

Getting Ready For Kindergarten

Illustration from Splat the Cat © 2008 by Rob Scotton



A Calendar of Family Activities for 2011-2012

Success By 6® Early Childhood Initiative of United Way of Champaign County — Helping all children succeed in school and in life



Welcome!

One of the most exciting days for you and your child is the first day of kindergarten. This school readiness calendar was developed by Success By 6® — the early childhood initiative of United Way of Champaign County — to help you and your child get ready for that special day.

This calendar contains:

- Ideas for fun activities that develop a variety of skills
- Kindergarten registration and other school information
- Recommended books
- Local resources
- Useful websites



Key thoughts

- Children develop at their own rates and “typical” development can vary greatly from child to child.
- School readiness is more than knowing letters and numbers, and identifying colors and shapes.
- Children who are ready for kindergarten have good social, self-help, and physical skills and are developing a love for learning

This calendar offers activities that enhance the development of skills needed in kindergarten. A kindergarten checklist is provided on the following page to help you track your child’s development.

How to use the calendar

This calendar is for four- and five-year-olds who are preparing to enter kindergarten. The Kindergarten Readiness Calendar runs from September through August.

Remember that play is an important part of learning. Your child learns best when he or she is spending time with you and doing activities that are interesting and fun!

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Each month focuses on a different learning topic with suggested daily activities based on Illinois Early Learning Standards and strategies developed by early learning experts. Each month also includes a list of children’s books that relate to the month’s learning topic. Use this calendar as a guide for fun ideas. Include family members and your child’s friends in activities. Have a wonderful year together as you and your child get ready for the big day — going to kindergarten!

Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

This checklist can help to guide you as you prepare your child for school. It's best to look at the items on the list as goals toward which to aim. They should be accomplished through everyday routines or enjoyable activities you've planned with your child. If your child lags behind in some areas, don't worry. Remember that children grow and develop at different rates.

Good Health and Physical Well-Being

My child:

- Eats a balanced diet
- Gets plenty of rest
- Receives regular medical and dental care
- Has had all the necessary immunizations
- Runs, jumps, plays outdoors and does other activities that provide exercise and help develop large muscles
- Works puzzles, scribbles, colors, paints and does other activities that help develop small muscles

Social and Emotional Preparation

My child:

- Is learning to explore and try new things
- Is learning to work well alone and to do many tasks independently

- Has many opportunities to be with other children and is learning to cooperate with them
- Is curious and motivated to learn
- Is learning to finish tasks
- Is learning to use self-control
- Can follow simple instructions
- Helps with family chores
- Is learning to use words to identify and express emotions

Language and General Knowledge

My child:

- Has many opportunities to talk and listen
- Is read to every day
- Has access to books and other reading materials
- Is learning about print and books
- Has television viewing monitored by an adult
- Is encouraged to ask questions

- Is encouraged to solve problems
- Has opportunities to notice similarities and differences
- Is encouraged to sort and classify things
- Is learning to write his/her name and address
- Is learning to count and plays counting games
- Is learning to identify and name shapes and colors
- Has opportunities to draw and to be creative
- Has opportunities to listen to and make music and to dance
- Has opportunities to get first-hand experiences and to do things in the world—to see and touch objects, hear new sounds, smell and taste foods and watch things move



Read with your child each day.

Create a reading area for your child.

- Store your child's books in a special place that's easy to reach such as a basket, drawer or on a low shelf.
- Place a small rug or pillow in the area to create a cozy and comfortable place for reading.
- Join your child and read together in this special place.
- Talk to your child about how to care for books, including how to return books to their storage place.

Give your child a variety of books for reading.

- Get a library card for your child.



- Visit your local library or bookmobile with your child.
- Let your child look at the picture books in the children's section of the library and select several books to take home.
- Look for other places to find books:
 - Garage or yard sales
 - Friends or relatives
 - Thrift shops

Set aside a special time each day to read with your child.

- Read with your child in a special place away from distractions.
- Hold your child close to you when you read to help develop a positive attitude toward reading.
- Remember, children enjoy and learn by repetition. Read your child's favorite books over and over.

Let your child participate in book reading.

- Show your child how to read a book (from left to right, from front to back, and how to turn pages).

- While reading a book with your child, talk about the story.
- Ask your child to look at the pictures and predict what the book is about.
- Ask your child to retell the story in his or her own words.
- Help your child relate the story to his or her own life.

Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *Russell the Sheep* by Rob Scotton
- *Cornelius P. Mud, Are You Ready for School?* by Barney Saltzberg
- *Cock-a-Doodle Quack! Quack!* by Ivor Baddiel and Sophie Jubb
- *Ten Minutes Till Bedtime* by Peggy Rathmann
- *Read to your Bunny* by Rosemary Wells
- *Lola at the Library* by Anna McQuinn

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September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>■ Do you feel like you're being watched? You are! The best way to help children learn how to act is to show them through your own words and actions. They are master imitators. When they hear you say please and thank you, they learn to be polite. When they see you help others, they learn to be helpful. When they hear you call someone a name — they will do it too. So don't just tell children what to do — show them!</p>				<p>1 Library Day! Take your child to the library and get a library card.</p>	<p>2 Look through magazines and books to find things that are yellow.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 Yellow week: look for things that are yellow this week.</p>	<p>5 Labor Day</p>	<p>6 Play a board game or card game with your child.</p>	<p>7 Help your child write his/her name.</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 Grandparents' Day Patriot Day</p>	<p>12 Look for words that begin with the same first letter using books, magazines and newspapers.</p>	<p>13 Visit the Farmer's Market at 201 W Kenyon in Champaign (1-5:30pm)</p>	<p>14 Pick a new book and encourage your child to guess what the story will be about by looking at the cover.</p>	<p>15 Library Day! Have your child invite a friend to the library.</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 Find food items or animals that begin with the same sound. Name the letter.</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Visit the Farmer's Market at 201 W Kenyon in Champaign (1-5:30pm)</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Autumn Begins</p>	<p>24 Go for a walk with your child. Talk about what you see.</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26 Practice counting from 1 to 10.</p>	<p>27 Visit the Farmer's Market at 201 W Kenyon in Champaign (1-5:30pm)</p>	<p>28 Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown</p>	<p>29 Library Day!</p>	<p>30</p>	

Let your child use school tools such as pencils, markers, crayons, and scissors.

Gather and organize materials for drawing, writing, and cutting.

- Help your child select a container for storing drawing and writing materials. Help decorate and label it — for example, “Amy’s Drawing and Writing Box.”
- Decide on some simple rules for your child for using the drawing and writing materials — for example, “Markers may be used at the kitchen table or outdoors,” or “Scissors are for cutting paper.”

Encourage your child to explore with drawing materials.

- Suggest that your child draw pictures in different places:
 - in the kitchen while you prepare dinner
 - in the park while you enjoy the bright fall days



- Draw pictures with your child about family events and experiences.
- Talk with your child about the pictures and decide on a place to display your favorites.
- Praise your child’s efforts. Remember, perfection is not the goal.

Let your child see that written words are a part of daily life.

- Make a grocery shopping list together.
- Clearly label your child’s belongings with his or her name.
- Encourage your child to use the materials in the drawing and writing box to write letters of the alphabet if he or she is interested in writing

Support your child as he or she practices using child safety scissors.

- Designate appropriate places for your child to use scissors and discuss safety rules and what is okay to cut.

- Be sure that your child knows how to hold the scissors, how to open and close the blades, and how to hold the paper.
- Encourage your child to snip Play-Doh snakes and soda straws into little pieces.
- Provide strips of construction paper, old magazines, and cards from junk mail for your child to snip.


Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *Chalk* by Bill Thompson
- *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson (also available in Spanish)
- *He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands* by Kadir Nelson
- *I Ain’t Gonna Paint No More!* by Karen Beaumont
- *My Hands* by Alikei (also available in Spanish)
- *Scaredy-Cat, Splat!* By Rob Scotton
- *The Art Lesson* by Tomie dePaola

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October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 **Red Flags:** Children develop at their own pace however, if by the end of 4 years (48 months) your child displays any of the following signs of possible developmental delay for this age range, please contact your child's doctor or nurse:

- Cannot throw a ball overhand, cannot jump in place, or cannot ride a tricycle
- Cannot grasp a crayon between thumb and forefingers, or has difficulty scribbling
- Cannot stack four blocks or cannot copy a circle
- Still clings or cries whenever parents leave, ignores other children, resists dressing, sleeping or using the toilet
- Lashes out without any self-control when angry or upset
- Doesn't engage in fantasy play or shows no interest in interactive games
- Doesn't use sentences of more than three words or doesn't use "me" and "you" correctly

2 Orange week: look for things that are orange this week.	3 Talk about fall and have your child draw a picture of a tree.	4 Cut pictures of expressive faces from magazines and make a feelings collage.	5	6 Library Day!	7 Yom Kippur begins at sundown	8 Take your child for a walk and collect different kinds of leaves.
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9 Read your favorite children's book to your child.	10 Columbus Day	11 Visit the Farmer's Market at 201 W Kenyon in Champaign (1-5:30pm)	12 Write a note with your child to a grandparent, relative or friend.	13 Sort or count things like socks, canned soups, buttons, etc.	14	15 Arrange a play date for your child.
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16 Show your child how to write his/her name using upper- and lowercase letters.	17 Make a grocery shopping list together.	18 Find food items or animals that begin with the same sound as your child's first name. Name the letter.	19	20 Library Day!	21 Look at the pictures in a book with your child before reading.	22
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23	24	25 Visit the Farmer's Market at 201 W Kenyon in Champaign (1-5:30pm)	26	27 Cut shapes out of paper to make a picture.	28 While outdoors, allow your child to draw on the sidewalk with chalk.	29
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30	31 Halloween					
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Give your child daily opportunities to use large muscles.

Collect safe toys and equipment to help your child develop large muscles.

- Empty plastic water bottles to use as bowling pins.
- Bean bags to toss, made by partially filling a sock with beans and tying a knot in the sock.
- A tricycle to steer and pedal.
- Balls to throw, catch and bounce (9 to 12 inch rubber balls).

Let your child spend time outdoors and have space and freedom to use large muscles.

- Have a safe outdoor place for your child to run and play.



- Let your child pedal a tricycle outdoors.
- Set up a basketball hoop low enough so your child can successfully “make a basket.”

Join your child in active play.

- Play toss and catch with your child using 9 to 12 inch rubber balls.
- Set up an obstacle course and encourage your child to steer a tricycle through it.
- Draw a hopscotch pattern on your sidewalk or driveway or make one indoors using masking tape. Show your child how to hop the pattern. Let your child hop according to his or her ability.
- Recall singing games from your childhood such as the “Hokey Pokey” and involve your child and other family members or friends in playing the game.

Give your child opportunities to use large muscles indoors.

- Invite your child to toss bean bags or bean socks into a basket or a masking tape circle on the floor.
- Let your child try balancing a book on his or her head while walking.
- Create an obstacle course in a room with space for moving. Include a taped line to

walk on, a table to crawl under, chairs to crawl through, a book to jump over and a large box to crawl through.

- Suggest that your child move like different animals: hop like a rabbit, slither like a snake, crawl like a bug and fly like a bird.

Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *From Head to Toe* by Eric Carle
- *Barnyard Dance* by Sandra Boynton
- *My Daddy is a Pretzel* by Baron Baptiste
- *Summer Beat* by Betsy Franco
- *Jonathan and His Mommy* by Irene Smalls
- *Howdi Do* by Woody Guthrie
- *Stretch* by Doreen Cronin

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November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 All Saints' Day Help your child begin to learn his/her address and phone	2	3 Library Day!	4	5 Help your child draw a picture of your family.
6 Daylight Savings Time Ends Turn clocks back one hour	7 Have your child tell a story to a family member.	8 Election Day	9 Take a walk. Find things that are brown.	10 Put on some music and dance with your child and a friend or other family members.	11 Veterans Day	12 Schedule a play date at a park.
13 Brown week: look for things that are brown this week.	14 Exercise with your child. Count the number of arm circles or hops.	15 Play Hopscotch with your child.	16 Ask your child to help set the table and count the items.	17 Library Day!	18	19 Go outside and kick a ball back and forth with your child.
20 Go to the grocery store and have your child help pick items for Thanksgiving.	21 Look in books, magazines for different facial expressions: happy, sad, excited, scared, etc.	22	23 Make a picture or decoration for Thanksgiving.	24 Thanksgiving Day	25 Teach your child the ABC song.	26 Say a word to your child and ask him/her to say words that rhyme.
27	28 Have your child draw a picture or write a note to a family member about something he/she is thankful for.	29 Make a necklace using dental floss and cereal like Cheerios.™	30	<p>■ The waiting game. Waiting is hard for all of us, but especially for children. But sometimes waiting can't be avoided, so be prepared with a "bag of tricks." Maybe a bag with a notebook, colored pencils, and a small hand held game or music player, books, simple snacks like raisins or crackers and a juice box or water bottle. Keep a few simple songs in your head like Itsy Bitsy Spider or ABCs, make up a story, or just count the change in your pocket or purse. Time flies when you are BOTH having fun.</p>		

Help your child become aware of letters and words at home and in the community.

Help your child recognize his or her first name in print.

- Use an uppercase letter to write the first letter of the name and lowercase letters for the remaining letters — for example “Matthew.”
- Make a name card for each member of your family.
- Help your child place the cards at the right spot at the table.
- Invite your child to watch you write his or her name as you label personal belongings such as coat, sweater, and backpack.

Help your child recognize the letters in his or her first name.

- Use alphabet letter magnets to spell your child’s name on the refrigerator or a cookie sheet.
- Encourage your child to arrange the letters in the correct order using his or her name card as a guide.

- Place the alphabet letters in a bag or other container. Encourage your child to pull out the letters one at a time and name them.

Encourage your child to “read” familiar signs.

- Give your child printed materials such as telephone books, magazines, grocery store ads, and menus from favorite restaurants to play with.
- Invite your child to “read” road signs and business signs with you as you drive.

Give your child opportunities to recognize and name letters of the alphabet.

- Encourage your child to find letters in his or her own name in signs that you see.
- Read alphabet books with your child and allow him or her to name the letters he or she recognizes.


- Read a book and encourage your child to go back and look for a certain letter of the alphabet, such as the “b’s” found in the story.
- Write the alphabet on paper. Have your child touch each letter as you slowly sing the alphabet song.

Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *Alphabetter* by Dan Bar-el and Graham Ross
- *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault
- *Eating the Alphabet* by Lois Ehlert
- *Alphabet City* by Stephen Johnson
- *Alpha Oops!* by Alethea Kontis
- *The Hello, Goodbye Window* by Norton Juster
- *Max’s ABC* by Rosemary Wells
- *26 Letters and 99 Cents* by Tana Hoban

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December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>■ Seven positives. Did you know on average it takes seven positive comments to balance the effect of just one negative comment? Saying "good girl" or "good boy" isn't enough. Be specific and tell your child what was good about it. For example, "Wow. That tower is the tallest you've ever built. You worked really hard on it and I like the columns on the side."</p>			<p>1 Library Day!</p>	<p>2 Help your child practice zipping his/her coat and take a walk together.</p>	<p>3 Practice the ABC song.</p>
<p>4 Green week: look for things that are green this week.</p>	<p>5 Help your child build his/her name using magnetic letters.</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Have your child practice saying your phone number.</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 Have your child practice tying his/her shoes or the shoes of someone else.</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 Make a list of fun things to do over the holidays.</p>	<p>12 Help your child write the letters of his/her first name.</p>	<p>13 Have your child write his/her name on a card and display it on the bedroom door.</p>	<p>14 Name four things that rhyme with "cat".</p>	<p>15 Library Day!</p>	<p>16 Read a favorite winter book.</p>	<p>17 Make cookies with your child to share as a gift.</p>
<p>18 Sing a favorite holiday song together.</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Hanukkah begins at sundown</p>	<p>21 Play a game that involves taking turns.</p>	<p>22 Winter begins</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve</p>
<p>25 Christmas Day</p>	<p>26 Kwanzaa begins</p>	<p>27 Help your child show appreciation by writing a thank you note.</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve Countdown! Count backwards from 10.</p>

Introduce your child to numbers and counting

Use number words and point out written numerals as you and your child do things together.

- In the kitchen:
 - “On this package of rice it says to add 2 cups of water.”
 - “I need you to put 3 forks and 3 plates on the table.”
- Grocery shopping
 - “That sign says bananas are 49¢ a pound.”
 - “Pick out 4 apples and put them in this bag.”



