

# Parent's Guide to Kindergarten

An easy-to-use resource to prep parents and young learners for a new school year.

2019 Edition



- What to expect at school this year
- How to support learning and responsibility at home
- Checklists to get you and your learner ready for school

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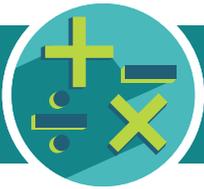
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## Games That Build Kindergarten Math Skills

Practicing math by playing games is a great way to reinforce concepts and practice skills. Check out these fun, easy math games.



### Math Hunt

**Builds:** Number sense

**Materials:** index cards or sticky notes

countable objects around the home (e.g. beans, blocks, cars, stuffed animals)

**Goal:** To count the correct number of objects

**Directions:**

1. Write out large numbers 1–10, or 1–20 if your child is ready for counting up to 20, on the index cards. Keep these cards in one stack. Write the name of countable objects (one on each card) on a separate stack of cards. Draw a brief sketch of the object on the card as well.
2. Shuffle the number cards and the object cards separately. Have your child pull a number card and an object card. Tell them to go on a math hunt to find the object and count the correct amount. For example, if they pulled the number 6 and the object “blocks,” they must go and find the blocks and count out 6. You could leave the number card, object card, and counted objects in a row as you continue on the hunt.

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### Addition Battle

**Builds:** Addition skills and number sense

**Materials:** a deck of cards (use only the 2–10 cards, remove the others)

2+ players

**Goal:** To win all the cards

**Directions:**

1. Addition Battle is played just like the traditional game “war.”
2. Deal the deck out to all the players.
3. Each person puts out two cards from their pile and adds them together. Provide counters for your child to use, such as blocks or beans, if necessary.
4. The person with the greatest sum wins all 4 cards.
5. If there is a tie in sums, players put out two more cards. Greatest sum takes all.



## School Supplies

Before you begin gathering Back to School supplies, it's best to get a list of what's required from your child's school or new teacher. Many teachers pool supplies and use them as part of a community, so don't put your child's name on anything and don't get too attached! If your child loves a special pencil or set of markers, it is probably best to keep them at home. If the school list isn't available yet, you can still take advantage of Back to School sales with the following list.



### Writing Supplies

- No. 2 pencils
- Colored pencils
- Pencil sharpener (hand held with a top to collect shavings)
- Large pink eraser
- Ballpoint pens
- Box of crayons
- Water-based markers
- Composition or spiral-bound notebooks
- Loose-leaf notebook paper (wide ruled)
- Sticky notes (3 x 3)

### Organizational Supplies

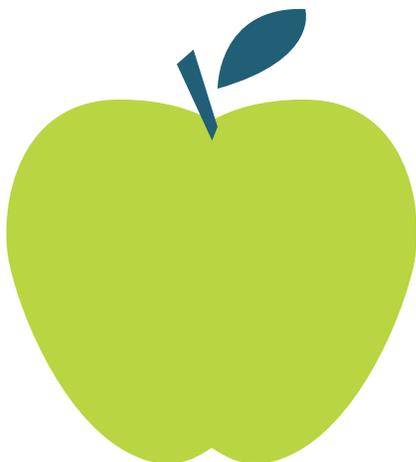
- Pocket folders
- Box for storing supplies
- A sturdy, supportive backpack (Some schools do not permit rolling backpacks because of space considerations; check first!)
- A reusable water bottle

### Art Supplies

- Drawing paper
- Construction paper
- A ruler with English and metric measurements
- Glue sticks
- 4-oz. bottle of white glue
- Clear adhesive tape
- Stapler (A mini stapler is best for last-minute stapling and it usually fits in the supply box.)
- Scissors
- Watercolor paints

### Supplies to Donate

- Facial tissue
- Bottle of hand sanitizer
- White copy paper
- Plastic zip-top bags (gallon size)
- Permanent markers
- Dry erase markers
- Sticky notes (3 x 3)
- Ask your child's teacher if it would be helpful to have extras of any of the other basic supplies on hand.





## Back-to-School Checklist

It can be stressful to get students prepared for the new school year. Getting ready for back to school can be overwhelming and frustrating. Here are a few things you can do to make the first day a smooth one.

### Ready for Back to School?

- Make a lunch plan. Buying or bringing? Kindergarten is the perfect time to start learning how to make your own lunch!
- Go through your child's clothes and figure out what still fits. Donate the rest.
- Time to get back on a regular schedule! Start setting a gradually earlier bedtime.
- Make a study space for homework.
- Purchase school supplies
- Make sure any medical requirements are up to date with your child's school
- Make a plan for homework, down time, and after-school activities and lessons
- Make a transportation plan. How will your child get to and from school each day? Where should they meet you? What time?
- Is your child anxious about the first day? Have a practice run!



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