

READ. TALK. PLAY.

Every Day!

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United Way
of Champaign County

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A Calendar to Help Your Child Get Ready for Kindergarten 2023–2024

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 2023



SUNDAY

■ **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!**

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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

1

Play a board game or card game with your child.

2

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

3

Labor Day

4

Practice fire safety: stop, drop & roll.

5

Have a dance party.

6

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

7

READ. TALK. PLAY.
Every Day!

Help your child write their name.

8

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

9

Grandparents' Day 10

Practice writing your child's name together. 11

Practice counting from 1 to 10. 12



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Look for words that begin with the same first letter using books, magazines and newspapers. 14

Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown 15
Practice bouncing a ball. Count the number of bounces.

Pick a new book and encourage your child to guess what the story will be about by looking at the cover. 16

Yellow week: look for things that are yellow this week. 17

Look through magazines and books to find things that are yellow. 18

Read a poem together. 19

20

Library Day! Have your child invite a friend to the library. 21

Find food items or animals that begin with the same sound. Name the letter that makes that sound. 22

Autumn Begins 23
Play a matching game or match things you have around the house.

Yom Kippur begins at sundown 24



We love feedback!
Please take this short survey.

Practice writing your child's name together. 26

Go for a walk with your child. Talk about what you see. 27

Play hopscotch together. 28

Using a newspaper article, circle words that begin with the first letter of your child's first name. 29

Talk about book characters as you read together today. 30

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
- *I Do Not Like Books Anymore!* by Daisy Hirst
- *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

2023



SUNDAY

1

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

MONDAY

Child Health Day

2

TUESDAY

Plan a healthy meal to eat on Halloween.

3

WEDNESDAY

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

4

THURSDAY

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

5

FRIDAY

Clap your hands to the beat of a song today.

6

SATURDAY

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

7

Read your favorite children’s book to your child.

8

Indigenous Peoples Day
Columbus Day (observed)

9

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

10

Do jumping jacks together.

11

12



We love feedback!
Please take this short survey.

Cut shapes out of paper to make a picture.

13

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

14

Make a grocery shopping list together.

15

Help your child build their name using magnetic letters.

16

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

17

Clap your hands to the beat of a song.

18

Library Day! 19

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

20

Arrange a play date for your child.

21



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Count to 20 or higher.

22

Make the bed together.

23

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

24

Practice zipping a coat or backpack.

25

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

26

Practice fire safety: stop, drop & roll.

27

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

28

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

29

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

30

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

31

■ **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!**

Good books for four- and five-year olds

- *The Gift* by Alain Serge Dzotap, Illustrations by Delphine Renon
- *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

2023



SUNDAY

■ **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.

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

All Saints' Day

1

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

THURSDAY

Library Day!

2

FRIDAY

Schedule a play date at a park.

3

SATURDAY

Have a dance party.

4

Daylight Savings Time Ends

5

Turn clocks back one hour.

Help your child begin to learn their address and phone number.

6

Election Day

7

Have your child tell a story to a family member.

Play hopscotch.

8



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

9

Sing ABCs.

10

Veterans Day

11

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

12

Practice
zipping, tying
or buttoning.

13

Take a walk.
Find things
that are
brown.

14

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

15

Library Day!

16

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

17

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

18

Help your
child draw a
picture of
your family.

19

Make a
picture or
decoration for
Thanksgiving.

20

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

21

Read a
Thanksgiving
story.

22

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

23

**Native
American
Heritage Day**

24

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

25

26

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

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

27

28

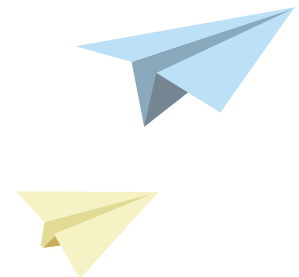
29

Library Day!
Ask your child
to predict the
end of a
story before
you read it.

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 Tae-eun Yoo
- *Move Your Mood!* by Brenda S. Miles, Illustrations by Holly Clifton-Brown
- *Spunky Little Monkey* by Bill Martin, Illustrations by Brian Won
- *Is Everyone Ready for Fun?* by Jan Thomas
- *It's a Tiger!* by David LaRochelle, 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 2023



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

■ **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.

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

1

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

2

Name fruits and vegetables found in your refrigerator.

3

Find circles and squares around your house.

4

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

5

Have your child practice saying your phone number.

6

Hanukkah begins at sundown

Play a game that involves taking turns.

7

Read a favorite winter book.

8

Make cookies with your child to share as a gift.

9

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

10

Sing a
favorite
holiday song
together.

11

Count to 50.

