

READ. TALK. PLAY.

Every Day!

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A Calendar to Help Your Child Get Ready for Kindergarten 2024–2025

United Way of Champaign County — Helping all children succeed in school and in life

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO GET READY FOR KINDERGARTEN!

One of the most exciting days for you and your child is the first day of kindergarten. This calendar is designed to help you and your child get ready for that special day.

Let's get started!

This calendar is for 3, 4, and 5 year olds who are preparing for kindergarten. The calendar runs from September through August; similar to the school year. Each month focuses on a different topic

with suggested daily activities based on Illinois Early Learning Standards and strategies developed by early learning experts.

Use this calendar as a guide for fun ideas. Include family members and friends in the activities. Have a wonderful year together as you get ready for the big day!

Remember that play is an important part of learning. Your child learns best when they are spending time with you and

doing activities that are fun and interesting.

Children develop at their own pace and "typical" development can vary greatly from child to child.

School readiness is much more than knowing letters and numbers. Children who are kindergarten ready have good social, self-help and physical skills and are developing a love for learning.



KINDERGARTEN READINESS CHECKLIST

This checklist is a guide to help prepare your child for school. It's best to look at the items on the list as goals to aim toward. 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
- 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 their 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

READ TOGETHER EVERY DAY

- Store your child's books in a special place that's easy to reach such as a basket, drawer or a low shelf.
- Place a small rug or pillow nearby to create a comfortable space for reading.
- Get a library card for your child (and yourself if you don't already have one).
- Find a place to read together away from distractions.
- Hold your child as you read to help develop a positive attitude toward reading.
- Children enjoy and learn by repetition, so it's OK if they want you to read the same books over & over.
- Talk about the story as you read. Ask questions and point out details in the pictures.
- Ask your child to retell the story in their own words.
- Talk about characters as you read together.
- Count out loud with your child every day while reading, cooking, and shopping, etc.

SEPTEMBER 2024



SUNDAY

Practice writing your child's name together. **1**

MONDAY

Labor Day **2**

TUESDAY

Play hopscotch together. **3**

WEDNESDAY

Using a newspaper article, circle words that begin with the first letter of your child's first name. **4**

THURSDAY

Talk about book characters as you read together today. **5**

FRIDAY

Play a matching game or match items you have around the house. **6**

SATURDAY

Play a board game or card game with your child. **7**

Grandparents' Day **8**

Go for a walk with your child. Talk about what you see. **9**

Practice fire safety: stop, drop & roll. **10**

Have a dance party. **11**

Library Day! Take your child to the library and get a library card. **12**

Help your child write their name. **13**

Visit www.pbs.org/parents and click on the "Fun and Games" tab. **14**

READ. TALK. PLAY.
Every Day!

Count out loud with your child every day while reading, cooking and shopping. **15**

Practice writing your child's name together. **16**

Practice counting from 1 to 10. **17**

18

Look for words that begin with the same first letter using books, magazines and newspapers. **19**

Practice bouncing a ball. Count the number of bounces. **20**

Pick a new book and encourage your child to guess what the story will be about by looking at the cover. **21**

Autumn Begins **22**
Yellow week: look for things that are yellow this week.

Look through magazines and books to find things that are yellow. **23**

Read a poem together. **24**

25

Library Day! Have your child invite a friend to the library. **26**

Find food items or animals that begin with the same sound. Name the letter that makes that sound. **27**

Play a matching game or match things you have around the house. **28**

29

30



We love feedback!
Please take this short survey.

Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *Help Wanted, Must Love Books* by Janet Sumner Johnson, Illustrations by Courtney Dawson
- *The Book Hog* by Greg Pizzoli
- *One Day in the Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus Tree* by Daniel Bernstrom, Illustrations by Brendan Wenzel
- *Stacey's Remarkable Books* by Stacey Abrams, Illustrations by Kitt Thomas
- *No Buddy Like a Book* by Allan Wolf, Illustrations by Brianne Farley
- *This Book Will Get You to Sleep!* by Jory John, Illustrations by Olivier Tallec
- *This is a Story* by John Schu, Illustrations by Lauren Castillo
- *The Summer Nick Taught His Cats to Read* by Curtis Manley, Illustrations by Kate Berube
- *The Snatchabook* by Helen Docherty, Illustrations by Thomas Docherty



SCHOOL TOOLS

- Decide on simple rules for using drawing & writing tools, “Markers may be used at the kitchen table or outdoors.” Or “Scissors are for cutting paper.”
- Draw pictures together about family events, daily experiences, etc.
- Praise your child’s efforts. Perfection is not the goal. Display some of their work and change it from time to time.
- Plan a healthy meal together.
- Make a grocery list together.
- Label belongings with your child’s name.
- Encourage your child to use the tools to write a letter if they are interested in writing.
- Practice how to hold scissors, how to open and close them, and how to hold the paper.
- Try snipping paper first or even play-doh or plastic straws.

OCTOBER 2024



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

■ **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!**

Plan a healthy meal to eat on Halloween.

1

Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown

2

While outdoors, allow your child to draw on the sidewalk with chalk.

Library Day!

3

Make a necklace using dental floss and cereal like Cheerios.™

Clap your hands to the beat of a song today.

4

Take your child for a walk and collect different kinds of leaves.

5

Read your favorite children’s book to your child.

6

Child Health Day

7

Cut pictures of expressive faces from magazines and make a feelings collage.

8

Do jumping jacks together.

9

10



**We love feedback!
Please take this short survey.**

Yom Kippur begins at sundown

11

Cut shapes out of paper to make a picture.

Talk about fall and have your child draw a picture of a tree.

12

Make a grocery shopping list together. **13**

Indigenous Peoples Day **14**
Columbus Day (observed)

Write a note with your child to a grandparent, relative or friend. **15**

Clap your hands to the beat of a song. **16**

Library Day! **17**

Show your child how to write his/her name using upper- and lower-case letters. **18**

Arrange a play date for your child. **19**

Count to 20 or higher. **20**

Make the bed together. **21**

Find food items or animals that begin with the same sound as your child's first name. Name the letter that makes that sound. **22**

Practice zipping a coat or backpack. **23**

Sort or count things like socks, canned soups, buttons, etc. **24**

Practice fire safety: stop, drop & roll. **25**

Look at the pictures in a book with your child before reading. **26**

Orange week: look for things that are orange this week. **27**

Act out a favorite story. Use puppets, dolls or stuffed animals. **28**

29
READ. TALK. PLAY.
Every Day!

Help your child build their name using magnetic letters. **30**

Halloween **31**
Encourage your child to say "thank you" while trick-or-treating.

Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *When Pencil Met Eraser* by Karen Kilpatrick and Luis O. Ramos, Jr., Illustrations by Germán Blanco
- *Pete the Cat: Crayons Rock!* by Kim Dean, Illustrations by James Dean
- *Beach Toys vs. School Supplies* by Mike Ciccotello
- *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt, Illustrations by Oliver Jeffers
- *A Squiggly Story* by Andrew Larsen, Illustrations by Mike Lowery
- *Red: A Crayon's Story* by Michael Hall
- *Monster Trouble* by Lane Fredrickson, Illustrations by Michael Robertson
- *Linus the Little Yellow Pencil* by Scott Magoon
- *Eraser* by Anna Kang, Illustrations by Christopher Weyant



GET MOVING

- Save plastic water or soda bottles to use as bowling pins.
 - Toss bean bags or socks in a basket.
 - Balance books on your head while walking.
 - Visit a safe outdoor space so you can run and play together.
 - Play toss and catch together with a rubber ball.
 - Set up an obstacle course (inside the house or out). Run through it or steer a tricycle/bike through it.
- Teach your child games like “Hokey Pokey,” “Red light-green light” and “Simon Says.”
 - Suggest your child try to move like different animals: hop like a rabbit, slither like a snake, fly like a bird.

NOVEMBER 2024



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

■ **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.

Daylight Savings Time Ends

3

Turn clocks back one hour.

Help your child begin to learn their address and phone number

4

Election Day

5

Have your child tell a story to a family member.

Play hopscotch.

6

Look in books and magazines for different facial expressions: happy, sad, excited, scared, etc.

7

Sing ABCs.

8

All Saints' Day

1

Schedule a play date at a park.

Have a dance party.

2

9

Brown week:
look for
things that
are brown
this week. **10**

**Veterans
Day** **11**

Take a walk.
Find things
that are
brown. **12**

Put on some
music and
dance with
your child
and a friend
or other
family
members. **13**

Library Day! **14**

Have your
child draw a
picture or
write a note
to a family
member
about
something
their is
thankful for. **15**

Go outside
and kick a
ball back and
forth with
your child. **16**

Help your
child draw a
picture of
your family. **17**

Make a
picture or
decoration for
Thanksgiving. **18**

Go to the
grocery store
and have
your child
help pick
items for
Thanksgiving. **19**

Read a
Thanksgiving
story. **20**

Practice
zipping, tying
or buttoning. **21**

22

Exercise with
your child.
Count the
number of
arm circles or
hops. **23**

24

**READ.
TALK.
PLAY.**
Every Day!

Say a word to
your child
and ask them
to say words
that rhyme. **25**

26

Ask your child
to predict the
end of a
story before
you read it. **27**

**Thanksgiving
Day** **28**

Ask your child
to help set
the table and
count the
items.

**Native
American
Heritage Day** **29**

Hum or sing
a song as
you pick up
toys together. **30**

**Good
books
for
four-
and
five-year
olds**

- *Hip-Hop Lollipop* by Susan Montanari, Illustrations by Brian Pinkney
- *Wonder Walkers* by Micha Archer
- *From Head to Toe* by Eric Carle
- *Together We Ride* by Valerie Bolling
- *You Are a Lion and Other Fun Yoga Poses* by Taeun Yoo
- *The Nuts: Sing and Dance in your Polka-dot Pants* by Eric Litwin, Illustrations by Scott Magoon
- *Spunky Little Monkey* by Bill Martin, Illustrations by Brian Won
- *Is Everyone Ready for Fun?* by Jan Thomas
- *It's a Tiger!* by David LaRochele, Illustrations by Jeremy Tankard



LETTERS AND WORDS AT HOME AND AROUND TOWN

- Use an uppercase letter followed by lowercase letters when writing your child's name. For example: "Matthew."
- Make a name card for each member of your family. Help your child place them at the dinner table where everyone sits.
- Use letter magnets on the refrigerator or a cookie sheet to spell their name and familiar names: Mom, Dad.
- Place alphabet letters in a container. Pull them out one at a time and name them.
- Invite your child to "read" familiar business signs as you run errands.
- Read alphabet books and allow your child to name the letters they recognize.
- Read a book together then ask your child to go back and look for a certain letter of the alphabet found in the story.
- Write the alphabet on paper. Sing the ABC song slowly and have your child touch each letter as you go.

DECEMBER 2024



SUNDAY

1

MONDAY

Read a holiday story at bedtime.

2

TUESDAY

Practice the ABC song.

3

WEDNESDAY

4

THURSDAY

Library Day!

5

FRIDAY

Have your child write their name on a card and display it on their bedroom door.

6

SATURDAY

Help your child practice zipping their coat and take a walk together.

7

Name fruits and vegetables found in your refrigerator.

8

Find circles and squares around your house.

9

Have your child practice tying their shoes or the shoes of someone else.

10

Have your child practice saying your phone number.

11

Play a game that involves taking turns.

12

Read a favorite winter book.

13

Make cookies with your child to share as a gift.

14

Green week: look for things that are green this week. **15**

Sing a favorite holiday song together. **16**

Count to 50. **17**

Help your child write the letters of their first name. **18**

Library Day! **19**

Name four things that rhyme with "cat." **20**

Winter begins **21**
Put on music and dance.

Countdown! Count backwards from 10. **22**

Find all the red things in your house. **23**

Christmas Eve **24**
Make a list of fun things to do over the holidays.

Christmas Day **25**
Hanukkah begins at sundown

Kwanzaa begins **26**

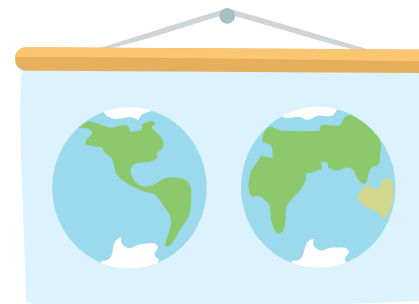
27
READ. TALK. PLAY.
Every Day!

28

Sing songs today as you clean house or cook dinner together. **29**

Draw or write thank you notes for holiday gifts received. **30**

New Year's Eve **31**



■ **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.

Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *Bathe the Cat* by Alice McGinty, Illustrations by David Roberts
- *Every Little Letter* by Deborah Underwood, Illustrations by Joy Hwang Ruiz
- *Did You Take the B from My _ook?* by Beck Stanton
- *LMNO Peas* by Keith Baker
- *Look* by Fiona Woodcock
- *B is for Bananas: A Going Bananas Alphabet Book* by Carrie Tillotson, Illustrations by Estrela Lourenço
- *Comparrotives* by Janik Coat
- *Out the Door* by Christy Hale

MATH IS EVERYWHERE!

- Talk math. Use words such as more, less; longer, shorter; heavy, light; etc.
- Count out LOUD every day. Start at 1 and count as you walk, put plates on the table, add apples to your grocery cart or as they wash their hands. Ask your child to count with you. Pause and ask, “What number comes next?”
- Hold up 5 fingers in front of your child then quickly hide your hand. Ask, “How many fingers did you see?”
- Name and describe shapes when you see them. “That is a square napkin. The box of cereal is a rectangle. That tire is a circle.”
- Count: “Let’s count the blocks.”
- Compare: “Which plate has more crackers?”
- Explore: “Let’s go on a shape hunt — can you find circles?”
- Question: “I wonder how many cars we can fit in this basket?”
- Sort: “Let’s put all the yellow pieces in this pile.”

JANUARY 2025



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

■ **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!**

New Year’s Day
Kwanzaa Ends

1

Hanukkah ends
Practice counting to 10 or higher.

2

Sort laundry together.
Match socks, identify colors and textures.

