \* Describe common shapes in simple terms: *“Circles are round.”*  
*“Triangles have three sides.”*
- \* Understanding Flat & Solid Shapes
  - \* Understand the difference between “flat” or two-dimensional shapes (a square or circle drawn on paper) and “solid” or three-dimensional shapes (a wooden block or cube; a sphere or globe).
- \* Creating Shapes
  - \* Use building and drawing to create shapes.

# Tips & Advice

- \* ***Incorporate Basic Math Concepts***

- \* Try to incorporate basic math concepts into everyday activities. Have your child count objects regularly and pose easy counting challenges, such as counting the number of steps on a flight of stairs or the number of red cars you see while driving. Take opportunities to count by twos or fives or tens, for example, if you've bought many of the same item at the grocery store or need to count a pile of coins.

- \* ***Practice Shape Recognition***

- \* Practice recognition of different shapes. Have your child spot things that are triangular, like pieces of pizza or the roof of a house, or rectangular, like paper money. As you talk about different shapes, have him/her describe why a shape he/she spots is a triangle (three sides), a square (four equal sides), or a rectangle (two opposite equal sides and two other opposite equal sides of longer length).

- \* ***Solve Jigsaw Puzzles***

- \* Doing puzzles is a great way to develop important visual discrimination skills, or the ability to recognize differences and similarities in shape, form, pattern, size, position, and color.

# Tips & Advice

- \* ***Apply Math in Everyday Life***

- \* It's especially memorable to children when they can use their new math concepts in their everyday life. Have your child arrange his/her favorite stuffed animals in a circle for a party and give two or three crackers to each toy. Have him/her add up the total number of crackers distributed. Ask him/her to predict how many more crackers he/she would need if one of his/her toy action figures joined the party. Then ask him/her to predict the total number of crackers needed with yet another guest. This gives him/her an opportunity to "add up" in his/her head and then see if he/she is correct when he/she actually adds the next figure and counts up the new total. The game can be played in reverse when one of the figures leaves the party, taking crackers with him/her.

- \* ***Play More or Less***

- \* Think of a number for your child to guess. After each guess, respond with the words "higher" or "lower." At different times use the words "more" or "less," so he/she learns different arithmetic vocabulary. This game helps him/her correlate number words and counting sequence with actual amounts or sizes.

# Tips & Advice

- \* ***Practice Sequencing***

- \* Practice sequencing with your child to develop his/her ability to recognize and store math procedures and number sequences. Make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich or build a snowman together, then ask him/her to describe in order the actions that took place. He/she can also describe the sequence of events that took place in the day, in a movie he/she saw, or in a story he/she read.

- \* ***Develop an Understanding of Units of Time***

- \* Use a timer for activities like watching TV or using the computer, so that your child becomes familiar with the concept of time and how long different units of time last. If your child doesn't want to leave the playground, tell him/her he/she can stay for 5 more minutes. He/she'll start to develop an understanding of time and how long different units of time last if you do this regularly.

# Tips & Advice

- \* ***Learn to Count Money***

- \* Give your child a piggy bank and help fill it with spare change. Every month, empty it together and have your child sort the coins by denomination. Have him/her match the coins to the denominations indicated on coin wrappers, which can be obtained from some banks or purchased inexpensively. This will help your kindergartner with counting, value recognition, and sorting, as well as hand-eye coordination.

- \* ***Play Music***

- \* Music is a great way for your child to engage with concepts related to math. Practicing an instrument means learning about tempo, measure, and meter - all of which involve math.

- \* ***Play Family Games with Math***

- \* Plenty of family games incorporate math. Tic Tac Toe, Connect Four, and dominoes are just some of the many games that help build math skills.