12



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Help your
child write
the letters of
their first
name.

13

Library Day!

14

Hanukkah
ends

15

Name four
things that
rhyme with
“cat.”

Put on music
and dance.

16

Countdown!
Count
backwards
from 10.

17

Find all the
red things in
your house.

18

Make a list of
fun things to
do over the
holidays.

19

20

Winter
begins

21

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

22



23

Christmas
Eve

24

Christmas
Day

25

Kwanzaa
begins

26

Draw or write
thank you
notes for
holiday gifts
received.

Practice the
ABC song.

27

Library Day!

28

Read a
holiday story
at bedtime.

29

30

New Year's
Eve

31

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
- *Let's Go ABC!: Things That Go from A to Z* by Rhonda Gowler Greene, Illustrations by Daniel Kirk
- *Oops, Pounce, Quick, Run!* by Mike Twohy
- *Out the Door* by Christy Hale

MATH IS EVERY-WHERE!

- 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 2024



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

New Year's Day
Kwanzaa Ends

1

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

2

Read two books today.

3

Practice counting to 10 or higher.

4

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

5

Sing some of your child's favorite songs.

6

Schedule eye, dental or physical exams needed for kindergarten.

7

Scavenger Hunt for shapes around the house.

8

Play "Simon Says."

9

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

10

Library Day!

11

Practice fire safety: stop, drop & roll.

12

Make or draw a snowman with your child.

13

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

14

**Martin
Luther King
Jr. Day** 15

Continue
teaching your
child their
phone
number and
address.

16

Have your
child try to tie
their scarf.

17

Rhyme time:
what "rhymes
with black?"

18

Make an
indoor
obstacle
course.

19

Recite
nursery
rhymes with
your child.

20

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

21

Have your
child divide a
snack evenly
to share.

22

Look at
family
pictures
together.

23

Play "I Spy
Numbers."

24



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Library Day! 25

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

26

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

27

Point out
numbers
around town
as you run
errands.

28

Visit the
Early Math
Collaborative
website:
[www.earlymath
.erikson.edu](http://www.earlymath.erikson.edu)

29

Help your
child to make
their favorite
sandwich.

30

31

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

**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
- *Is That Wise Pig?* by Jan Thomas



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 2024



SUNDAY

■ **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.

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

Sing the ABC song.

1



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FRIDAY

Groundhog Day

2

Count all the doors and windows in your home.

SATURDAY

Play a game together or as a family.

3

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

4

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

5

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

6

Make a meal together.

7

Library Day!

8

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

9

Lunar New Year

Work on a puzzle together.

10

11

**Lincoln's
Birthday
(observed)**

12

Read a
book that
talks about
emotions.

13

**Valentine's
Day**

14

Read a
book about
feelings.

15

Have your
child invite a
friend over to
play.

16

Count to
100.

17

18

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

**Washington's
Birthday

Presidents
Day
(observed)**

19

Play a board
game or card
game with
your child.

20

Play musical
chairs.

21

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

22

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

23

Look outside
and talk
about what
you see.

24

25

Remember
to check
with your
school for
kindergarten
registration
dates.

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

26

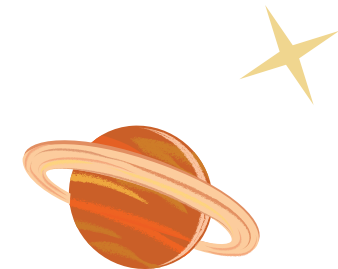
27

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

28

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

29



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

- *This Makes Me Happy* by Courtney Carbone, Illustrations by Hilli Kushnir
- *Why?* by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
- *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 2024



SUNDAY

■ **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.

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Read Across America

1

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

Read a simple poem with your child.

2

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

3

Casimir Pulaski Day

4

Read a poem together.

5

READ. TALK. PLAY.
Every Day!

Cut out shapes and play a matching game.

6

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.

7

Play "I Spy."

8

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

9

**Ramadan
begins at
sundown** 10

**Daylight
Savings Time
Begins**

Turn clocks
one hour
forward.

Take a walk
and look for
signs of
spring. 11

Continue
teaching your
child their
phone
number and
address. 12

Say the
wrong words
and let your
children
correct you! 13

Act out going
to the doctor
or dentist.
Talk about
what might
happen. 14

Bake cookies
together.
Count the
number on
each tray. 15

Count to 50
(or higher). 16

**St. Patrick's
Day** 17

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



**Spring
Begins** 19

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

Sing the
ABC song. 20

Library Day! 21

Visit the
library to
borrow
nursery
rhyme
books.

