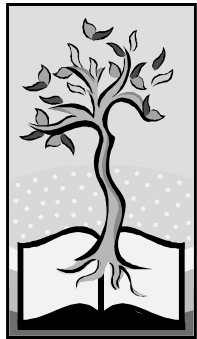












*Parents
are their
children's
first and most
important
teachers...*










LOOK INSIDE
for things you can do
NOW to help your child
be ready for kindergarten
LATER!

Recommended Toys & Books

3—5 Years:

-  If You Give a Mouse a Cookie
-  Chicken Soup and Rice
-  Country Mouse and City Mouse
-  The Three Bears
-  Lyle, Lyle Crocodile
-  Corduroy
-  Frog and Toad Are Friends
-  The Little Engine That Could
-  The Ugly Duckling
-  The Gingerbread Man

-  Washable Crayons, Pencils, & Markers
-  Magnetic Letters & Other Alphabet Toys
-  Toys for Make-Believe Play
-  Chalk & Chalkboard
-  Wheeled Toys
-  Simple Card & Board Games
-  Puzzles & Pegboards

**Check out your local
library for books and activities
designed to encourage
early learning!**

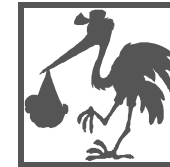
(804) 979-7151, ext. 300

For more information on
community resources, contact:

United Way
Information & Referral
(804) 972-1703

Support for these brochures was
provided by Charlottesville/Albemarle
Commission on Children and Families

GETTING READY...



From Here

To There



A Parent's Guide To Encouraging Early Learning For Your 3—5 Year Old Child

Provided by the
Early Literacy Work Group
of the
*Partnership for Children
of Charlottesville/Albemarle*
(804) 296-4118

Language

Reading

Writing

What Your Child Is Doing

- ★ Uses longer sentences
- ★ Can name objects, people, and events in pictures
- ★ Says his own full name and may recognize it
- ★ Can count, sort, and compare items
- ★ 4 Years — Speaks clearly in sentences
- ★ Asks many how and why questions and can imagine
- ★ Makes up words and laughs at them

- ★ Understands ideas such as beside, above, under, near
- ★ Listens attentively to stories and can retell them
- ★ Enjoys “reading” alone
- ★ Can recognize matching sounds and some printed letters and numbers
- ★ May recognize a few words such as words on signs
- ★ Thinks about what characters in a book might see, feel, or do
- ★ Makes up silly stories and jokes

- ★ Can talk about things that happened and make up stories
- ★ Knows and can make shapes such as circles and squares
- ★ Begins to draw figures that represent people, animals, and objects
- ★ Holds a pencil or crayon the right way
- ★ Tries to “write” as a way to tell stories and offer information
- ★ May copy some letters or start writing her name
- ★ Can follow lines in cutting paper

What You Can Do

- ♥ Talk, sing, and read often to your child
- ♥ Ask your child to describe objects he sees
- ♥ Provide puppets, dress-up clothes, and accessories for make-believe play
- ♥ Start conversations with your child and keep them going
- ♥ Provide opportunities for your child to practice listening, talking, and staying on topic. Help her learn to take turns.
- ♥ Listen to your child’s stories and jokes over and over

- ♥ Read to your child every day
- ♥ Find out your child’s interests and find books about those topics
- ♥ Take children to the neighborhood library to get library cards, choose books, and participate in activities
- ♥ Read road signs, store signs, package labels, etc.
- ♥ Offer books without words so your child can make up his own story to go with the pictures
- ♥ Have your child make up a story then act it out using make-believe toys
- ♥ Record books on tape

- ♥ Have your child tell a story about their picture and you write the words as they “dictate”
- ♥ Make a “book” of your child’s writings and drawings and keep it in a special place
- ♥ Prepare blank “books” with plain paper and have your child write and illustrate a “story”
- ♥ Make an art center with crayons, markers, child scissors, beads, string, playdough, paper, etc.
- ♥ Cut out pictures and have your child write a title
- ♥ Leave your child “love” notes

It's OK If:

- ☺ Your child seems to talk all the time. Children like to hear their voice and practice using words.
- ☺ Uses pretend words or has an imaginary friend. These help her learn how to use language.

- ☺ Can't sit still for a story. Some children listen better while playing with a toy or doing other activities.
- ☺ Doesn't read before kindergarten. Most children don't read independently until much later.

- ☺ Writes letters or words backwards. This is common for preschoolers.
- ☺ Draws pictures that are difficult to figure out. Drawing skills will develop as he gets older.