- At play:
 - “See if you can stack 6 pennies.”
 - “Can you put 4 blocks in a row?”

Involve your child in number and counting activities.

- Play Simon Says. Say to your child “Simon says clap your hands 5 times,” or “Simon says take 3 steps forward.” Let your child have a turn being Simon.
- Make number cards. Write on index cards the numerals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5— one number per card. Ask your child to place the correct number of pennies on each card.

Read, tell stories, sing songs and say nursery rhymes about numbers and counting with your child.

- Read to your child or tell stories such as *The Three Bears*.

- Say nursery rhymes such as “One, Two, Buckle My Shoe” and “Baa Baa Black Sheep” with your child.
- Sing counting songs you remember such as “This Old Man.”

Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *Christopher Counting* by Valeri Gorbachev
- *Fish, Swish! Splash, Dash!: Counting Round and Round* by Suse MacDonald
- *Click, Clack, Splish, Splash* by Doreen Cronin
- *Count!* by Denise Fleming
- *How Many Sharks in the Bath?* by Bill Gillham
- *Mother Goose Numbers on the Loose* by Leo and Diane Dillon
- *This Old Man* by Pam Adams

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January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 Act out a favorite story. Use puppets, dolls or stuffed animals.	5 Library Day!	6 Read two books today.	7
8 Blue week: look for things that are blue this week.	9	10 Sing some of your child's favorite songs.	11	12 Have your child divide a snack evenly to share.	13 Play Simon Says.	14 Play counting games like "How many blue things do you see?"
15 Help your child to make his/her favorite sandwich.	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	17 Continue teaching your child his/her phone number and address.	18	19 Library Day!	20 Make a piggy bank together out of a coffee can and start saving coins.	21 Recite nursery rhymes with your child.
22 Find things around the house that begin with the same letter sound. Name the letter.	23 Chinese New Year	24 Play "I Spy Numbers."	25	26 Teach your child to play a board game with a friend.	27	28 Make or draw a snowman with your child.
29 Using a newspaper article, circle words that begin with the first letter of your child's first name.	30	31 Practice counting to 10 or higher.	■ Routines aren't boring—they're healthy. Children feel more secure when they know what to expect. Keep a basic structure to your day. An evening routine might include setting the table, eating dinner, playtime, bath time, snack, tooth brushing, three stories, ten kisses and lights out! When children know what's coming next, it's easier for them to cooperate and you avoid a lot of temper tantrums.			

Encourage your child to listen and use words to express ideas and feelings.

Take time each day to listen to and talk with your child.

- While traveling together:
 - Turn off the radio or CD player in your car when you and your child are going places together.
 - Encourage your child to talk with you about where you are going and what might happen when you get there.
- At home together:
 - Turn off the TV at mealtime and talk with your child about things that interest him or her.
 - Talk with your child about some things each of you did that day.

Use pictures to encourage your child to express ideas.

- Look at the pictures in books or magazines together:
 - Ask your child to tell you what he or she sees in each picture.

- Look at a picture book together and have your child try to predict what will happen next before turning the page.
- Have your child draw a picture and then tell you about it.

Involve your child in activities that require listening and following directions.

- Give your child directions that involve two steps. Here are some examples:
 - Pick up your plate and put it in the sink.
 - Hop to the door and open it.
- Ask your child to do certain things with an object. Use words such as under, over, behind, in front of, beside, etc. Here are some examples:
 - Put the bean bag under your chin.
 - Hold the ball over your head.

Help your child learn about and express different feelings.

- Read books that tell about and explore different feelings.

- Talk about situations that make people feel sad, happy, angry, frustrated, scared, etc.
- Use facial expressions and different tones of voice to help dramatize different emotions.

- Encourage your child to talk about and label his or her feelings in different situations.

Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *Glad Monster, Sad Monster* by Ed Emberley and Anne Miranda
- *Splish, Splash, Splat!* by Rob Scotton
- *Sometimes I'm Bombaloo* by Rachel Vail
- *My Friend Is Sad* by Mo Willems
- *Grump Groan Growl* by bell hooks
- *Why Do You Cry?: Not a Sob Story* by Kate Klise

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February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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■ **Do you get tired of saying “no” and “don’t do that” all the time?** Try switching it up and give your child positive directions. Tell them what **to do** rather than what NOT to do: Say “use your quiet voice” instead of “don’t yell!” or “keep the water in the bathtub” instead of “quit splashing.” Being positive sets a more pleasant mood and children are more likely to follow directions happily.

1

2 **Groundhog Day**

3 Read a book about feelings.

4

5 Red week: look for things that are red this week.

6 Find things around the house that begin with the sound of the letter “M.”

7

8 Make a list of people you love and talk about why you love them.

9 **Library Day!**

10 Make and send homemade Valentine’s Day cards to loved ones on your list.

11

12 **Lincoln’s Birthday**

13

14 **Valentine’s Day**

15 Read a story and ask your child what his/her favorite part was and why.

16 Make puppets out of paper bags or socks and act out a fun activity.

17 Zip up! Take your child for a walk and invite a friend.

18 Count all the doors and windows in your home.

19 Play a board game or card game with your child.

20 **Washington’s Birthday**
Presidents Day

21 Sing the ABC song.

22 Have your child invite a friend over to play.

23 **Library Day!**

24

25 Look outside and talk about what you see.

26 Remember to check with your school for kindergarten registration dates.

27

28

29 Invite a friend to attend Read Across America at Lincoln Square with you.



Enjoy the sounds of language with your child.

Read rhymes with your child.

- Read Mother Goose rhymes with your child. Encourage your child to complete the rhymes with the correct rhyming word, such as “Hickory, Dickory, Dock. The mouse ran up the (clock) .”
- Invite your child to say his or her favorite rhymes with you over and over again. Your child will soon be able to say the rhymes alone.
- Read simple poems with your child. Encourage your child to complete the poem with the correct rhyming word.

Play with rhyming sounds.

- Use a collection of objects or pictures of objects such as sock,

rock, hat, cat, soap, rope, spoon, and moon. Invite your child to match the objects or pictures that rhyme and name them

- Use objects found around the house — such as a sock, ball, and hat. Encourage your child to say a word that rhymes with the chosen object. Accept nonsense words that rhyme as well.

Help your child match letters to objects or pictures.

- Select an object or picture, a banana for example, and have your child say the name of the object to hear the beginning sound of the word.

- Ask your child to name the alphabet letter that matches the beginning sound of the word.
- Write down a letter and tell your child the sound that letter makes. Have your child find pictures in a magazine or book of things that have that beginning letter sound.

Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *Everywhere the Cow Says “Moo!”* by Ellen Slusky Weinstein
- *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss
- *Jamberry* by Bruce Degen
- *The Chicken-Chasing Queen of Lamar County* by Janice N. Harrington
- *Good Night Pillow Fight* by Sally Cook, Illustrations by Laura Cornell
- *If You’re Hoppy* by April Pulley Sayre, Illustrations by Jackie Urbanovic
- *Silly Sally* by Audrey Wood
- *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly* by Simms Taback

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March 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Have your child practice jumping, hopping on one foot, and throwing and catching a ball.	2 Listen to a story on tape or CD with your child.	3 Read Across America
4 Purple week: look for things that are purple this week.	5	6 Schedule a kindergarten physical and dental exam for your child.	7	8 Library Day!	9 Continue teaching your child his/her phone number and address.	10
11 Daylight Savings Time Begins Turn clocks one hour forward	12 Sing songs with rhyming sounds.	13 Name a letter and have your child find items beginning with that sound.	14	15	16 Read two books today. Have your child tell you which is his/her favorite and why.	17 St. Patrick's Day
18 Make up silly words that rhyme with your child's name.	19 Find things around the home that begin with the sound of the letter "J."	20 Spring Begins Take a walk and look for signs of spring.	21 Cut out shapes and play a matching game.	22 Library Day!	23	24 Practice opposites with your child (up/down, in/out, over/under).
25 Find things that begin with the sound of the letter "D."	26	27	28 Act out going to the doctor or dentist. Talk about what might happen.	29 Bake cookies together. Count the number on each tray.	30	31

Make the most of TV, videos, and computers.

Use media as learning tools.

- Select TV programs carefully. Ask yourself, “Does this program teach what I want my child to learn?”
- Check out videos and DVDs from the library on exciting topics that interest your child. Discover the world of animals, explore underwater sea life, or visit outer space.
- Reinforce basic skills like colors, shapes, and counting with quality computer games.
- Encourage listening by playing different types of music.

