

Ready For Kindergarten

- 1. I have a library card in my own name.
- 2. I know my first and last name. I can write my first name.
- 3. I know the letters of the alphabet. I can recognize the upper and lower case letters.
- 4. I like to look at books. I know how to hold a book and turn the pages.
- 5. I can tell a story from a book, or describe something that happened to me.
- 6. I can sing or say several nursery rhymes or songs by myself.
- 7. I can recognize words that rhyme. I can make up my own rhymes.
- 8. I know colors, numbers, shapes, and opposites.
- 9. I have attended a preschool storytime at the library.
- 10. I have participated in the summer reading program.

Parents: Help your child check off these activities. When you have completed all 10, visit the library to receive a surprise.



www.henricolibrary.org

News from the Henrico County Public Library

Dear Parent:

Henrico County Public Libraries can help your child prepare for Kindergarten!

You are the key to your child's school success. You can help your preschooler gain important skills now, so that he or she will enter school ready to learn.

Read together

Reading together every day is the best way to make sure that your child enters school ready to read.

Talk about the story

Time spent reading and talking about the story improves language skills and will also build a strong and healthy bond between you and your child.

Visit the library

Visit your public library often to find quality books for your daily reading.

Look inside to see the **six early literacy skills** that your child needs to start kindergarten ready to learn!



**TJ says,
kids who read
succeed!**

The Six Early Literacy Skills

Being interested in and enjoying books (print motivation)



What you can do:

- Read books on topics that your child is interested in—share books every day.
- Repeat favorite stories as often as your child wants to hear them.

Being able to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words (phonological awareness)

What you can do:

- Share rhymes and songs and clap for each sound or note.
- Pay special attention to rhyming words and repetitive sounds within words. Make up pairs of words that rhyme.

Knowing the names of things (vocabulary)

What you can do:

- Use songs, rhymes, and everyday experiences (grocery shopping, car rides, etc.) to name objects in your child's world.
- Teach your child the proper names of things, such as vegetables, flowers, and tools

Being able to describe things and events, and tell stories (narrative skills)

What you can do:

- Make time for pretend play.
- Encourage your child to tell familiar stories such as folk tales.
- Make up your own stories and ask your child to describe his or her day.

Noticing print, knowing how to handle a book, and how to follow print on a page (print awareness)

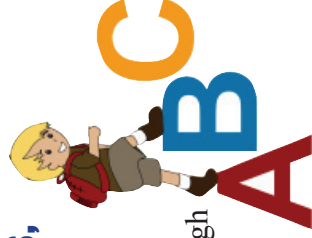
What you can do:

- Help your child learn to hold a book and turn the pages.
- Follow the words with your finger as you read, and let your child do it too.

Knowing the letters and their sounds, both upper and lower case (letter knowledge)

What you can do:

- Point out letters to your child as you go through the day—finding letters on street signs, billboards, and packages.
- Help your child learn the letters of his or her first name, starting with the first initial.
- Share alphabet books.



Check out our Ready for Kindergarten web page at www.henricolibrary.org. Click on “Kids” then “Kindergarten Ready” for more great ideas to build on these early literacy skills.

School Bus Safety

The library will offer a series of school bus safety programs in August. All children entering kindergarten are invited to attend. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Details are available at www.henricolibrary.org.