3

Sing some of your child’s favorite songs.

4

Schedule eye, dental or physical exams needed for kindergarten.

5

Scavenger Hunt for shapes around the house.

6

Play “Simon Says.”

7

Play counting games like “How many blue things do you see?”

8

Library Day!

9

Practice fire safety: stop, drop & roll.

10

Make or draw a snowman with your child.

11

Blue week:
look for
things that
are blue this
week.

12

Have your
child divide a
snack evenly
to share.

13

Continue
teaching your
child their
phone
number and
address.

14

Have your
child try to tie
their scarf.

15

Rhyme time:
what "rhymes
with black?"

16

Make an
indoor
obstacle
course.

17

Recite
nursery
rhymes with
your child.

18

Find things
around the
house that
begin with
the same
letter sound.
Name the
letter.

19

**Martin
Luther King
Jr. Day**

20

Look at
family
pictures
together.

21

Play "I Spy
Numbers."

22

Library Day!

23

Make a piggy
bank together
out of a
coffee can
and start
saving coins.

24

Teach your
child to play
a board game
with a friend.

25

Point out
numbers
around town
as you run
errands.

26

Visit the
Early Math
Collaborative
website:
earlymath.erikson.edu

27

Help your
child to make
their favorite
sandwich.

28

**Lunar New
Year**

29

**READ.
TALK.
PLAY.**
Every Day!

Read two
books today.

30

Make a
grocery list.
Ask if an item
is a fruit,
vegetable, or
meat, etc.

31

**Good
books
for
four-
and
five-year
olds**

- *Too-Small Tyson* by JaNay Brown-Wood, Illustrations by Anastasia Magloire Williams
- *Room for Everyone* by Naaz Khan, Illustrations by Mercè López
- *Crash! Boom! A Math Tale* by Robie H. Harris, Illustrations by Chris Chatterton
- *Bear & Hare, Where's Bear?* by Emily Gravett
- *City Shapes* by Diana Murray, Illustrations by Bryan Collier
- *Pitter Pattern* by Joyce Hesselberth
- *I See 1, 2, 3: Count Your Community with Sesame Street* by Jennifer Boothroyd
- *Everybunny Count!* by Ellie Sandall
- *One Sweet Song* by Jyoti Rajan Gopal, Illustrations by Sonia Sánchez



THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS

- Turn off the music & movies in the car and talk about where you are going, what you are going to do and what might happen when you get there.
- Turn off the TV and put down the phone at meal times. Talk about what you did or are going to do today.
- As you read together ask your child to tell you what they sees in each picture.
- Ask your child to predict what will happen before you turn the page.
- Ask your child to draw you a picture and then tell you about it.
- Model sympathy & caring for others, “Dad isn’t feeling well. Let’s make him some soup.”
- Talk about situations and how they might make people feel happy, sad, frustrated, angry, scared, etc.
- Encourage your child to talk about and label their feelings.
- Teach calming techniques when you see your child becoming upset. “Stop, take a deep breath, relax,” etc. Visit csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/family.html for more ideas.

FEBRUARY 2025



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

■ **The waiting game.** Waiting is hard for all of us, but especially for children. Sometimes waiting can’t be avoided, so be prepared with a “bag of tricks.” Carry 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.



Play a game together or as a family.

1

Groundhog Day

2

Read a story and ask your child what their favorite part was and why.

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

3

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

4

Make a meal together.

5

Library Day!

6

Make and send home-made Valentine’s Day cards to loved ones on your list.

7

Work on a puzzle together.

8

Sing the ABC song. **9**

Read a book that talks about emotions. **10**

Read a book about feelings. **11**

Lincoln's Birthday (observed) **12**

Have your child invite a friend over to play. **13**

Valentine's Day **14**

Count to 100. **15**

Red week: look for things that are red this week. **16**

Washington's Birthday Presidents Day (observed) **17**

Play a board game or card game with your child. **18**

Play musical chairs. **19**

Library Day! **20**
Ask your librarian to recommend new children's music.

Use a spoon and bowl to tap out the beat to your favorite song. **21**

Look outside and talk about what you see. **22**

Remember to check with your school for kindergarten registration dates. **23**

Make puppets out of paper bags or socks and act out a fun activity. **24**

25
READ. TALK. PLAY.
Every Day!

Count all the doors and windows in your home. **26**

Find things around the house that begin with the sound of the letter "M." **27**

Ramadan begins at sundown **28**

Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *Peaceful Me* by Sandra V. Feder, Illustrations by Rahele Jomepour Bell
- *Clovis Keeps His Cool* by Katelyn Aronson, Illustrations by Eve Farb
- *Talking Is Not My Thing* by Rose Robbins
- *Out of a Jar* by Deborah Marcero
- *You Matter* by Christian Robinson
- *What Will You Be?* by Yamile Saied Méndez, Illustrations by Kate Alizadeh
- *Wild Feelings* by David Milgrim
- *The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh* by Supriya Kelkar, Illustrations by Alea Marley
- *Don't Hug Doug (He Doesn't Like It)* by Carrie Finison, Illustrations by Daniel Wiseman

RHyme TIME

- Introducing children to rhymes and rhyming words and playing with them gives children a head start in reading and spelling.
- Read Mother Goose rhymes with your child. After you've read one a few times ask your child to complete the rhyme with the correct word: "Hickory, Dickory, Dock. The mouse ran up the ___(clock)___."
- As your child becomes more familiar with the rhymes, encourage them to join in and say parts of the rhyme themselves (it will take a while before they can recite whole rhymes independently).
- Remember that nursery rhymes are portable, they can be enjoyed any-time, anyplace, anywhere! Share them at bath time, when getting ready for bed, while cooking or in the car.
- Change words to make your own personalized rhymes, for example, "Nye and Jill went up the hill" or, "Nia had a little lamb..."

MARCH 2025



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

■ **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.



Read a simple poem with your child.

1

Purple week: look for things that are purple this week.

2

Read Across America

3

Casimir Pulaski Day

4

Cut out shapes and play a matching game.

5

Library Day!

Buy or rent a CD from the library or download a selection to play and sing along with in the car or while riding the bus.

6

Play "I Spy."

7

Have your child practice jumping, hopping on one foot, and throwing and catching a ball.

8

READ. TALK. PLAY.
Every Day!

Daylight Savings Time Begins 9
Turn clocks one hour forward.

Take a walk and look for signs of spring. 10

Continue teaching your child their phone number and address. 11

Say the wrong words and let your children correct you! 12

Act out going to the doctor or dentist. Talk about what might happen. 13

Bake cookies together. Count the number on each tray. 14

Count to 50 (or higher). 15

Find things that begin with the sound of the letter "D." 16

St. Patrick's Day 17

Find things around the home that begin with the sound of the letter "J." 18

Sing the ABC song. 19

Spring Begins Library Day!
Visit the library to borrow nursery rhyme books. 20

Read two books today. Have your child choose the books. 21

Name a letter and have your child find items beginning with that sound. 22

Pick objects around your house that rhyme: sock-rock; hat-cat; chair-bear. 23

Sing songs with rhyming sounds. 24

Practice writing numbers 1-5. 25

Practice opposites with your child (up/down, in/out, over/under). 26

Download a story and listen with your child. 27

Schedule a kindergarten physical and dental exam for your child. 28

Ramadan Ends 29
Read two books today. Have your child tell you which is their favorite and why.