Read two
books today.
Have your
child choose
the books. 22

Name a letter
and have
your child find
items
beginning
with that
sound. 23

Pick objects
around your
house that
rhyme:
sock-rock;
hat-cat;
chair-bear. 24

Sing songs
with rhyming
sounds. 25

Practice
writing
numbers
1–5. 26

Practice
opposites
with your
child (up/
down, in/out,
over/under). 27

Download a
story and
listen with
your child. 28

Good Friday 29

Schedule a
kindergarten
physical and
dental exam
for your child.

30

**Easter
Sunday** 31

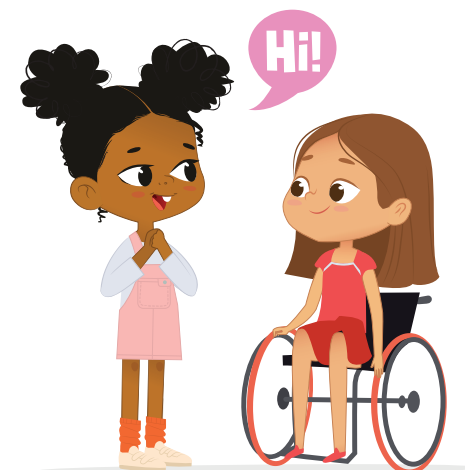
**Good
books
for
four-
and
five-year
olds**

- *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 Lab* by Sue Fliess, Illustrations by Petros Bouloubasis

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
2024



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

April Fools'
Day

1

Practice
writing the
ABCs.

2

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

3

Library Day!

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

4

Practice fire
safety: stop,
drop & roll.

5

6

Count to
100.

7



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Ramadan
Ends

8

Continue
teaching your
child their
phone
number and
address.

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

9

10

Practice
writing
numbers
1-10.

11

12

Paint or draw
a picture
today.

13

14



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

16 Cook something together today. Talk about kitchen safety.

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

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

19

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

21 Review "stranger danger" rules.

22 **Earth Day**
Passover begins at sunset

23 Continue teaching your child their phone number and address.

24 Play shape scavenger hunt.

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

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

27 Find letters in the Sunday paper or a magazine.

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

29 Draw a picture of spring.

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

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-episodess
- 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
2024



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

Play with measuring cups and water outside.

1

THURSDAY

Library Day!

2

FRIDAY

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

3

SATURDAY

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

4

Cinco de Mayo

5

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

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

6

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

7

Sing a favorite song with your child.

8

Practice the ABC song.

9



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Name words that rhyme with “can.”

10

Visit the zoo or read a book about animals.

11

Mother's Day 12

Help your child practice shoe tying. 13

Practice writing numbers 1–10. 14

Play "I Spy." (Remember to include black objects.) 15

Library Day! 16

Help a neighbor today. 17

Sort coins into groups by color or size. 18

Black week: look for things that are black this week. 19

Write ABCs or family names. 20

After listening to a story, have your child tell you what happened first, next, and last. 21

Find things around the house that are square, circular, and rectangular. 22

Play hopscotch. 23

Play a game together such as Memory or Go Fish. 24

Keep the TV off today. Read books and play games instead. 25

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?" 26

Memorial Day 27
Go outside and play catch.

Help your child write their name. 28

Start a Brightstart College Savings account at www.brightstartavings.com. 29

Library Day! 30

Make up nonsense rhymes and laugh together. 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 Do You Say?* by Angela Dominguez
- *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
2024



SUNDAY

■ **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.

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



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

1

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

2

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

3

Make a picnic lunch with your child and eat outside.

4

Practice fire safety: stop, drop & roll.

5

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

6

Bake a cake together today.

7

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

8

Have your child invite a friend over to play. **9**

Have you scheduled an eye exam? **10**

Have your child match socks as you fold laundry. **11**



Library Day! **13**

Flag Day **14**
Work on a puzzle together.

Draw a picture of fun things to do in the summer. **15**

Father's Day **16**

Go outside and ask your child to repeat patterns: step-step-jump, clap-clap-pat, etc. **17**

Cut up an old greeting card in puzzle-like shapes. Ask your child to fit the pieces back together. **18**

Juneteenth **19**
Practice writing numbers 1–20.

Summer begins **20**
Count groups of ten using a cereal like Cheerios.™

Start a nursery rhyme and have your child finish it. **21**

Draw shapes outside using sidewalk chalk. **22**

Find small scoops, cups, and balls around the house. Use them for waterplay outside. **23**

Continue teaching your child their phone number and address. **24**

Make lemonade. Ask your child to help measure ingredients. **25**

Read a story to your child. Point to each word as you read. **26**

Library Day! **27**

READ. TALK. PLAY.
Every Day!

