

# Kindergarten, Here I Come!



---

## 9 Skills to Get Your Child Ready for Kindergarten

---

1. SING THE ABC'S.
  2. WRITE HIS/HER FIRST AND LAST NAME.
  3. IDENTIFY ALL 26 LETTERS {CAPITAL/LOWERCASE}
  4. WRITE ALL 26 LETTERS {CAPITAL/LOWERCASE}
  5. KNOW ALL 26 LETTER SOUNDS.
  6. COUNT FROM 0 - 20.
  7. IDENTIFY NUMBERS 0 - 20.
  8. WRITE NUMBERS 0 - 20.
  9. BASIC SIGHT WORDS.
-

### **1. Sing the ABC's.**

This might seem like a no-brainer, but you would be *shocked* at the number of students who enter Kindergarten without being able to recite the alphabet! If you don't know how to *sing* the ABC song, how on earth could you be expected to *write* them? Sing the ABC song with your children throughout the day. Sing it as you give your kids a bath, or set the table for a meal, or when you're driving in the car... It takes less than a minute to sing and there are plenty of minutes in a day where you can sneak them in!

**\*Hint:** Be sure to sing clearly and slowly through the "L, M, N, O" portion of the song. When we sing it quickly, it sounds like one long letter - and your child will learn it that way!

### **2. Write his/her first and last name.**

Start by concentrating on the first name. Be sure to encourage proper grip on the pencil or crayon! Say each letter as you write. Don't worry about writing on lined paper or making each letter perfect. Do encourage them to start with a capital letter and write the rest of the letters lower case.

### **3. Identify all 26 letters - capital and lowercase.**

This is a skill that would be great for your child to know when entering Kindergarten. Start with the first letter of your child's first name. Whenever you see his/her name in print, point out the first letter and say its name. Pick random letters as you encounter them: on a cereal box or license plate, in a book, on a toy... Be creative.

#### **4. Write all 26 letters - capital and lowercase.**

A great way to practice writing the letters is by tracing them. Write the letters on a piece of paper with plenty of space around each one. Have your child trace the letters with a pencil, crayon, or marker. After your child can trace them, see if he/she can do it without the tracing as a guide. Again, start with capital letters. There are even fonts available for download that print letters (and numbers!) with dashed lines for tracing!

**\*Hint:** Finger paint the letters, laminate a piece of paper and give your child a dry-erase marker, write in the sand at the beach or in a sandbox, make a letter with cheerios or veggies during meals...

#### **5. Know all 26 letter sounds.**

This is obviously dependent on actually *knowing* the letters first! Be sure to build up to letter sounds once your child can identify each letter. This is a crucial skill as your child learns to read and must "sound out" a word.

**\*Hint:** Want a great educational video to help? Try [Leapfrog's The Letter Factory](#). It's one of my favorites!

## **6. Count from 0 - 20.**

This is another skill that is essential! Be sure your child knows *at least* 0 - 10 before starting Kindergarten. Just like with the ABC's, you can count anytime! Spend a minute here or there counting.

**\*Hint:** Many kids get confused after 10 so be patient! Always correct your child's mistakes calmly and then move one!

## **7. Identify numbers 0 - 20.**

As your child is learning the numbers, be sure to point them out when you see them in day-to-day life. Point to and identify numbers in a recipe, on a sign, in a book, at the store, or write them yourself!

## **8. Write numbers 0 - 20.**

Again, start by tracing! It's fun and it will help your child learn how to correctly form each letter. Don't stress that each number is perfect - there is plenty of time to help them write on the lines later.

## **9. Basic sight words.**

Sight words are a great way to give a child a "head start" in reading. These words occur often in beginner reader books. Knowing these words will eliminate the need to "sound out" every. single. word. Help your child identify (and eventually spell) the following words: a, at, am, and, can, I, like, me, my, no, said, see, the, to. Add to this list as your child masters the words.

**\*Hint:** Heidi Songs makes GREAT videos that incorporate song and movement to help your child learn sight words.