Limit children’s total screen time.

- Set limits for TV and computer use.
- Turn the TV off when no one is watching it. Turn it on only when you want to watch a specific program.
- Remove television and computers from your child’s bedroom and put them in a public area of your home.

Monitor the media your child is using.

- Select age-appropriate TV programs, videos, music, computer games, and web sites.
- Preview programs, videos, and web sites. Previewing lets you know exactly what your child will see.
- Watch together and talk about what you see. Use this time to connect to your child.

Avoid making TV a centerpiece of home life.

- Encourage other forms of entertainment such as reading, drawing, playing outdoors, listening to music, or playing cards or board games.
- Turn the TV off at mealtime and talk about some things each of you did that day.
- Be a role model and set an example by watching less TV yourself.

Good Media Resources for four- and five-year olds

Web Sites

- www.pbskids.org
- www.pbs.org/parents
- www.sesameworkshop.org/sesamestreet/

Videos

- See How They Grow series from DK and Sony Wonder
- Marc Brown’s PBS Arthur series
- Sesame Street series (Kids Favorite Songs, Sing Hoot and Howl with the Sesame Street Animals, Learning About Numbers)

Books

- *Arthur’s Computer Disaster* by Marc Brown
- *The Berenstain Bears and Too Much TV* by Stan and Jan Berenstain
- *The Berenstain Bears’ Computer Trouble* by Jan and Mike Berenstain
- *TV Rex* by John Nickle

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April 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 April Fools' Day	2	3	4	5	6 Good Friday	7 Passover begins at sunset
8 Easter Sunday	9 Draw a picture of spring.	10 Keep the TV off today. Read books and play games instead.	11	12 Library Day! Bring a friend to the library and check out a movie together.	13 Have your child name letters found on cereal boxes, cans, etc.	14 Practice printing by tracing the letters of your child's name on a piece of paper.
15 Visit the PBS web site: www.pbskids.org .	16 Ask your librarian to recommend new children's music.	17	18 Visit www.pbs.org/parents and click on the "Fun and Games" tab.	19	20 Read two books today. Have your child choose the books.	21 Sing a favorite song with your child.
22 Week of the Young Child begins Earth Day	23 Watch TV with your child, talk about what you see and feel, and ask questions.	24	25 Put on music and dance and clap to the beat.	26 Library Day! Let your child pick out a video the whole family will enjoy.	27	28 Have your child begin to learn his/her birth date and age.
29 Pink week: look for things that are pink this week.	30 Take a walk and talk about the different sounds you hear.				■ Regular Vision Exams Needed: Illinois law requires that proof of an eye examination by an optometrist or physician who provides complete eye examinations be submitted to the school no later than October 15th of the year the child is first enrolled or as required by the school for other children. The examination must be completed within one year prior to the child beginning school.	

Play learning games with your child.

Collect materials for learning games.

- Cut out 2 circles, 2 squares and 2 triangles, all the same color and about the same size.
- Make matching pairs of cards with stickers or pictures of animals. For example, cut cardboard in 3' x 3' squares and place a sticker or picture on each card.
- Or use Old Maid and Go Fish Cards, memory/matching cards, or a deck of playing cards.

Play matching games.

- Start with six pairs of matching cards. Use either the cards you have made or cards you have purchased.
- Shuffle the cards and lay them face up on the table or on the floor.



- Invite your child to find the two cards that match.
- Add additional pairs of cards as your child becomes more skilled at finding the pairs.

Have fun as you play “I Spy” color games.

- Play the game by spying different colored objects in your home or outdoors.
- Begin with one color such as red. Say “I spy something red. It’s round and you can throw it. What is it?” (red ball)
- Add another color such as yellow. Say “I spy something yellow. You peel it and eat it. What is it?” (banana)
- Continue playing the game by adding other colors.

Play shapes and sizes games.

- Show your child the shapes you have cut out. Help your child name them: circle, square, and triangle.

- Hide one set of shapes somewhere in the room — each shape in a different place.
- Give your child one shape at a time and have him or her find the matching shape and name them.
- Show your child a collection of coins and name them.
- Invite your child to put together all the coins that are the same size.

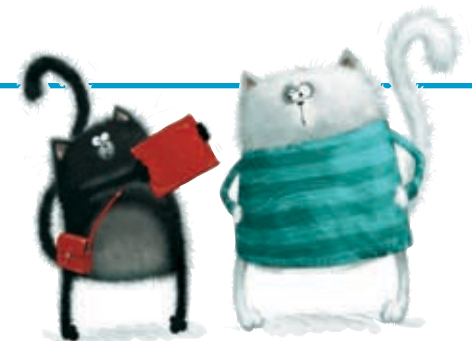
Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *Let's Count Goats* by Mem Fox, Illustrations by Jan Thomas
- *Baby Bear, Baby Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin, Jr.
- *Count on Culebra* by Ann Whitford Paul
- *Zoe's Hats* by Sharon Lane Holm
- *Dog's Colorful Day* by Emma Dodd
- *Mouse Shapes* by Ellen Stoll Walsh
- *One, Two, Buckle My Shoe* by Jane Cabrera

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May 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>■ YOU are the best reward. When your child does a good job or learns a new skill, reward him or her with your time and attention. Avoid using treats or toys as rewards or bribes for good behavior. Sweets aren't healthy and toys cost money. Time with you is free and builds bonds that last a lifetime.</p>		<p>1 Look through old magazines and cut out circles, squares, and rectangles.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Make up non-sense rhymes and laugh together.</p>	<p>4 Play Simon Says. Focus on exercise activities (hopping, bending over, touching toes).</p>	<p>5 Cinco de Mayo</p>
<p>6 Black week: look for things that are black this week.</p>	<p>7 Find things around the house that are square, circular, and rectangular.</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 Find things that begin with the sound of the letter "L." Say the name of the letter.</p>	<p>10 Library Day!</p>	<p>11 Name words that rhyme with "can."</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 Mother's Day</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Help your child write his/her name.</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Play "I Spy." (Remember to include black objects.)</p>	<p>18 Sort coins into groups by color or size.</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 Count from 1 to 10 or as high as your child can count.</p>	<p>21 Help your child practice shoe tying.</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 After listening to a story, have your child tell you what happened first, next, and last.</p>	<p>24 Library Day!</p>	<p>25 Practice the ABC song.</p>	<p>26 Play a game together such as Memory or Go Fish.</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28 Memorial Day</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>		



Invite your child to think and solve problems.

Collect materials that encourage thinking and problem solving.

- Cut out pictures of things that go together and paste them on separate cards. Examples might include:
 - shoe and sock
 - flower and vase
- Collect real objects that go together, such as:
 - hammer and nail
 - comb and brush

Involve your child in discovering things that go together.

- Begin with real objects.
 - Place the real objects you have collected on a table or on the floor.
 - Make sure the objects that go together are separated from each other.
 - Ask your child to find the two objects that go together.
 - Invite your child to tell you why the two objects go together.

- Use pictures next.
 - Lay the picture cards of things that go together face up on the table or floor. Make sure pictures that go together are separated from each other.
 - Ask your child to find the two pictures that go together and tell you why they do.

Play pattern games with your child.

- Create a movement pattern and ask your child to repeat it. For example:
 - step-step-jump, step-step-jump (take 2 steps forward, then jump).
- Start a pattern using objects and ask your child to “Make a pattern just like this one.” For example:
 - with eating utensils: fork, spoon, fork, spoon.

Provide opportunities to experience and resolve challenges cooperatively.

- Give your child lots of time to play with other children. Encourage activities that

involve sharing, such as blocks, crayons, Play-Doh, and dress up.

- Develop a conflict or argument with stuffed animals or puppets. Talk first about how the different animals are feeling. Discuss with your child how to resolve the conflict.

Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *You and Me: We're Opposites* by Harriet Ziefert, Illustrations by Ethan Long
- *Kitty Cat, Kitty Cat, Are You Waking Up?* by Bill Martin, Jr. and Michael Sampson, Illustrations by Laura J. Bryant
- *Mouse Views: What the Class Pet Saw* by Bruce McMillan
- *If I Built a Car* by Chris Van Dusen
- *The Enormous Potato* by Aubrey Davis
- *Duck and Goose* by Tad Hills
- *Move Over, Rover* by Karen Beaumont

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June 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p>■ Thanks for the memories. Chances are your own happy memories revolve around things you did with those you love. Really enjoy your child by taking time to have fun together every day. Sing songs while making dinner or driving the car. Take a walk and look for ducks or interesting sticks. Play ball, play house, play cards, play ANYTHING — just do it together!</p>						<p>1 Go outside and ask your child to repeat patterns: step-step-jump, clap-clap-pat, etc.</p>	<p>2 Find things that begin with the sound of the letter "S"</p>
<p>3 White week: look for things that are white this week.</p>	4	<p>5 Reminder: Did you schedule a kindergarten physical and dental exam?</p>	<p>6 Plant flowers together in a pot or in the ground and water the flowers.</p>	7 Library Day!	<p>8 Have your child talk about the steps in the planting project.</p>	9	
<p>10 Start a nursery rhyme and have your child finish it.</p>	<p>11 Have your child invite a friend over to play.</p>	12	<p>13 Cut up an old greeting card in puzzle-like shapes. Ask your child to fit the pieces back together.</p>	14 Flag Day	<p>15 Count groups of ten using cereal like Cheerios™</p>	<p>16 Make a picnic lunch with your child and eat outside.</p>	
<p>17 Father's Day</p>	<p>18 As you pick out fruits and vegetables at the grocery store, have your child name the colors.</p>	19	<p>20 Summer begins</p>	21 Library Day!	<p>22 Read a story to your child. Point to each word as you read.</p>	23	
<p>24 Draw a picture of fun things to do in the summer.</p>	25	<p>26 Have your child match socks as you fold laundry.</p>	<p>27 Practice your phone number and address.</p>	28	29	30	

Help your child know personal information.

Create an “All About Me” book with your child.

- Help your child make a book by stapling or tying blank sheets of paper together with yarn.
- Help your child create the cover of the book. Use a photo of your child or a picture he or she draws for the cover page.
- Let your child decide on the title of the book and write that on the cover.
- Add your child’s name to the cover as the author of the book. Write or have your child write his or her name on the cover of the book. Include both the first and last name.



Involve your child in adding personal information to the book.

- Begin writing a sentence and ask your child to tell you what to write next. Add what your child says to the sentence, helping as needed. The information should be correct and complete.
- Here are some examples of what to include:
 - My name is _____ (include child’s first and last name).
 - Sometimes my family calls me _____ (nickname).
 - I am a _____ (girl or boy).
 - I was born on _____ and I am _____ years old.
 - My eyes are _____ (color) and my hair is _____ (color).
 - I like to _____.

Help your child add a family and friend section to the book.

- Add photos or drawings of family members and friends. Help your child decide what to write about each person.

Here are some examples:

- This is my mother. Her name is _____ (first and last name). She makes good spaghetti.
 - This is my grandfather. He lives with us. His name is _____.
- Add pictures of favorite neighbors and pets.

Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *Are You My Mother?* by P. D. Eastman
- *This is Me and Where I Am* by Joanne Fitzgerald
- *Bigmama’s* by Donald Crews
- *Russell and the Lost Treasure* by Rob Scotton
- *Chester’s Way* by Kevin Henkes
- *The Relatives Came* by Cynthia Rylant
- *When We’re Together* by Claire Freedman, Illustrations by Jane Chapman

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July 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6 Pick two books to read today.	7 Have your child find things that are his/her favorite color.
8	9	10 Take a walk and count the trees or other things you see.	11	12 Library Day!	13 Draw a picture of your family and have your child say the first and last names of each member.	14
15	16 Practice writing letters and numbers.	17 Find objects that rhyme with "pig"	18	19 Have your child retell a story or event in order (first, middle, last).	20	21
22 Read and talk about people from other cultures.	23 Count pennies... count as high as you can.	24	25 Have your child invite a friend over to play.	26 Library Day!	27	28 Practice naming opposites, like up/down, on/off, etc.
29	30 Go outside and play Hopscotch or swing.	31 Find things that begin with the sound of the letter "T"	<p>■ Love you, love me. Taking care of yourself makes you a better parent. Find a little quiet time each day to do something for you. Find a hobby, read a book, soak in a bubble bath. Develop healthy habits for you and your family. Love yourself and your child by engaging in healthy, safe adult relationships.</p>			



Make “going to kindergarten” plans with your child.

Get ready for kindergarten.

- Begin to gather school supplies for your child.
- Play school with your child. Take turns being the teacher. Ride in the bus or car, read stories, sing songs, draw pictures, eat lunch, and play outdoors.
- Eat a meal on trays with your child. Encourage your child to carry his or her own tray to the table and return the tray to the kitchen after the meal. Eat a meal from lunch boxes and bags. Show your child what can be thrown away after eating and what should be brought back home to wash or recycle.
- Pretend to take your child to school. With your child, think of lots of ways to say good-bye. Decide how you will say good-bye to each other on the first day of kindergarten.



Visit your child's school and preview school activities.

- Attend your school's family open house or “meet the teacher day.” Here are some things to do with your child when you visit:
 - Explore the classroom. Look at the books and materials. Find out where the children store their backpacks and hang coats.
 - Find out about the daily schedule for your child's class. For example, when is story time, lunch, outdoor play, and rest time?
 - Look for the cafeteria, playground, restrooms, principal's office, library, and other special areas of your child's school.

Maintain predictable family routines.

- Establish a regular bedtime for your child. Children are healthier when they go to bed and wake up at about the same time every day.
- Be prepared for your morning “before school” time. Getting everyone up and

off to school can be hectic. Planning can eliminate some of those morning hassles.

- Designate a place to collect things that are needed for school.
- Before bedtime, talk with your child about what clothes he or she will wear tomorrow. Be sure that everything is ready.
- Have pleasant conversations with your child on the way to school or as you wait for the bus.

Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *A Place Called Kindergarten* by Jessica Harper
- *Kindergarten Rocks!* by Katie Davis
- *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!* by Nancy Carlson (available in Spanish)
- *Kindergarten Countdown* by Anna Jane Hays
- *Splat the Cat* by Rob Scotton
- *Is Your Buffalo Ready for Kindergarten?* by Audrey Vernick, Illustrations by Daniel Jennewein

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August 2012

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



1 Visit your new school and play on the playground.

2 **Library Day!**

3 Look for things that begin with "P." Point out the letter "P" in print.

4

5 Play "I Spy Colors."

6 Practice zipping and buttoning.

7 Read a book about going to school and ask your child to retell the story.

8 Practice taking turns and sharing.

9 Help your child write his/her name and identify each letter.

10 Find words that rhyme with "me."

11

12 Pretend it is the first day of school. Practice ways to say goodbye.

13 Practice bouncing a ball. Count the number of bounces.

14 Organize what your child will need for the first day of school.

15

16 **Library Day!**

17

18

19 Practice your phone number and address with your child.

20

21 Draw a picture of your new school.

22

23 Put together a puzzle with your child.

24

25

26

27 Use addition and subtraction words like "I have one cookie and you have two cookies. That makes three cookies."

28

29

30

31

Kindergarten Registration Information

All parents/legal guardians of children who will be five years of age on or before September 1 are encouraged to register their children for kindergarten.

Early registration begins as early as March 1 for some schools. Check with your local school district for your kindergarten registration information.

In most cases, the parent/legal guardian will need to bring the following for kindergarten registration:

- Child's official birth certificate (with raised seal)
- Child's social security number



- Proof of residency (required for all registrants) — copy of signed mortgage, contract to build or lease agreement showing the owner/resident's name and address OR TWO of the following items:

- Utility bills which have the name and address of the resident
- Valid driver's license
- Voter registration card
- State medical card
- Notarized affidavit of residency from the parent or person with whom the child is residing, affirming that the child eats and sleeps at the residence

All students entering kindergarten must provide documentation of a current physical examination and immunizations PRIOR to starting school, AND proof of a dental exam. You do not need proof of a physical or dental exam to register your child.

It is recommended that you make your child's appointments for a kindergarten physical and dental exam by April or even earlier! Students who do not have physical and dental exams by the first day of school may not be allowed to attend school.

