

Putnam Public Schools Parent's Guide to

TRANSITIONING TO KINDERGARTEN



Putnam Family Resource Center

33 Wicker Street

Putnam, CT 06260

860-963-6940

Welcome

The Putnam Public Schools is pleased to share this booklet about preparing children for kindergarten. The activities outlined in this document are meant as suggestions to help parents and providers guide a child's development of key thinking and learning skills for kindergarten.

Enjoy this time with your child and remember to READ every day!



If you would like more information about the Putnam Public Schools' Kindergarten program, please call us at 860-963-6925 or visit our website at www.putnam.k12.ct.us.

We welcome you and your child to the Putnam School Community.

THINKING & LEARNING

★ Skills your child should have before entering kindergarten

✓ Activities that you and your child can do to get ready for kindergarten

★ Recognizes and names at least 5 colors.

✓ Have your child create a “my color book” and have your child color or cut out pictures to glue to paper. Read color books such as, *Mouse Paint* or *Big Scary Green Monster*.

★ Ask open-ended questions that allow your child to make their own discussions, problem-solve and make corrections.

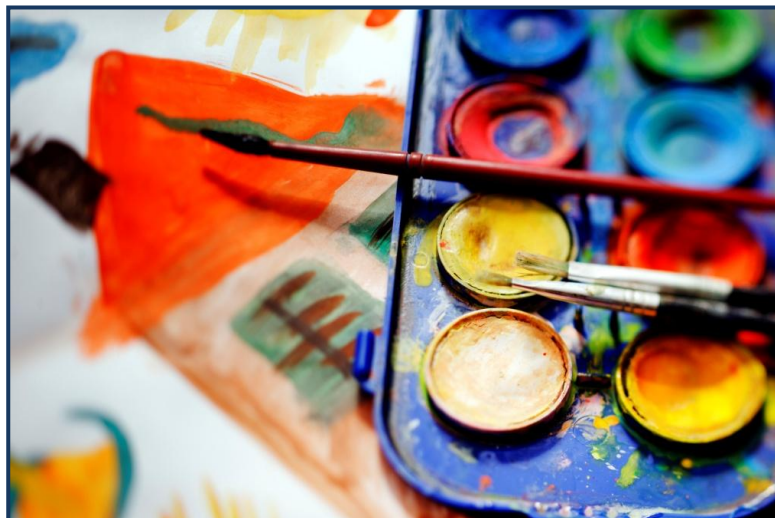
✓ “What would happen if...? Tell me about... What could you do about...?”

★ Builds simple puzzles of up to 25 pieces.

✓ Provide puzzles with and without knobs and more difficult puzzles up to 25 pieces. Make puzzles out of greeting cards or cereal boxes.

★ Expresses ideas through pictures they draw.

✓ Give your child paper and crayons and ask them to draw their favorite activity and then ask them to tell you about their picture. Write their description on their drawing and be sure to read it back to them.



READING AND WRITING

★ Skills your child should have before entering kindergarten

✓ Activities that you and your child can do to get ready for kindergarten

★ Recognizes copies and prints his/her first name.

- ✓ Print your child's name wherever possible using upper case and lower case letters appropriately. Make a puzzle from the letters in their name and have your child "spell" their name correctly. Help your child form letters correctly by putting your hand over their hand to help them.

★ Recognizes and knows some letters in the alphabet and the sounds they make.

- ✓ Have your child point out letters in their own name and say the letter. Use magnetic letters on the refrigerator for your child to identify. Help your child find letters they know on street signs, in magazines and books, and around your house. Place letters in a bag and have them close their eyes and pick out a letter and identify it.



★ Knows 20 preschool sight words.

- ✓ Have your child point to and say familiar words.

★ Matches a letter with the beginning sound of a word ('B' is for Boy)

- ✓ Help your child match letters to objects/pictures by giving them an object and having them name it so they can hear the beginning sound of the word. Have your child cut out pictures from magazines that begin with a certain letter sound.

