

KES to Success: Kindergarten Readiness

Who: Geared towards ages 3-6, kids who are getting closer to starting kindergarten, but all ages are welcome. Also, for the caregivers of these kids.

What: Story times focused specifically on Kindergarten Readiness skills. Discuss the skills more pointedly for parents who are also attending. Invite PAT to sessions. Provide hands-on opportunities for kids to practice skills, including soft skills.

When: Begin session in September, end in June, have similar story times over the summer that are fun, but still focused on the KES, with one of them being a special “Off to Kindergarten graduation party” for kids starting kindergarten.

Where: MY, MK, SP to start - more branches would be great

How: Lesson plans are below. A targeted flyer will be handed out each month, focusing on the skill the session covers. Kids will enjoy a story time atmosphere and learn through fun stories, songs, and activities. Caregivers will see skills and activities demonstrated, and library staff will explain how they help kids get ready for Kindergarten.

1st Session: Reading Behaviors

Welcome: Greet attendees. Have kids make name tags to practice writing their names. Explain Kindergarten Readiness sessions (do this each time, as new families might join in the middle).

Opening Song: The More We Get Together

Book: Rocket Learns to Read by Tad Hills

Concept: Colors - Kids look at their clothes to see what colors they have on. You call out colors, and if they have them on, they stand up.

Book: I'm Not Reading by Jonathan Allen

Concept: ABCs, sing ABCs together

Book: The Book Hog by Greg Pizzoli

Song: Head Shoulders Knees and Toes

Craft: Make a book - Use printer paper and construction paper to make a book and write and draw pictures in it.

Notes: Covers reading behaviors, how to hold books, the parts of books, connecting books with the words and stories in them

Other Books: How To Read a Book by Kate Messner, Help Wanted, Must Love Books by Janet Summer Johnson, Lola at the Library by Anna McQuinn, Read It, Don't Eat It by Ian Schoenherr

2nd Session: Reading Readiness

Welcome: Greet attendees. Have kids make name tags to practice writing their names. Explain Kindergarten Readiness sessions (do this each time, as new families might join in the middle).

Opening Song: The More We Get Together

Book: Rhyming Dust Bunnies

Concept: Bouncing, Hopping, and Jumping by Jim Gill

Book: Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

Concept: ABCs, sing ABCs together

Book: Brown Bear Brown Bear What Do You See

Song: Fast and Slow by Laurie Berkner

Concept: Zoom Zoom Zoom We're Going to the Moon

Craft: [Moon Vowel Team Craft](#) - Using scissors and crayons helps develop fine motor skills, practice letter recognition, and introduce beginning sounds. Have others available to take home if wanted.

Notes: Covers letter recognition and beginning sounds, syllables, rhyming words

Other Books: How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight? By Jane Yolen, Little Blue Truck by Alice Schertle, Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson, Llama Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney, Goodnight Goodnight Construction Site by Sherri Duskey Rinker, There's a Bear on My Chair by Ross Collins

3rd Session: Social Skills

Welcome: Greet attendees. Have kids make name tags to practice writing their names. Explain Kindergarten Readiness sessions (do this each time, as new families might join in the middle).

Opening Song: The More We Get Together

Book: Llama Llama Time to Share

Concept: Match shapes on felt board - kids have to work together to find the partner with their matching shape (could be two sides of a shape)

Book: Pig Meets Pug

Concept: Play Simon Says; include activities like saying hi to someone next to you, high-fiving someone you know, touching your toes and wiggling your fingers, following two-step directions, etc.

Book: Carrot and Pea

Song: Head Shoulders Knees and Toes

Craft: Friendship bracelets

Notes: Covers social skills such as listening, following rules, and taking directions, including two-step directions, participating in a group setting, sharing, and taking turns, working and playing cooperatively with peers

Other Books: Buddy and the Bunnies: Don't Play With Your Food, I Got a New Friend, Stick and Stone

4th Session: Math Skills - Numbers, Colors, and Shapes

Welcome: Greet attendees. Have kids make name tags to practice writing their names. Explain Kindergarten Readiness sessions (do this each time, as new families might join in the middle).

Opening Song: The More We Get Together

Book: Mouse Paint

Concept: Colors - Kids look at their clothes to see what colors they have on. You call out colors, and if they have them on, they stand up.