30

Read a poem together. 31

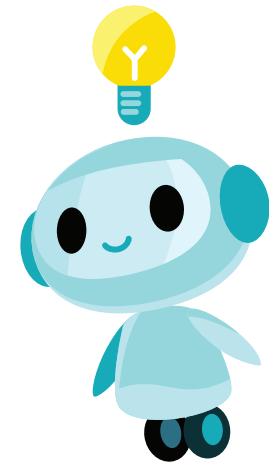
Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *Best Day Ever!* by Marilyn Singer, Illustrations by Leah Nixon
- *The Book With No Pictures* by B. J. Novak
- *The Cow Tripped Over the Moon: a Nursery Rhyme Emergency* by Jeanne Willis
- *King Jack and the Dragon* by Peter Bently, Illustrations by Helen Oxenbury
- *This Magical, Musical Night* by Rhonda Gowler Greene, Illustrations by James Rey Sanchez
- *Frog on a Log?* by Kes Gray, Illustrations by Jim Field
- *Noisy Night* by Mac Barnett, Illustrations by Brian Biggs
- *Rhyming Dust Bunnies* by Jan Thomas
- *Mary Had a Little Glam* by Tammi Sauer, Illustrations by Vanessa Brantley-Newton

TECHNOLOGY AS A TEACHING TOOL

- Pre-view age-appropriate TV programs, videos, music, computer games, websites and apps to be sure they teach what you want your child to learn.
- Set time limits on all electronics. Children need opportunities to run, play, explore and use their imaginations.
- Keep TV, computers, tablets, etc in a public area of your home not the child's bedroom to allow for easier monitoring.
- Watch programs or play games together. Use this time to talk to, teach, and connect with your child.
- Check out DVD's from the library on topics that interest your child such as animals, outer space, etc.
- Turn electronics off at mealtime. Use the time to talk about your day.

APRIL 2025



SUNDAY



Count to 100.

6

MONDAY

Continue teaching your child their phone number and address.

7

TUESDAY

April Fools' Day

1

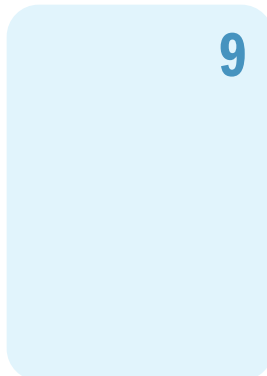
Have your child name letters found on cereal boxes, cans, etc.

8

WEDNESDAY

Practice printing by tracing the letters of your child's name on a piece of paper.

2



9

THURSDAY

Library Day!
Let your child pick out a video the whole family will enjoy.

3

Practice writing numbers 1-10.

10

FRIDAY

Practice fire safety: stop, drop & roll.

4

Paint or draw a picture today.

11

SATURDAY

Practice writing the ABCs.

5

Passover begins at sunset

12

13

READ.
TALK. **PLAY.**
Every Day!

14 Visit the PBS web site:
www.pbskids.org.

15 Cook something together today. Talk about kitchen safety.

16 Take a walk. Look for flowers starting to bloom.

17 **Library Day!**
Bring a friend to the library and check out a movie together.

18 **Good Friday**

19 Watch TV with your child. Discuss what you see and feel.

20 **Easter Sunday**

21 Continue teaching your child their phone number and address.

22 **Earth Day**

23 Play shape scavenger hunt.

24 Take a walk and talk about the different sounds you hear.

25 Put on music and dance and clap to the beat.

26 Find letters in the Sunday paper or a magazine.

27 Pink week: look for things that are pink this week.

28 Draw a picture of spring.

29 Have your child begin to learn their birth date and age.

30 Review "stranger danger" rules.

Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *How to Code a Sandcastle* by Josh Funk, Illustrations by Sara Palacios
- *Doll-E 1.0* by Shanda McCloskey
- *Tea With Grandpa* by Barney Saltzberg
- *Screen Time is Not Forever* by Elizabeth Verdick, Illustrations by Marieka Heinlen
- *Our Table* by Peter Reynolds
- *Hair Love* by Matthew A. Cherry, Illustrations by Vashti Harrison

Good media resources for four and five-year olds

- www.pbskids.org
- www.pbs.org/parents
- www.pbskids.org/sesame/videos/watch-full-episodes
- See How They Grow series from DK and Sony Wonder
- PBS Series (Sid the Science Kid, Super WHY, WordWorld)
- Sesame Street series (Kids Favorite Songs, Sing Hoot and Howl with the Sesame Street Animals, Learning About Numbers)

PLAY AND LEARN

- Turn household chores into learning games — match socks as you fold laundry or line up canned goods by size. These activities can build math and cooperation skills. Feeling useful also helps children feel good which encourages them to continue to want to be helpful.
- Children can help set the table. Extend their memory by giving 3 step directions “Please get the milk from the refrigerator. Set it on the table. Get the napkins”.
- Make matching pairs of cards with stickers, drawings or pictures cut from magazines.
- Use Legos to create color patterns. Have your child continue the pattern: red, yellow, black, red, ... what comes next?
- Play seek and find. “Find something yellow in the kitchen.” “Find something that is square.”
- Pour and measure together in the kitchen, the bathtub or use a bucket of water outside on a hot summer day filled with measuring spoons and cups.

MAY 2025



SUNDAY

■ **YOU are the best reward.** When your child does a good job or learns a new skill, reward them 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.

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Library Day!

1

Find things that begin with the sound of the letter “L.” Say the name of the letter.

2

Remember to say “please” and “thank you” today.

3

Play “Simon Says.” Focus on exercise activities (hopping, bending over, touching toes).

4

Cinco de Mayo

Count from 1 to 10 or as high as your child can count.

5

Look through old magazines and cut out circles, squares, and rectangles.

6

Sing a favorite song with your child.

7

Practice the ABC song.

8

Name words that rhyme with “can.”

9

Visit the zoo or read a book about animals.

10

Mother's Day 11

Help your child practice shoe tying. 12

Practice writing numbers 1–10. 13

Play "I Spy." (Remember to include black objects.) 14

Library Day! 15

Help a neighbor today. 16

Sort coins into groups by color or size. 17

Black week: look for things that are black this week. 18

Write ABCs or family names. 19

After listening to a story, have your child tell you what happened first, next, and last. 20

Find things around the house that are square, circular, and rectangular. 21

Play hopscotch. 22

Play a game together such as Memory or Go Fish. 23

Keep the TV off today. Read books and play games instead. 24

READ. TALK. PLAY.
Every Day!

Squirt water on the sidewalk and time how long it takes to evaporate. Ask "How long do you think it will take?" 25

Memorial Day 26
Go outside and play catch.