Practice writing numbers 1–20. **28**

Review “stranger danger” rules. **29**

Color a picture together. Cut it into puzzle pieces and try to put it back together. **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
- *Have You Seen My Trumpet?* by Michaël Escoffier, Illustrations by Kris Di Giacomo
- *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 2024



SUNDAY

MONDAY

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

1

TUESDAY

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

2

WEDNESDAY

3

THURSDAY

Independence Day

4

FRIDAY

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

5

SATURDAY

Write simple names or words.

6

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

7

Play a toss game together.

8

9

Have your child find things that are their favorite color.

10

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

11

Play "I Spy" for the number 1.

12



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Pick two books to read today.

13

Find your
child's
favorite color
throughout
this week.

14

Find objects
that rhyme
with "pig."

15

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

16

Have your
child invite a
friend over to
play.

17

READ.
TALK. PLAY.
Every Day!

18

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

19

Visit a
farmers
market.

20

Explore a
different
culture!
Read and talk
about it.

21

Fly a kite.

22

Practice
writing letters
and numbers.

23

Have a
dance party.

24

Library Day!
Count to
101.

25

Pick a game
for family
game night.

26

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

27

Picnic day.

28

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

29

Practice fire
safety: stop,
drop & roll.

30

Go outside
and play
Hopscotch or
swing.

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
- *The Family Book* by Todd Parr
- *Remarkably You* by Pat Zietlow Miller, Illustrations by Patrice Barton
- *Why Am I Me?* by Paige Britt, Illustrations by Sean Qualls and Selina Alko
- *I Like Myself* by Karen Beaumont, Illustrations by David Catrow
- *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 2024



SUNDAY

■ **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."

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Make extra snuggle time today.

1

Play "I Spy Colors."

2



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Shop for school supplies.

3

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

4

Practice zipping and buttoning.

5

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

6

Visit your new school and play on the playground.

7

Library Day!

8

Find words that rhyme with "me."

9

Label school supplies together.

10

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

11

Practice writing numbers 1–25.

12

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

13

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

14

Talk about your day at dinner.

15

Count how many red clothes you have.

16

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

17

Cut pictures out of magazines.

18

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

19

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

20

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

21

Library Day!

22

Help your child write their name and identify each letter.

23

Read an extra book. Spend extra time snuggling.

24

READ. TALK. PLAY.
Every Day!

Continue teaching your child their phone number and address.

25

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

26

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

27

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

28

Draw a picture of your new school.

29

Put together a puzzle with your child.

30

Make a tent inside. Read books in it.

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
- *How Do Dinosaurs Go to School* by Jane Yolen
- *We Don’t Eat Our Classmates* by Ryan T. Higgins
- *School’s First Day of School* by Adam Rex, Illustrations by Christian Robinson
- *Step By Step* by Alice McGinty, Illustrations by Diane Goode
- *The King of Kindergarten* by Derrick Barnes, Illustrations by Vanessa Brantley-Newton

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Kindergarten Readiness Websites

- Early Learning Tip Sheet with links:
www.illinoisearlylearning.org/relists/getready-kindergarten/
- Games, articles, and resources to make back-to-school fun:
www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/collection/back-to-school/back-to-school-start-smart
- Kindergarten milestones and skill builders by subject:
www.familyeducation.com/school-learning/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, books on tape, 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.stjoseph townshiplibrary.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/resources

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.



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, wildlife viewing and nature programs.
Indoor nature center with 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 and track, soft walking and playing surface, open to the public. Free WIFI, eating area.
www.fcc-online.org/playground

Heritage Lake Park

910 Titan St Rantoul, IL 61866
Fishing, picnic tables, playground, horseshoe pits, pavilion and bridges connecting small islands.
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.

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, water fitness classes, swim lessons.
www.urbanaparks.org/facilities/crystal-lake-park-family-aquatic-center/

Hessel Park Water Play

1401 Grandview Dr, Champaign • 217-398-2550
Memorial Day–Labor Day
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 slides, activity pool, lap pool, kiddy pool, 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, water geysers, rain drop umbrella toy, and dinosaur slide.
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
(Take Market St exit, turn at the stoplight onto Iron Horse Place, pass the Best Western & follow road to the end.)
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

Johnston Park

701 Goldenview Dr, Champaign

Kolb Park

205 W Sherman St, St. Joseph

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



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



Other Great Resources

www.champaigncountyhomevisiting.com



Scan or Text
IL4KIDS to 70138
for FREE parenting tips

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
- Road Sprinklers LU #669
- Roofers LU #97
- Sheet Metal Workers LU #218
- Teamsters LU #26

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.