Book: Press Here

Concept: Counting 1-10 and 10-1, jump or clap while counting

Book: I Know Numbers

Song: The Ants Go Marching (5 Little Ducks, 5 Green Speckled Frogs, 10 in the Bed)

Craft: Paint daubers on number coloring pages and see if kids can create new colors with them.

Notes: Covers counting, identifying basic shapes and colors,

Other Books: Monsters Love Colors, Pete the Cat I Love My White Shoes, Perfect Square, Love Triangle, My Heart is Like a Zoo, Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature, Shape by Shape, Color Farm, My Many Colored Days, Planting a Rainbow, Mix It Up, The Black Book of Colors,

5th Session: Language Skills

Welcome: Greet attendees. Have kids make name tags to practice writing their names. Explain Kindergarten Readiness sessions (do this each time, as new families might join in the middle).

Opening Song: The More We Get Together

Book: The Book With No Pictures

Concept: ABCs, sing ABCs together

Book: Once Upon a Book

Concept: Create a story together on the felt board. Add a new piece, and different kids tell a new part of the story. Write it down and read it when it is done.

Book: Ralph Tells a Story

Song: "Itsy Bitsy Spider." Use voice, words, and actions to tell the story. Sing normally, then high-pitched for a tiny spider, then low-pitched for a great big spider, then sing in your head, and just do the actions. You can sing faster or slower, too.

Craft: Have kids make up their own stories. Give paper, crayons, and stickers. They can make a story with pictures or include words.

Notes: Covers telling a story or about an experience, "writing" and artistic expression, fine motor skills, following group rules, and participating in a group setting.

Other Books: A Squiggly Story, How This Book Was Made, We Are In a Book, Rocket Writes a Story, The Story Factory,

6th Session: Gross Motor Skills

Welcome: Greet attendees. Have kids make name tags to practice writing their names. Explain Kindergarten Readiness sessions (do this each time, as new families might join in the middle).

Opening Song: The More We Get Together

Book: Wiggle

Concept: Colors - Kids look at their clothes to see what colors they have on. You call out colors, and if they have them on, they stand up.

Book: Spunky Little Monkey

Concept: One From the Left by Jim Gill

Book: From Head to Toe

Song: Head Shoulders Knees and Toes

Craft: Dance Party with or without bubbles (Party Freeze Dance Song)

Notes: Covers fine motor skills, gross motor skills, cross-body motions, and identifying basic body parts

Other Books: Are You Ready for Fun?, Can You Make a Scary Face?, Dancing Feet, Everybunny Dance, If You're a Monster and You Know It, Shake My Sillies Out

7th Session: Emotional Skills

Welcome: Greet attendees. Have kids make name tags to practice writing their names. Explain Kindergarten Readiness sessions (do this each time, as new families might join in the middle).

Opening Song: The More We Get Together

Book: My Many Colored Days

Concept: If You're Happy and You Know It

Book: The Feelings Book

Concept: Show emotion faces, happy, sad, angry, scared. Can use their own faces or hold up face stick puppets.

Book: The Rabbit Listened

Song: Feeling Good by Laurie Berkner

Craft: Emotion Playdough Mats

Notes: Covers fine motor skills, expressing empathy or care for others, coping with and talking about feelings

Other Books: Ruby Finds a Worry, Flight School, Jabari Jumps, The Most Magnificent Thing, Today I Feel Silly and Other Moods, Grumpy Monkey, When Sophie Gets Angry, Llama Llama Mad at Mama, The Boy with Big Big Feelings, The Way I Feel

8th Session: Math Skills - Measurement, Sorting, and Patterns

Welcome: Greet attendees. Have kids make name tags to practice writing their names. Explain Kindergarten Readiness sessions (do this each time, as new families might join in the middle).

Opening Song: The More We Get Together

Book: Inch by Inch

Concept: [Open Shut Them](#)

Book: Marta Big and Small

Concept: List of Dances by Jim Gill

Book: One Red Sock

Song: Head Shoulders Knees and Toes

Craft: Sorting pom poms with tweezers and gluing them to a picture

Notes: Covers measurement concepts, sorting, patterns, fine motor skills, gross motor skills, and counting

Other Books: Balancing Act, Just a Little Bit, I'm Trying to Love Math, Dozens of Doughnuts, Actual Size, 1 2 3 With the 10 Little Rubber Ducks, Feast for 10, Up Down and Around, How do Dinosaurs Count to 10, The Very Hungry Caterpillar

9th Session: Writing Skills

Welcome: Greet attendees. Have kids make name tags to practice writing their names. Explain Kindergarten Readiness sessions (do this each time, as new families might join in the middle).