Help your child write their name. 27

Start a Brightstart College Savings account at www.brightstartsavings.com. 28

Library Day! 29

Make up nonsense rhymes and laugh together. 30

Play with measuring cups and water outside. 31

Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *Pete the Cat's Groovy Imagination* by Kimberly and James Dean
- *Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music* by Margarita Engle, Illustrations by Rafael López
- *What to Do with a Box* by Jane Yolen, Illustrations by Chris Sheban
- *Let's Play!* by Hervé Tullet
- *How to Say Hello to a Worm: A First Guide to Outside* by Kari Percival
- *Shape Up, Construction Trucks!* by Victoria Allenby
- *Play Like an Animal!* by Maria Gianferrari, Illustrations by Mia Powell



CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING

- Cut out pictures or gather items that go together and ask your child to match: shoe & sock; flower & vase; car & tire; fork & spoon, etc.
- When your child becomes frustrated while playing a game or playing with a friend, refrain from jumping in and solving the problem. Instead, ask questions and guide your child by asking “How did that happen?” and “What can you do differently?”
- Ask your child for their opinion on simple problems such as “Should we wash the car or take a walk?” Then follow up with “Why?” Or in the grocery store ask “Chicken or fish for dinner?”
- Hide common objects from the house in a box or bag. Ask your child to close their eyes and reach inside. Don’t pull the item out but feel it and try to guess what it is.
- Cook in the kitchen together and ask questions as you mix and stir and bake. “What will happen when we add this milk to the flour?” “What will happen to the frosting when I add this drop of food coloring?”

JUNE 2025



SUNDAY

Make lemonade. Ask your child to help measure ingredients.

1

MONDAY

Read a story to your child. Point to each word as you read.

2

TUESDAY

Color a picture together. Cut it into puzzle pieces and try to put it back together.

3

WEDNESDAY

Practice writing numbers 1–20.

4

THURSDAY

Library Day!

5

FRIDAY

Review “stranger danger” rules.

6

SATURDAY

Find things that begin with the sound of the letter “S.”

7

White week: look for things that are white this week.

8

Reminder: Did you schedule a kindergarten physical and dental exam?

9

Make a picnic lunch with your child and eat outside.

10

Practice fire safety: stop, drop & roll.

11

Play a game of “Go Fish” or “Old Maid.”

12

Bake a cake together today.

13

Flag Day
Plant flowers together in a pot or in the ground and water the flowers.

14

READ. TALK. PLAY.

Every Day!

Father's Day 15

Have you scheduled an eye exam? 16

Have your child match socks as you fold laundry. 17

18

Juneteenth Library Day! 19

Summer begins 20
Work on a puzzle together.

Draw a picture of fun things to do in the summer. 21

Have your child invite a friend over to play. 22

Go outside and ask your child to repeat patterns: step-step-jump, clap-clap-pat, etc. 23

Cut up an old greeting card in puzzle-like shapes. Ask your child to fit the pieces back together. 24

Practice writing numbers 1–20. 25

Count groups of ten using a cereal like Cheerios!™ 26

Start a nursery rhyme and have your child finish it. 27

Draw shapes outside using sidewalk chalk. 28

Find small scoops, cups, and balls around the house. Use them for waterplay outside. 29

Continue teaching your child their phone number and address. 30

Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *Unstoppable* by Adam Rex, Illustrations by Laura Park
- *When Sophie Thinks She Can't ...* by Molly Bang
- *The Problem With Problems* by Rachel Rooney, Illustrations by Zehra Hicks
- *Something, Someday* by Amanda Gorman, Illustrations by Christian Robinson
- *Isobel Adds It Up* by Kristy Everington, Illustrations by AG Ford
- *You Are Not Small* by Anna Kang, Illustrations by Christopher Weyant
- *Jabari Tries* by Gaia Cornwall
- *The Little Red Fort* by Brenda Maier, Illustrations by Sonia Sanchez
- *B. Bear & Lolly: Catch That Cookie!* by A. A. Livingston



ALL ABOUT ME

- Make a book by stapling or tying blank pages together with yarn.
- Find photos of your child to put in the book. Give them magazines to cut out pictures of things they like.
- Ask your child questions and write the question and their exact answer in the book: My name is _____; I like to _____; My favorite food is _____; My favorite color is _____; I like it when my mom _____; etc
- Make another page of personal information your child should know and practice this often: My name is _____; I am a _____; I was born on _____; My address is _____; My phone number is _____; I'm allergic to _____; In an emergency I should call _____; etc.

JULY

2025



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

■ **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.

Take a walk and count the trees or other things you see. **1**

Make sun tea or lemonade together. Share with a friend. **2**

Draw a picture of your family and have your child say the first and last names of each member. **3**

Independence Day **4**

Write simple names or words. **5**

Have your child retell a story or event in order (first, middle, last). **6**

Play a toss game together. **7**

8

Have your child find things that are their favorite color. **9**

Library Day! **10**
Continue teaching your child their phone number and address.

Play “I Spy” for the number 1. **11**

Pick two books to read today. **12**

Find your child's favorite color throughout this week. **13**

Find objects that rhyme with "pig." **14**

Play a "freeze" game or "Stop and Go." **15**

Have your child invite a friend over to play. **16**

READ.
TALK. **PLAY.**
Every Day!

Find things that begin with the sound of the letter "T." **18**

Visit a farmers market. **19**

Explore a different culture! Read and talk about it. **20**

Fly a kite. **21**

Practice writing letters and numbers. **22**

Have a dance party. **23**

Library Day! **24**
Count to 101.

Pick a game for family game night. **25**

Practice naming opposites, like up/down, on/off, etc. **26**

Picnic day. **27**

Count pennies... count as high as you can. **28**

Practice fire safety: stop, drop & roll. **29**

Go outside and play Hopscotch or swing. **30**

31

Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *Bodies Are Cool* by Tyler Feder
- *Alma and How She Got Her Name* by Juana Martinez-Neal
- *Say My Name* by Joanna Ho, Illustrations by Khoa Le
- *Remarkably You* by Pat Zietlow Miller, Illustrations by Patrice Barton
- *What Happened to You?* by James Catchpole, Illustrations by Karen George
- *Big* by Vashti Harrison
- *Our Favorite Day of the Year* by A. E. Ali, Illustrations by Rahele Jomepour Bell
- *What I Am* by Divya Srinivasan



GET READY!

- Before the first day of school, choose school supplies and label them.
- Play school together and take turns being the teacher.
- Eat a meal from a lunch box or tray. Show your child how to clean up and open milk/juice cartons.
- Visit your child's school and explore the classroom and playground.
- Talk about the kinds of things they will be doing at school.
- Two weeks before school starts, adjust your child's bed time to what it will be during the school year.
- Create a healthy routine that allows time for family meal, homework, play, bath, teeth brushing and a bedtime story.
- Practice zippers, buttons, opening backpack, putting on tennis shoes. Not all children have mastered shoe tying by the first day of school and that's OK. Just remember to practice once in a while.

AUGUST 2025



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

■ **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.”



Play “I Spy Colors.”

1

Shop for school supplies.

2

Adjust bed-time to what it will be when school starts.

3

Practice zipping and buttoning.

4

Adjust your child's daily routine to match their school routine.

5

Visit your new school and play on the playground.

6

Library Day!

7

Find words that rhyme with “me.”