READING AND WRITING

- ★ Recognizes rhyming words and can generate rhymes.
 - ✓ Read rhyming books or sing songs that rhyme. Have your child complete a rhyming pattern you start “Hickory dickory dock – the mouse ran up the...?”
- ★ Holds and looks at books correctly; looks at book from front to back, right side up and turns the pages one at a time.
 - ✓ Read to your child often. Have your child “pretend” to read their favorite stories to you. Before reading, look at the pictures in the story and talk about what the story may be about.
- ★ Retells a story in sequence, either verbally or using pictures.
 - ✓ Have your child use pictures from a familiar story to retell the order of events. Ask your child to sequence 3-5 pictures of himself at different stages (baby-toddler-preschool). After reading with your child, talk about the story.



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE

★ Skills your child should have before entering kindergarten

✓ Activities that you and your child can do to get ready for kindergarten

- ★ Uses and understands many words: participates in conversations.
 - ✓ Ask your child about their day using open-ended questions. Ex: “What did you play with at school today? Tell me about the playground? What was your favorite activity?”
- ★ Follows directions with at least two steps.
 - ✓ As you go through the day, give children directions that involve at least two steps. Ex: “Take off your jacket and hang it on the hook. Let’s jump to the door and go outside.”
- ★ Makes simple predictions and comments about a story being read.
 - ✓ Have your child look at the cover of the book and tell you what they think the book is about. Ask your child to tell the story back in their own words.
- ★ Understands words, such as ‘top’, ‘bottom’, ‘big’ and ‘little’.
 - ✓ Involve children in activities that require listening and following directions.
 - ✓ Play a game with a ball, asking children to follow your steps: Put the ball on top of your head; put the ball under your chin.
- ★ Speaks in complete sentences.
 - ✓ Be a model for your child by speaking in complete sentences. Help your child to add words to complete their sentences.
- ★ Knows that words can rhyme and generates rhyming words.
 - ✓ Read and sing nursery rhymes and rhyming stories with your child. Help your child to make up his own funny rhyming words.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

★ Skills your child should have before entering kindergarten

✓ Activities that you and your child can do to get ready for kindergarten

★ Runs, hops, throws, catches and bounces a ball.

- ✓ Give children daily opportunities to use large muscles in a safe space. Have toys and equipment available that children can use.

★ Uses writing and drawing tools and child-sized scissors with control and intention.

- ✓ Allow your child opportunities to develop hand muscles using squirt/spray bottles, tongs, eye droppers, wind-up toys, legos, peg boards, bubble wrap, finger painting, stringing beads and clothes pins.
- ✓ Give your child opportunities to cut with scissors while you watch. Your child can start by cutting playdough snakes, straws and thick paper. Encourage your child to use the appropriate “thumbs-up” grasp.
- ✓ Have a “writing center” where you keep paper, pencils, markers, crayons, chalk and scissors for your child to use to draw and write about personal experiences. Encourage your child to use the 3-point grasp when holding a pencil.



MATH: NUMBERS AND COUNTING

★ Skills your child should have before entering kindergarten

✓ Activities that you and your child can do to get ready for kindergarten

★ Counts from 1 to 30 in correct order.

✓ Count objects whenever you are driving or walking. Read counting books with your child. Play counting games with your child.

★ Recognizes numbers from 0 to 10.

✓ Play “I Spy” with numbers as you travel. Look for number symbols in magazines and books.

✓ Make a number book with your child; let your child draw the correct number of items for each page.

★ Puts written numbers in order from 0 to 10, can identify missing number in a sequence (2 _ 4) and can identify which number is smaller or larger (4 or 10).

✓ Use plastic/magnetic numbers and have your child put numbers in correct order.

✓ Play dominos with your child and have them count dots and decide which one has more.



★ Adds and subtracts objects up to 10.

✓ Use addition and subtraction words with your child (more, less, add, subtract, minus and equal).

✓ Read simple subtraction/addition books such as *5 Little Monkeys* or *Roll Over*.