Kindergarten Readiness Web Sites

- Tips for parents and activities for kindergarten readiness:
www.uri.edu/ce/faceit/Facts%20Sheets/Home%20Day%20Care/kready.html
- Early Learning Tip Sheet with links:
illinoisearlylearning.org/tipsheets/readykindergarten.htm
- Family FUNdamentals Home Learning Activities:
www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140--69358--,00.html
- Games, articles, and resources to make back-to-school fun:
www2.scholastic.com/browse/collection.jsp?id=72
- Kindergarten milestones and skill builders by subject:
school.familyeducation.com/kindergarten/parenting/36063.html
- **Getting School Ready! Guide** (available in several languages, including Spanish and Chinese). This free downloadable brochure provides tips to help parents prepare their children for entering kindergarten:
www.earlylearning.org/resources/publications/getting-school-ready

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Local Libraries

Our local libraries circulate books, magazines, videos, DVDs, compact disks, toys and kits, books on tape, large print books, CD-ROMS, and other materials. Many provide programs for children six months and older.

Champaign Public Library

200 W. Green
Champaign, IL 61820-5193
Main: 403-2070
Youth Dept.: 403-2030
<http://www.champaign.org/>

Douglass Branch Library

504 E. Grove St.
Champaign, IL 61820 • 403-2090
<http://www.champaign.org/>

Homer Community Library

500 E. 2nd St.
Homer, IL 61849-1223 • 896-2121
<http://www.homerillinois.blogspot.com>

Mahomet Public Library District

1702 E. Oak St.
Mahomet, IL 61853 • 586-2611
<http://mahometpubliclibrary.org/>

Ogden Rose Public Library

103 W. Main
Ogden, IL 61859 • 582-2411
<http://home.comcast.net/~roselibrary/>

Philo Public Library District

115 E. Washington
Philo, IL 61864-0199 • 684-2896

Rantoul Public Library

106 W. Flessner
Rantoul, IL 61866 • 893-3955
TDD 893-1439
<http://www.rantoul.lib.il.us>

Sidney Community Library

221 S. David St.
Sidney, IL 61877 • 688-2332

St. Joseph Township Swearingen Memorial Library

201 N. Third St.
St. Joseph, IL 61873 • 469-2159
<http://www.prairienet.org/sjlibrary>

Tolono Public Library District

111 Main St.
P. O. Box 759
Tolono, IL 61880-0759 • 485-5558
<http://www.tolonolibrary.org/>

Urbana Free Library

210 W. Green St.
Urbana, IL 61801-3283
Main: 367-4057
Children's Dept.: 367-4069
<http://urbanafreelibrary.org>

CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION

Recommended schedule, birth to 18 years

Immunizations are done by appointment only. Call 217 352-7961 in Champaign County to schedule. Parent or legal guardian must sign consent forms. Must bring current shot record. Charges may vary for each immunization, public aid card/cash/check/or billing.

- DTaP: Give at 2 months, 4 months, and 6 months. Booster dose at 15-18 months. Booster dose at 4-6 years.
- IPV: Give at 2 months, 4 months, and 6 months. Booster dose at 4-6 years.
- HIB: Give at 2 months, 4 months, and 6 months. Booster dose at 12-15 months.
- Rotavirus: Given at 2 months, 4 months, and 6 months. Series cannot be started after 12 weeks.
- Hepatitis A: Dose #1 at 12 months. Dose #2, given 6 months after #1.
- Hepatitis B: Give at birth to 2 months, #2 at 4 months and #3 at 6 months or older.
- Prevnar: Give at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months and 12-15 months.
- MMR/MMRV: Dose #1 given at 12-15 months. Booster at 4 to 6 years.
- Varicella: Given at 12 months. #2 recommended at 4-6 yr.
- HPV: Given to girls age 9 yr. to 18 yr. Dose #2, 2 months after #1. Dose #3 6 months after #1.
- Td/Tdap: Booster every 10 yr. Required prior to high school entry in Illinois.
- Meningitis: Recommended age 11-18 yr.
- Pediarix (Dtap, IPV and Hep B) and Comvax (HIB/HepB) may be used to reduce the number of immunizations given to infants.

The CUPHD Immunization Programs follow the recommended immunization schedule outlined by the ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices), AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics), and the AAFP (American Academy of Family Physicians).

Champaign County Elementary Schools

CHAMPAIGN SCHOOL DISTRICT #4

Champaign Administration
Mellon Administrative Center
703 South New Street
Champaign, IL 61820 • 351-3800

Barkstall Elementary School
2201 Hallbeck Drive
Champaign, IL 61822 • 373-5580

Bottenfield Elementary School
1801 South Prospect Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820 • 351-2587

Booker T. Washington Elementary School
606 East Grove Street
Champaign, IL 61820 • 351-3901

Carrie Busey Elementary School
1605 West Kirby Avenue
Champaign, IL 61821 • 351-3811

Dr. Howard Elementary School
1117 West Park Street
Champaign, IL 61821 • 351-3866

Garden Hills Elementary School
2001 Garden Hills Drive
Champaign, IL 61821 • 351-3872

Kenwood Elementary School
1001 South Stratford Drive
Champaign, IL 61821 • 351-3815

Robeson Elementary School
2501 Southmoor Drive
Champaign, IL 61821 • 351-3884

South Side Elementary School
712 South Pine Street
Champaign, IL 61820 • 351-3890

Stratton Elementary School
902 North Randolph Street
Champaign, IL 61820 • 373-7330

Westview Elementary School
703 South Russell Street
Champaign, IL 61821 • 351-3905

FISCHER SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

Fisher Elementary School
Box 700
Fisher, IL 61843 • 897-1133

GIFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT #188

Gifford Grade School
406 South Main, Box 70
Gifford, IL 61847 • 568-7733

HERITAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT #8

Elementary School
512 West First
Homer, IL 61849 • 896-2421

LUDLOW SCHOOL DISTRICT #142

Ludlow School
245 South Orange, Box 130
Ludlow, IL 60949 • 396-5261

MAHOMET-SEYMOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT #3

Lincoln Trail Elementary School
102 East State, Box 200
Mahomet, IL 61853 • 586-2811

Sangamon Elementary School
601 East Main, Box 198
Mahomet, IL 61853 • 586-4583

OGDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT #212

Ogden Grade School
304 North Market Street, Box 99
Ogden, IL 61859 • 582-2725

PRAIRIEVIEW OGDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT #197

Box 27
Royal, IL 61871 • 583-3300

RANTOUL CITY SCHOOLS #137

Broadmeadow School
500 Sunview
Rantoul, IL 61866 • 892-2194

Eastlawn School
620 North Maplewood
Rantoul, IL 61866 • 892-2131

Northview School
400 North Sheldon
Rantoul, IL 61866 • 892-2119

Pleasant Acres School
1649 Harper
Rantoul, IL 61866 • 893-4141

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL DISTRICT #169

St. Joseph Grade School
404 South Fifth Street, Box 409
St. Joseph, IL 61873 • 469-2291

THOMASBORO CONSOLIDATED GRADE SCHOOL #130

201 North Phillips, Box 99
Thomasboro, IL 61878 • 643-3275

TOLONO SCHOOL DISTRICT #7

Unity East Elementary School
1638 County Road 1000 N
Philo, IL 61864 • 684-5218

Unity West Elementary School
1035 County Road 600 N
Tolono, IL 61880 • 485-3918

URBANA SCHOOL DISTRICT #116

Urbana Administration
Jean F. Burkholder Administrative
Service Center
205 N. Race Street
Urbana, IL 61801 • 384-3600

Flossie Wiley Elementary School
1602 South Anderson Street
Urbana, IL 61801 • 384-3670

Leal Elementary School
312 West Oregon Street
Urbana, IL 61801 • 384-3618

Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School
1108 West Fairview Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801 • 384-3675

Prairie School
2102 East Washington Street
Urbana, IL 61801 • 384-3628

Thomas Paine Elementary School
1801 James Cherry Drive
Urbana, IL 61801 • 384-3602

Washington Early Childhood Center
1102 North Broadway Avenue
Urbana, IL 61802 • 384-3513

Yankee Ridge Elementary School
2102 South Anderson Street
Urbana, IL 61801 • 384-3608

NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Calvary Baptist Christian Academy
2106 E. Windsor Road
Urbana, IL 61801 • 367-2262

Canaan Academy
207 North Central Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801 • 367-6590

Countryside School
4301 West Kirby
Champaign, IL 61822 • 355-1253

Holy Cross Elementary School
410 West White Street
Champaign, IL 61820 • 356-9521

Judah Christian School
908 North Prospect Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820 • 359-1701

KinderCare School
410 Devonshire Drive
Champaign, IL 61820 • 356-9000

Montessori Elementary School of C-U
1700 South Crescent Drive
Champaign, IL 61824 • 351-8244

Montessori Habitat School
304 Sunnycrest Court West
Urbana, IL 61801 • 366-3260

The Montessori School
1403 Regency Drive East
Savoy, IL 61874 • 356-1818

Next Generation School
2533 Galen Drive
Champaign, IL 61822 • 356-6995

St. John Lutheran School
509 South Mattis Avenue
Champaign, IL 61821 • 359-1714

St. Malachy School
340 East Belle Street
Rantoul, IL 61866-1804 • 892-2011

St. Matthew School
1307 Lincolnshire Drive
Champaign, IL 61821 • 359-4114

University Primary School
51 Gerty Drive
Champaign, IL 61820 • 333-3996

Parent Resources

DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS

All children develop in unique ways and at different rates. Screenings are a fun and comfortable way to learn how a child is developing, and to address developmental questions parents and caregivers may have.