Opening Song: The More We Get Together

Book: LMNO Peas

Concept: Felt board shape activity using tweezers to move the shapes around

Book: ABC Yoga

Concept: ABCs, sing ABCs together, make letter shapes with your arms and legs

Book: Can I Be Your Dog?

Song: Oh Hey Oh Hi Hello by Jim Gill

Craft: Shaving Cream Letters activity

Notes: Identifying shapes is the first step in identifying letters. Using tweezers to move shapes strengthens fine motor skills used in writing.

Other Books: The Day the Crayons Quit, Dear Deer, any alphabet book, Dear Dinosaur

10th Session: Independence Skills

Welcome: Greet attendees. Have kids make name tags to practice writing their names. Explain Kindergarten Readiness sessions (do this each time, as new families might join in the middle).

Opening Song: The More We Get Together

Book: Giraffes Can't Dance

Concept: Head Shoulders Knees and Toes

Book: I Am Enough

Concept: Simon Says with activities such as putting on shoes and a coat, brushing teeth, and putting away toys.

Book: The Dot

Song: Hands are for Clapping by Jim Gill

Craft: Lacing activity, can practice tying shoes as well for those who are ready, or just work on going in and out of the holes

Notes: Using pretend play to demonstrate independence in taking care of one's own activities, craft strengthens fine motor skills, concepts about body parts increase vocabulary, and a sense of self.

Other Books: I Like Myself, The Magical Yet, A Bad Case of Stripes, Be Who You Are, Waiting is Not Easy, I Am Quiet, Tomorrow I Will Be Brave, Courage, My Friend is Sad, Bea's Bad Day, Too Much, You Can!, I Am Human, I Am Kind, I Am Peace

1st Summer Session: Any Topic - Social Skills

Welcome: Greet attendees. Have kids make name tags to practice writing their names. Explain Kindergarten Readiness sessions (do this each time, as new families might join in the middle).

Opening Song: The More We Get Together

Book: Duck Rabbit

Concept: Colors - Kids look at their clothes to see what colors they have on. You call out colors, and if they have them on, they stand up.

Book: Rex Wrecks It

Concept: ABCs, sing ABCs together

Book: Race to Kindness

Song: Dance, Freeze, Melt

Craft: Build together with blocks and/or Duplos

Notes: Books are about working together and kindness, building together encourages sharing blocks and working collaboratively

Other Books: Garbage Crew to the Rescue, The World Needs Who You Were Meant to Be, The Earth Book, Boxitects, Snakes on the Job, I am Stuck, Bear Came Along

2nd Summer Session: Graduation Party - Social Skills

Welcome: Greet attendees. Have kids make name tags to practice writing their names. Explain Kindergarten Readiness sessions (do this each time, as new families might join in the middle).

Opening Song: The More We Get Together

Book: The Pigeon Has To Go To School

Concept: Colors - Kids look at their clothes to see what colors they have on. You call out colors, and if they have them on, they stand up.

Book: Kindergarten: Where Kindness Matters Every Day

Concept: The Wheels on the Bus or The Kids at the School (to the tune of The Wheels on the Bus, but make up things kids do at school, eat lunch, color, play, read, etc.)

Book: Ready, Set, Kindergarten

Activity: Graduation “ceremony” for those starting kindergarten soon. Have a photobooth set up, can have some light snacks, give a KEyS to Success Kindergarten Readiness diploma and stickers, each child can walk across the “stage” area and be recognized if they want, younger kids cheer and get excited for them while also getting excited about the idea of going to Kindergarten themselves, coloring pages on the tables

Notes: This session is all about encouraging excitement about starting Kindergarten! Might have to shorten the books and concept/song/activities to make sure the “graduation” fits in and there is time to celebrate.

Other Books: Pirates don't go to Kindergarten, How to Be Confident in Kindergarten, The King of Kindergarten, The Queen of Kindergarten, Narwhal vs. Kindergarten, Kisses for Kindergarten, Ready for Kindergarten,

Monkey Not Ready for Kindergarten, On the First Day of Kindergarten,
Dad's First Day, How Do Dinosaurs go to School, Kindergarten Rocks,
Kindergarten Here I Come, Off to Kindergarten, The Pout Pout Fish Goes
to School, David Goes to School, Twelves Days of Kindergarten