8

Label school supplies together.

9

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

10

Practice writing numbers 1–25.

11

As you pick out fruits and vegetables at the grocery store, have your child name the colors.

12

Draw a picture. Talk about it. Write what your child says.

13

Talk about your day at dinner.

14

Count how many red clothes you have.

15

Look for things that begin with “P.” Point out the letter “P” in print.

16

Cut pictures out of magazines.

17

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

18

Play with ice cubes outside. Watch how fast they melt.

19

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

20

Library Day!

21

Help your child write their name and identify each letter.

22

Read an extra book. Spend extra time snuggling.

23

READ. TALK. PLAY.
Every Day!

Continue teaching your child their phone number and address.

24

Name all the foods on your plate. What is your favorite?

25

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

26

Have your child talk about the steps in the planting project.

27

Draw a picture of your new school.

28

Put together a puzzle with your child.

29

Make a tent inside. Read books in it.

30

Make extra snuggle time today.

31

Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *Lena’s Shoes Are Nervous: A First-Day-of-School Dilemma* by Keith Calabrese, Illustration by Juana Medina
- *All Are Welcome* by Alexandra Penfold, Illustrations by Suzanne Kaufman
- *Bitsy Bat, School Star* by Kaz Windness
- *We Don’t Eat Our Classmates* by Ryan T. Higgins
- *School Is Wherever I Am* by Ellie Peterson
- *Step By Step* by Alice McGinty, Illustrations by Diane Goode
- *Ready for Kindergarten* by Bethany V. Freitas, Illustrations by Maja Andersen

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Kindergarten Readiness Websites

- Early Learning Tip Sheet with links: www.illinoisearlylearning.org/relists/getready-kindergarten/
- Articles and resources to make back-to-school fun: scholastic.com/parents/school-success/back-to-school.html
- Kindergarten milestones and skill builders by subject: www.familyeducation.com/school-learning/grade/kindergarten
- Learning and school checklists: www.pbs.org/parents/back-to-school/get-ready-for-school-checklists
- Preparing for kindergarten: www.chambanamoms.com/2023/05/16/preparing-for-kindergarten/

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.



LOCAL LIBRARIES

Our local libraries circulate books, magazines, DVDs, CDs, toys and kits, audio books, large print books, and other materials. Many provide programs for children six months and older.

- **Champaign Public Library**
200 W. Green St.
Champaign, IL 61820-5193
Main: 217-403-2000
Youth Dept.: 217-403-2030
www.champaign.org
- **Douglass Branch Library**
504 E. Grove St.
Champaign, IL 61820
217-403-2090
www.champaign.org
- **Homer Community Library**
500 E. 2nd St.
Homer, IL 61849-1223
217-896-2121
www.homercommunitylibrary.com
- **Mahomet Public Library District**
1702 E. Oak St.
Mahomet, IL 61853 • 217-586-2611
www.mahometpubliclibrary.org
- **Ogden Rose Public Library**
301 E. Main St.
Ogden, IL 61859 • 217-582-2411
www.ogdenroselibrary.blogspot.com/
- **Philo Public Library District**
115 E. Washington St.
Philo, IL 61864-0199 • 217-684-2896
www.philolibrary.info
- **Rantoul Public Library**
106 W. Flessner Ave.
Rantoul, IL 61866 • 217-893-3955
www.rantoul.lib.il.us
- **Sidney Community Library**
217 S. David St.
Sidney, IL 61877 • 217-688-2332
- **St. Joseph Township Swearingen Memorial Library**
201 N. Third St.
St. Joseph, IL 61873 • 217-469-2159
www.stjosephtownshiplibrary.info
- **Tolono Public Library District**
111 Main St. • P. O. Box 759
Tolono, IL 61880-0759
217-485-5558
www.tolonolibrary.org
- **Urbana Free Library**
210 W. Green St.
Urbana, IL 61801-3283
Main: 217-367-4057
Children's Dept.: 217-367-4069
www.urbanafreelibrary.org

CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION

Recommended schedule, birth to 18 years.

Immunizations are done by appointment only. Call 217-531-4317 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, 6 months, and 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 15 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.
- HPV: Given to boys and girls age 11-14 years with 1st dose prior to age 15 (only two doses are needed 6 months apart). If a boy or girl receives 1st dose after 15th birthday then a three dose schedule is required (1st dose, two months later – 2nd dose, and four months after 2nd dose the 3rd dose is given).
- Td/Tdap: Booster every 10 years. Required prior to 6th grade and high school entry in Illinois.
- Meningitis: 1st dose age 11-12 years required for 6th grade entry, 2nd dose 16-18 years required for 12th grade entry.
- 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 Unit 4

Administration Center

502 West Windsor Road
Champaign, IL 61820 · 217-351-3800

Barkstall Elementary School

2201 Hallbeck Drive
Champaign, IL 61822 · 217-373-5580

Booker T. Washington STEM Academy

606 East Grove Street
Champaign, IL 61820 · 217-351-3901

Bottenfield Elementary School

1801 South Prospect Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820 · 217-351-3807

Carrie Busey Elementary School

304 Prairie Rose Lane
Savoy, IL 61874 · 217-351-3811

Dr. Howard Elementary School

110 N James Street
Champaign, IL 61821 · 217-351-3866

Garden Hills Academy

2001 Garden Hills Drive
Champaign, IL 61821 · 217-351-3872

International Prep Academy

1611 West Kirby Avenue
Champaign, IL 61821 · 217-351-3995

Kenwood Elementary School

1001 Stratford Drive
Champaign, IL 61821 · 217-351-3815

Robeson Elementary School

2501 Southmoor Drive
Champaign, IL 61821 · 217-351-3884

South Side Elementary School

712 South Pine Street
Champaign, IL 61820 · 217-351-3890

Stratton Academy of the Arts

902 North Randolph Street
Champaign, IL 61820 · 217-373-7330

Westview Elementary School

703 South Russell Street
Champaign, IL 61821 · 217-351-3905

FISHER SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

Fisher Elementary School

801 South 5th Street
Fisher, IL 61843 · 217-897-1133

GIFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT #188

Gifford Grade School

406 South Main Street, Box 70
Gifford, IL 61847 · 217-568-7733

HERITAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT #8

Heritage Junior High and Elementary School

512 West First Street
Homer, IL 61849 · 217-896-2421

LUDLOW SCHOOL DISTRICT #142

Ludlow Elementary School

245 Orange Street North, Box 130
Ludlow, IL 60949 · 217-396-5261

MAHOMET-SEYMOUR COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #3

Lincoln Trail Elementary School

102 East State Street
Mahomet, IL 61853 · 217-586-2811

Middletown Prairie Elementary School

1301 South Bulldog Drive
Mahomet, IL 61853 · 217-586-5833

PRAIRIEVIEW-OGDEN COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #197

Prairieview-Ogden

North Elementary School
106 Vine Street, Royal, IL 61871
217-538-3300

Prairieview-Ogden

South Elementary School
304 North Market Street
Ogden, IL 61859 · 217-582-2725

RANTOUL CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #137

Broadmeadow Elementary School

500 Sunview Road
Rantoul, IL 61866 · 217-893-5405

Eastlawn Elementary School

650 North Maplewood Drive
Rantoul, IL 61866 · 217-893-5404

Northview Elementary School

400 North Sheldon Street
Rantoul, IL 61866 · 217-893-5403

Pleasant Acres Elementary School

1625 Short Street
Rantoul, IL 61866 · 217-893-5402

ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #169

St. Joseph Grade School

404 South Fifth Street
St. Joseph, IL 61873 · 217-469-2291

THOMASBORO COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #130

Thomasboro Grade School

201 North Phillips Street
Thomasboro, IL 61878 · 217-643-3275

TOLONO COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #7

Unity East Elementary School

1638 County Road 1000 N
Philo, IL 61864 · 217-684-5218

Unity West Elementary School

1035 County Road 600 N
Tolono, IL 61880 · 217-485-3918

URBANA SCHOOL DISTRICT #116

Urbana Administration

Service Center
1101 E. University Avenue, Suite B
Urbana, IL 61801 · 217-384-3600