Champaign County residents can have their children screened by calling their local school district:

- Champaign: (217) 351-3881
- Urbana: (217) 384-3616
- Mahomet-Seymour: (217) 586-5833
- Rural Champaign County: (217) 893-0306
- Developmental Services Center (217) 359-0287

OTHER RESOURCES

American Academy of Pediatrics

<http://www.aap.org>

Health and wellness information for families including information on developmental stages, immunizations, and parenting.

Parenting 24/7

<http://parenting247.org>

News, information, and advice on parenting and family life designed for parents and grandparents of children ages newborn to teen. Features include articles with research-based information, video clips of parents and experts discussing timely age-based topics, breaking news and commentary, newsletters, and recommendations to the best parenting resources on the web.

Scholastic

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/>

Provides information, activities, and advice for parents with a focus on literacy and learning.

PBS Parents

<http://www.pbs.org/parents>

Information about child development and fun educational activities for children to help get them ready for school.

Reading Rockets

<http://www.readingrockets.org>

Reading Rockets offers a wealth of strategies, lessons, and activities designed to help young children learn to read.

The Illinois Early Learning Project

<http://www.illinoisearlylearning.org/chat/helm/sup.htm>

Provides evidence-based, reliable information on early care and education for parents,

caregivers, and teachers of young children in Illinois. The site offers printable Tip Sheets for caregivers and parents, Frequently Asked Questions (and their answers), a customized question-answering service, a statewide calendar of events for parents and caregivers, and links to "The Best of the Web" on topics related to early care and education.

Born Learning

<http://www.bornlearning.org>

Site provides resources to help parents, caregivers, and communities support early learning.

Zero to Three

<http://www.zerotothree.org>

Provides information about child development and care in areas such as early brain development, early language and literacy, and play.



40 Developmental Assets for Early Childhood

The Search Institute has identified forty building blocks that are essential for helping children become healthy, caring, and responsible individuals. These building blocks, also called Developmental Assets™, are competencies that children develop through their experiences with people in their world (parents, teachers, child care providers, librarians, bus drivers, and others).

- The more assets children have the better. Research shows that adolescents who report having more assets are more likely to be successful in school and in their personal life. The Search Institute has found that most adolescents have only 18 to 20 of these 40 Developmental Assets™.
- Starting early is critical to helping children build assets. Your use of this Kindergarten Readiness Calendar is a great start.
- Review the Developmental Assets™ list below and see how you can help children entering kindergarten build their assets.

EXTERNAL ASSETS

Support

1. Family support—Parent(s) and/or primary caregiver(s) provide the child with high levels of consistent and predictable love, physical care, and positive attention in ways that are responsive to the child's individuality.
2. Positive family communication—Parent(s) and/or primary caregiver(s) express themselves positively and respectfully, engaging young children in conversations that invite their input.
3. Other adult relationships—With the family's support, the child experiences consistent, caring relationships with adults outside the family.
4. Caring neighbors—The child's network of relationships includes neighbors who provide emotional support and a sense of belonging.
5. Caring climate in child-care and educational settings—Caregivers and teachers create environments that are nurturing, accepting, encouraging, and secure.

14. Adult role models—Parent(s), caregivers, and other adults model self-control, social skills, engagement in learning, and healthy lifestyles.

15. Positive peer relationships—Parent(s) and caregivers seek to provide opportunities for the child to interact positively with other children.

Constructive Use of Time

16. Positive expectations—Parent(s), caregivers, and teachers encourage and support the child in behaving appropriately, undertaking challenging tasks, and performing activities to the best of her or his ability.

17. Play and creative activities—The child has daily opportunities to play in ways that allow self-expression, physical activity, and interaction with others.

18. Out-of-home and community programs—The child experiences well-designed programs led by competent, caring adults in well-maintained settings.

19. Religious community—The child participates in age-appropriate religious activities and caring relationships that nurture her or his spiritual development.

28. Integrity—The child begins to express her or his views appropriately and to stand up for a growing sense of what is fair and right.

29. Honesty—The child begins to understand the difference between truth and lies, and is truthful to the extent of her or his understanding.

30. Responsibility—The child begins to follow through on simple tasks to take care of her- or himself and to help others.

31. Self-regulation—The child increasingly can identify, regulate, and control her or his behaviors in healthy ways, using adult support constructively in particularly stressful situations.

Social Competencies

32. Planning and decision making—The child begins to plan for the immediate future, choosing from several options and trying to solve problems.

33. Interpersonal skills—The child cooperates, shares, plays harmoniously, and comforts others in distress.

6. Parent involvement in child care and education—Parent(s), caregivers, and teachers together create a consistent and supportive approach to fostering the child’s successful growth.

Empowerment

7. Community cherishes and values young children—Children are welcomed and included throughout community life.

8. Children seen as resources—The community demonstrates that children are valuable resources by investing in a child-rearing system of family support and high-quality activities and resources to meet children’s physical, social, and emotional needs.

9. Service to others—The child has opportunities to perform simple but meaningful and caring actions for others.

10. Safety—Parent(s), caregivers, teachers, neighbors, and the community take action to ensure children’s health and safety.

Boundaries & Expectations

11. Family boundaries—The family provides consistent supervision for the child and maintains reasonable guidelines for behavior that the child can understand and achieve.

12. Boundaries in child-care and educational settings—Caregivers and educators use positive approaches to discipline and natural consequences to encourage self-regulation and acceptable behaviors.

13. Neighborhood boundaries—Neighbors encourage the child in positive, acceptable behavior, as well as intervene in negative behavior in a supportive, nonthreatening way.

20. Time at home—The child spends most of her or his time at home participating in family activities and playing constructively, with parent(s) guiding TV and electronic game use.

INTERNAL ASSETS

Commitment to Learning

21. Motivation to mastery—The child responds to new experiences with curiosity and energy, resulting in the pleasure of mastering new learning and skills.

22. Engagement in learning experiences—The child fully participates in a variety of activities that offer opportunities for learning.

23. Home-program connection—The child experiences security, consistency, and connections between home and out-of-home care programs and learning activities.

24. Bonding to programs—The child forms meaningful connections with out-of-home care and educational programs.

25. Early literacy—The child enjoys a variety of pre-reading activities, including adults reading to her or him daily, looking at and handling books, playing with a variety of media, and showing interest in pictures, letters, and numbers.

Positive Values

26. Caring—The child begins to show empathy, understanding, and awareness of others’ feelings.

27. Equality and social justice—The child begins to show concern for people who are excluded from play and other activities or not treated fairly because they are different.

34. Cultural awareness and sensitivity—The child begins to learn about her or his own cultural identity and to show acceptance of people who are racially, physically, culturally, or ethnically different from her or him.

35. Resistance skills—The child begins to sense danger accurately, to seek help from trusted adults, and to resist pressure from peers to participate in unacceptable or risky behavior.

36. Peaceful conflict resolution—The child begins to compromise and resolve conflicts without using physical aggression or hurtful language.

Positive Identity

37. Personal power—The child can make choices that give a sense of having some influence over things that happen in her or his life.

38. Self-esteem—The child likes her- or himself and has a growing sense of being valued by others.

39. Sense of purpose—The child anticipates new opportunities, experiences, and milestones in growing up.

40. Positive view of personal future—The child finds the world interesting and enjoyable, and feels that he or she has a positive place in it.