MATH: NUMBERS AND COUNTING

- ★ Sorts items by one attribute (size, order) and is able to describe how they are sorted.
 - ✓ Play games where your child has to find the matching shoes, mittens or socks.
 - ✓ Have your child sort toys and tell you how they sorted them (farm animals/wild animals).
- ★ Creates simple patterns (AB – Red/Blue)
 - ✓ Have your child make paper holiday chains by using a simple pattern – red/green.
 - ✓ Have your child repeat a movement pattern that you start (clap-clap-stomp).
- ★ Knows the days of the week, calendar months and seasons.
 - ✓ Read books about days of the week such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.
 - ✓ Talk about what month it is and link it to special days in the month.

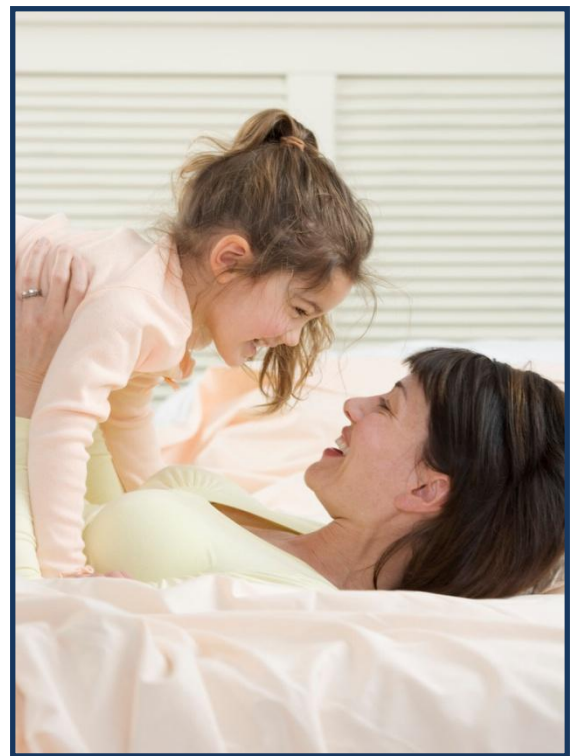


SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

★ Skills your child should have before entering kindergarten

✓ Activities that you and your child can do to get ready for kindergarten

- ★ Takes care of own needs, such as toileting, washing hands, dressing and cleaning up own area.
 - ✓ Give your child plenty of opportunities to practice doing things independently. Create an “I did it myself” chart or poster; write down all of the things your child has learned to do on their own and have your child illustrate the poster. Celebrate and praise your child for their independence.
- ★ Establish Routines (bedtimes, meal times).
 - ✓ Be clear when giving directions to your child and have your child repeat the directions in their own words. Establish consistent and predictable routines for bedtime, meal times and quiet time, etc. Bedtime should be at the same time every night consistent of the same sequence of events; bath time, reading, bedtime. Use meal times to discuss your child’s day.
- ★ Works and plays together with other children.
 - ✓ Help your child express their feelings appropriately and encourage your child to solve problems with friends by using their words and asking for help. Provide lots of opportunities for your child to play with other children.



SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ★ Stays focused and involved in a non-electronic activity for at least 15-20 minutes.
 - ✓ Help your child to learn to stay engaged in an activity/game until it is completed by working with them on the activity. Use positive words to support them staying on task.
- ★ Adjusts to new situations without a parent being there.
 - ✓ Read books about being away from a parent such as, *Llama, Llama Misses Mama*, *The Kissing Hand*, and *Countdown to Kindergarten*. Make a game out of pretending that your child is going to school and think of as many silly ways to say goodbye.
- ★ Knows first and last name, age and gender.
 - ✓ Help your child to create an “All About Me and My Family” book. Have your child illustrate the pages and share their own information. Pages should include: This is me, I am ___ years old. I am a _____. I like to eat _____. My family page. Read this book with your child and they will love it because it is all about them.