Dr. Preston L. Williams Jr. Elementary School

2102 East Washington Street
Urbana, IL 61802 · 217-384-3628

Leal Elementary School

312 West Oregon Street
Urbana, IL 61801 · 217-384-3618

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School

1108 Fairview Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801 · 217-384-3675

Thomas Paine Elementary School

1801 James Cherry Drive
Urbana, IL 61802 · 217-384-3602

Wiley Elementary School

1602 South Anderson Street
Urbana, IL 61801 · 217-384-3670

Yankee Ridge Elementary School

2102 South Anderson Street
Urbana, IL 61801 · 217-384-3607

NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Calvary Baptist Christian Academy

2106 East Windsor Road
Urbana, IL 61802 · 217-367-2262

Canaan Academy

207 North Central Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801 · 217-367-6590

Countryside School

4301 West Kirby Avenue
Champaign, IL 61822 · 217-355-1253

Holy Cross School

410 West White Street
Champaign, IL 61820 · 217-356-9521

Judah Christian School

908 North Prospect Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820 · 217-359-1701

Devonshire KinderCare

410 Devonshire Drive
Champaign, IL 61820 · 217-356-9000

The Montessori School of Champaign-Urbana

1403 Regency Drive East
Savoy, IL 61874 · 217-356-1818

Next Generation School

2521 Galen Drive
Champaign, IL 61821 · 217-356-6995

St. John Lutheran School

509 South Mattis Avenue
Champaign, IL 61821 · 217-359-1714

St. Malachy School

340 East Belle Avenue
Rantoul, IL 61866-1804 · 217-892-2011

St. Matthew Catholic School

1307 Lincolnshire Drive
Champaign, IL 61821 · 217-359-4114

University Primary School

51 Gerty Drive
Champaign, IL 61820 · 217-333-3996

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: 217-892-8877
- *Developmental Services Center: 217-356-9176

*Can do birth to 3 year old screenings.

OTHER RESOURCES

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

www.aap.org

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

2-1-1 or www.211.org

A FREE confidential phone hotline available 24/7/365 to answer questions and provide referrals. Call whenever you need assistance with emergency shelter, food pantries, day care, rent or utility assistance, elderly care, mental health services, employment, health resources, domestic abuse, education, vocational training, disability resources, counseling, disaster recovery, or drug and alcohol rehabilitation.



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY HOME VISITING CONSORTIUM

www.champaigncountyhomevisiting.com

Are you a parent of a child under age three and would like support around parenting and resources for you or you and your child? CCHVC makes sure that every child has what they need to succeed and every parent has the support they need. Please visit the website for additional information to get you connected with a home visiting program that best fits your family's needs.

JUST IN TIME PARENTING

www.jitp.info/

Newsletter in English and Spanish with prenatal and developmental information up to age 5. Features tools for solving common parenting problems, strategies for coping with challenges, and links to podcasts, videos, and other resources.

SCHOLASTIC

www.scholastic.com/parents/

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

PBS PARENTS

www.pbs.org/parents

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

READING ROCKETS

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

www.illinoisearlylearning.org

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), and links to web resources on topics related to early care and education.

BORN LEARNING

www.bornlearning.org

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

ZERO TO THREE

www.zerotothree.org

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

READ. TALK. PLAY. EVERY DAY!

www.readtalkplay.org

Provides quality information about early learning and local resources to help parents give their children the strong start they need.

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).

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.
- 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.

- 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.

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.
- 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.

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 themselves and to help others.

31. Self-regulation—The child increasingly can identify, regulate, and control their 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.

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

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

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.
- 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.

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 their life.
- 38.** Self-esteem—The child likes themselves 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 they have 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, and restaurants. Invite a friend! Here are some fun places to go with your child. Visit the web site www.chambanamoms.com for current children's activities throughout Champaign County.

FARMERS MARKETS

Champaign Farmers Market

Parking lot at Neil and Washington
Tuesdays 3–6 pm, May–October
Fresh produce, homemade food & craft items.
www.thelandconnection.org/markets

Monticello Farmers Market

State & Livingston Streets
Thursdays 3:30–6:30 pm, June–October
217-762-9318

Champaign Historic North First Street Market

Thursdays 3–7 pm, June–September
Cooking demonstrations, children's garden, family friendly events. www.localharvest.org/farmers-market-on-historic-north-first-street-M27502

Urbana's Market at the Square

Corner of Illinois & Vine St, Urbana • 217-384-2319
Saturdays 7 am–noon, May–October
Homemade craft items, fresh produce, music, and more. 3rd Sat of the Month for kids 3–8.
www.urbanamarket.org

Prairie Fruits Farm and Creamery

4410 N Lincoln Ave, Champaign
Selling gelato and cheese. Visit the goats, too.
www.prairiefruits.com

Rantoul Farmers Market

120 E Sangamon Avenue
Every other Friday 4–7 pm, mid-July–Labor Day
217-898-1711

PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS

Ambucs Park

1140 E University Ave, Urbana
Accessible playground, picnic tables.
www.urbanaparks.org/parks/ambucs-park

Blair Park

1402 S Vine St, Urbana
Ball fields, playground, tennis courts.
www.urbanaparks.org/parks/blair-park

Busey Woods/Anita Purves Nature Center

1505 N Broadway Ave, Urbana • 217-384-4062
Hiking trails, nature programs & exhibits.
www.urbanaparks.org/parks/natural-areas

Crystal Lake Park

206 W Park St, Urbana • 217-328-1069
Playground, paddle boats, dock fishing, lighted sledding hill. www.urbanaparks.org/park/crystal-lake-park

First Christian Church Indoor Playground & Track

3601 S Staley Rd, Champaign • 217-356-1649
Indoor playground & track, free WIFI, eating area.
www.fcc-online.org/playground

Heritage Lake Park

910 Titan St Rantoul, IL 61866
Fishing, playground, horseshoe pits and pavilion.
www.village.rantoul.il.us/facilities/facility/details/heritage-lake-9

Hessel Park

1400 Grandview Dr, Champaign • 217-398-2591
Water play area and playground.

Johnston Park

701 Goldenview Dr, Champaign

Kolb Park

205 W Sherman St, St. Joseph

Urbana Early Childhood School

2202 E Washington St, Urbana

Wabash Park

520 E Wabash Ave, Rantoul

POOLS & WATER PLAY

Crystal Lake Park Family Aquatic Center

1401 N Broadway, Urbana • 217-239-7946
Waterslides, climbing wall, sand play area, activity pool, vortex, swim lessons.
www.urbanaparks.org/facilities/crystal-lake-park-family-aquatic-center/

Hessel Park Water Play

1401 Grandview Dr, Champaign • 217-398-2550
Free water play area with in-ground sprays.
www.champaignparks.com/hessel-waterplay

Hap Parker Family Aquatic Center

320 W Flessner Ave, Rantoul • 217-893-5700
Two water slides, water toys for children, concession stand, picnic tables, and more.