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Places to Go in Champaign County

Young children are curious about the world around them. Introduce your child to new things: parks, zoos, museums, hiking, sporting events, restaurants. Invite a friend! Here are some fun places to go with your child. Visit the web site www.findsomethingtodo.com for current children's activities throughout Champaign County.

FARMERS MARKETS

Champaign Farmers Market

Country Fair Shopping Center
Mattis Ave., Champaign • 356-3717
Wed. 7am–12pm, June–October
Fresh produce, homemade food & craft items.

Champaign Historic North First Street Market

Thur. 3–7pm, June–September
Cooking demonstrations, children's garden, family-friendly events.

Champaign-Urbana Public Health District Farmers Market

201 W. Kenyon, Champaign
Tues. 1–5:30pm, July 5–October 25
Special match offer for SNAP and WIC clients

Market at the Square

300 S. Broadway Ave., Urbana • 367-0333
Sat. 7am–Noon, May–November
Homemade craft items, fresh produce, music, and more. Monthly sprouts programming for kids 3–8 (7am–12pm).

Mahomet Farmers Market

Opposite firehouse, next to Village Building, Mahomet
Wed. 3–6pm, June–October
Fresh produce & crafts from local producers.

Rantoul Farmers Market

107 N. Kentucky, Rantoul
Fri. 7–11am, June–October
Fresh produce, flowers & plants.

Orpheum Children's Science Museum

346 N. Neil St., Champaign • 352-5895
\$3 adult admission, \$2 children ages 2–18
Hands-on children's science museum. Exhibits and activities encourage children to explore science at their own pace in an informal setting.

The Spurlock Museum (U of I)

600 S. Gregory St., Urbana • 244-3355
Learning and educational resource center features permanent cultural galleries celebrating Africa, Egypt, Europe, Asia, Oceania, Americas, and Ancient Mediterranean.

PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS

Ambucs Park

1100 E. University Ave., Urbana
Accessible playground, picnic tables.

Blair Park

Vine St. & Florida Ave., Urbana
Ball fields, playground, shuffleboard courts.

Busey Woods/Anita Purves Nature Center

1505 N. Broadway Ave., Urbana • 384-4062
Hiking trails, wildlife viewing and nature programs. Indoor nature center with exhibits.

Crystal Lake Park

Broadway & Park, Urbana • 328-1069
Playground, paddle boats, dock fishing, lighted sledding hill.

First Christian Church Indoor Playground & Track

3601 S. Staley Rd., Champaign • 356-1649
M–W, F 8am–4:30pm, Th 12–4:30pm, Free admission
Indoor playground and track, soft walking and playing surface, open to the public. Free WIFI, eating area.

POOLS & WATER PLAY

Hessel Park Water Play

Kirby Ave. & Grandview Dr., Champaign
Open Memorial Day–Labor Day
Weekdays, 11am–3pm & 5pm–7pm
Free water play area with in-ground sprays.

Hap Parker Family Aquatic Center

E. Wabash, Rantoul • 893-0461
Open Memorial Day–Labor Day
Weekdays, 1pm–8pm; Weekends, Noon–8pm
\$4 Admission (under 3 free)
Two water slides, water toys for children, concession stand, picnic tables, and more.

Sholem Aquatic Center

2200 W Sangamon Dr., Champaign • 398-2581
Mon–Fri 11:30am–7pm (til 8pm in July), Weekends and Holidays 11am–7pm; Admission: Champaign residents \$6 (\$4 after 5pm), non-residents \$9 (\$6 after 5pm), under 3 free, seasonal passes available.
Open May 24th–Sept 1st
Attractions include water slides, an activity pool with spray and play features for interactive fun, lap pool, kiddy pool, bathhouse and concession stand.

Spalding Pool

910 N. Harris St., Champaign • 398-2578
Open May 31st–Aug 10th
Mon–Fri 1pm–5pm, Weekends and Holidays 11am–6pm; Admission: Champaign residents \$2.50, non-residents \$3.75 (under 3 free), seasonal passes available.
Separate wading pool for young children adjacent to the main pool.

MUSEUMS

Champaign County Historical Museum

102 E. University Ave., Champaign • 356-1010

Free admission

Located in the historic Cattle Bank, the museum features exhibits highlighting county history.

Krannert Art Museum & Kinkead Pavilion (U of I)

500 E. Peabody Dr., Champaign

333-1860 info. / 333-1861 office

Second largest public art museum in Illinois.

Early American Museum

Illinois Route 47 N., Mahomet • 586-2612

Free admission

Daily 1pm–5pm, March–December

Additional summer and weekday hours, 10am–5pm

Mon–Sat in June, July, and August

Extensive collection interpreting 19th/20th Century life in east-central Illinois. Discovery Room offers hands-on opportunities and educational programs for all ages.

Monticello Railway Museum

Off I-72 Exit 166, Monticello • 877-762-9011

(Take Market St. exit, turn at the stoplight onto Iron Horse Place at the Best Western, follow the frontage road to end.)

Museum displays cars, materials and artifacts relating to railroading. Also offers seven mile roundtrip train rides on weekends and some holidays from May through October.

Museum of Natural History (U of I)

1301 W. Green St., Urbana • 333-2517

Building hallway exhibits on biology and geology available to visitors when University is in session.

Octave Chanute Aerospace Museum

5 Aviation Center

1011 Pacesetter Dr., Rantoul • 893-1613

Largest aerospace museum in Illinois.

Features military aircraft, flight simulators, crash and fire trucks, engines and more.

Heritage Park

Titan Dr. & S. Perimeter Dr., Rantoul • 893-0461

Fishing, picnic tables, playground, and bridges connecting small islands.

Hessel Park

500 W. Kirby Ave., Champaign • 398-2591

Water play area and playground.

Kaufman Lake (Champaign Park District)

Springfield Ave, before Duncan Rd. • 398-2550

Trails around lake, picnic areas, fishing, biking, ice-skating in winter.

Lake of the Woods County Park

109 S. Lake of the Woods Rd., Mahomet • 586-3360

10 miles west of Champaign/Urbana off I-74 near Mahomet, Exit 172 or 174

Boating, paddle boat rentals, fishing, hiking, sledding, and plenty of play areas.

Meadowbrook Park

Windsor Rd & Race St, Urbana • 367-1544

Concrete bike trail, hiking trail, sculptures, herb garden, open field, and playground.

Prairie Play Playground

Windsor Rd. & Vine St., Urbana • 367-1544

Large wooden play structure with sandbox, swings, bridges, tunnels, slides, and more.

West Side Park

400 W. Church/University, Champaign

Playground, fountain, and walking paths.



Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center

102 E. Michigan Ave., Urbana • 384-7665

Open Jan 16th–April 30th, Mon–Fri 6pm–9pm, Sat. Noon–5pm, Sun. 2pm–7pm

\$6 Admission per person (under 2 free), \$4 on Thursdays

Indoor pools and water playground complete with water geysers, rain drop umbrella toy, and dinosaur slide.

OTHER

Anita Purves Nature Center and Busey Woods

1505 N. Broadway, Urbana • 384-4062

Nov. 25–Feb. 28, M–F 8am–5pm, Sat. 9am–4pm

Mar 1–May 31, M–Sat. 8am–5pm, Sun Noon–4pm

Closed Dec 23–25, Dec 30–31, Jan 1–9

Nature shop, multipurpose room, local park, 59 acre forest preserve.

Curtis Orchard and Pumpkin Patch

3902 S. Duncan Rd., Champaign • 359-5565

Open July 29–Fall season

Pick your own apples and pumpkins in season.

Petting zoo, mazes, horseback rides, and more.

Hardy's Reindeer Ranch

1356 CR 2900 N, Rantoul • 893-3407

Chuck-wagon barbeque, corn maze, Christmas wonderland, and more.

Prairie Farm Petting Zoo

Centennial Park

Crescent Dr. & Kirby Ave., Champaign • 398-2591

Open Memorial Day–Labor Day, weather permitting

Mon.–Sat., Noon–7pm; Sundays & Holidays, 1–7pm

Traditional farm animals and petting zoo.

Sailfin Pet Shop

720 S. Neil St., Champaign • 352-1121

Visit the fish, turtles, snakes & other aquarium species.

William M. Staerke Planetarium

Parkland College

2400 W. Bradley Ave., Champaign • 351-2568

Fri. & Sat., shows 7pm, 8pm, 9:30pm

Summer matinees 10am, 11am (Thurs. only)

Star shows, light shows and science education programs.