Sholem Aquatic Center

2205 W Sangamon Dr, Champaign • 217-398-2581
Water playground, bathhouse and concession stand.
www.champaignparks.com/facility/sholem-aquatic-center/

Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center

102 E Michigan Ave, Urbana • 217-384-7665
Indoor pools and water playground.
www.urbanaparks.org/facilities/urbana-indoor-aquatic-center

MUSEUMS

Champaign County History Museum

102 E University Ave, Champaign • 217-356-1010
Located in the historic Cattle Bank, the museum features exhibits highlighting county history.
www.champaigncountyhistory.org/

Krannert Art Museum (U of I)

500 E Peabody Dr, Champaign • 217-333-1861
Info: 217-333-1860
Second largest public art museum in Illinois.
www.Kam.illinois.edu

Museum of the Grand Prairie

950 N Lombard St, Illinois Route 47 N, Mahomet • Free admission
Extensive collection interpreting 19th/20th Century life in east-central Illinois. Discovery Room offers hands-on opportunities and educational programs for all ages.
www.museumofthegrandprairie.org

Monticello Railway Museum

992 Iron Horse Place, Monticello • 217-762-9011
Museum displays cars, materials & artifacts relating to railroading; also offers 7 mile roundtrip train rides on weekends and some holidays from May–Oct.
www.mrym.org

Museum of Natural History (U of I)

1301 W Green St, Urbana • 217-333-2517
Building hallway exhibits on biology and geology available to visitors when University is in session.

The Spurlock Museum (U of I)

Closed Monday
600 S Gregory St, Urbana • 217-333-2360
Educational resource center features permanent cultural galleries celebrating Africa, Egypt, Europe, Asia, Oceania, Americas, and Ancient Mediterranean.
www.spurlock.illinois.edu

Kaufman Lake (Champaign Park District)

2702 W Springfield Ave • 217-398-2570
Trails around lake, picnic areas, fishing, biking, ice skating in winter.

Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve

109 S Lake of the Woods Rd, Mahomet
217-586-3360 • *Boating, paddle boat rentals, fishing, hiking, sledding, and plenty of play areas.*

Meadowbrook Park

2808 S Race St, Urbana • 217-367-1544
Concrete bike trail, hiking trail, sculptures, herb garden, open field, and playground.

Prairie Park

2000 E Washington St, Urbana • 217-367-1544
Ball fields and sledding hill.

West Side Park

400 W University Ave, Champaign • 217-398-2550
Playground, fountain, and walking paths.

Windsor Road Christian Church Indoor Playground

2501 Windsor Rd Champaign • 217-359-2122
Climbing, slides, and play area
www.windsorroad.org/playground

BORN LEARNING TRAILS

This interactive trail contains signs with instructions for simple games that will turn an excursion at the park into fun learning moments for young children.

Beardsley Park

1006 N Walnut St, Champaign

Bridle Leash Park

902 W Dianne Ln, Mahomet

Chris Rudzinski Park

401 W Grove Ave, Rantoul

Dana Colbert Park

203 E Church St, Savoy

Garden Hills Park

1701 W Bloomington Rd, Champaign

Human Kinetics Park

1501 N Market St, Champaign
Has splash pad.

OTHER

Anita Purves Nature Center and Busey Woods

1505 N Broadway, Urbana • 217-384-4062
Mon–Fri 8am–5pm, Sat 9am–4pm, Closed Sundays
Nature shop, multipurpose room, park, forest preserve.
www.urbanaparks.org/facilities/anita-purves-nature-center/

Curtis Orchard and Pumpkin Patch

3902 S Duncan Rd, Champaign • 217-359-5565
Open July–December hours vary by season
Pick your own apples and pumpkins in season. Petting zoo, mazes, horseback rides, and more.
www.curtisorchard.com

Hardy's Reindeer Ranch

1356 CR 2900 N, Rantoul • 217-893-3407
Fall–Christmas
Chuck-wagon barbeque, corn maze, Christmas wonderland, and more. www.reindeerranch.com/

Prairie Farm Petting Zoo

Centennial Park
2202 W Kirby Ave, Champaign • 217-398-2583
Mon–Sun 1–7pm, Memorial Day–mid-August
Traditional farm animals and petting zoo.
www.champaignparks.com/facility/prairie-farm/

Sailfin Pet Shop

720 S Neil St, Champaign • 217-352-1121
Visit the fish, turtles, snakes & other aquarium species.
www.sailfin.com

William M. Staerkel Planetarium

Parkland College
2400 W Bradley Ave, Champaign • 217-351-2568
Show hotline: 217-351-2446
Star shows, light shows, science education programs.
www.parkland.edu/Audience/Community-Business/Parkland-Presents/Planetarium

READ. TALK. PLAY.

Every Day!

WWW.READTALKPLAY.ORG

The United Way of Champaign County is dedicated to bringing people and resources together to create positive change and lasting impact in our community. We focus a portion of funds raised locally on strategies that provide a firm foundation for our youngest residents so they can grow and develop into successful middle and high school students. Ultimately, students will graduate with a plan and the skills needed to implement that plan so they can be productive, contributing members of their community.

We do this in partnership with the Champaign Urbana Cradle to Career Initiative (CUC2C). By serving as the CUC2C anchor institution for Kindergarten Readiness we're working to coordinate and align community resources to ensure all children enter school on track for educational success.

Thanks to the generous support of our community and sponsors, these calendars are available free to all parents, grandparents and caregivers of children ages 3, 4 and 5 years old.



Getting started with Bright Start is easy. Open an account with as little as \$25. Children with a College Savings Plan are seven times more likely to attend college than children without a plan:
www.brightstartsavings.com



To learn more about United Way of Champaign County please visit:
www.unitedwaychampaign.org and
www.bornlearning.org



Project Sponsors



East Central Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council

- Boilermakers LU #60
- Bricklayers & Allied Craft Workers LU #8
- Carpenters LU #243
- Elevator Constructors LU #55
- Glaziers LU #1168
- IBEW LU #538
- IBEW LU #601
- Insulators LU #18
- Iron Workers LU #380
- Laborers LU #703 and #751
- Millwrights LU #1051
- Operating Engineers LU #841
- Painters LU #363
- Plasterers LU & Cement Masons #143
- Plumbers & Pipefitters LU #149
- Plumbers & Pipefitters LU #157
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