



**Harford County  
Public Library**

# **“Let’s Get Ready For Kindergarten” Kit**

**Recommended for ages 3-5**

## **Materials**

### **Books:**

- How to Start Kindergarten by Cathy Hapka
- Clothesline Clues to the First Day of School by Kathryn Heling and Deborah Hembrook
- Kindergarten Where Kindness Matters Everyday by Vera Ahiyya
- K is for Kindergarten by Erin Dealey
- ABC Ready for School by Celeste C. Delaney
- Folder with activities

### **Toys/Equipment/Specimens**

- I can count puzzle board: In blue mesh bag - 16 pieces and a base
- Calm down cubes: In plastic bag - 12 cubes
- Ladybug number match: In blue mesh bag - 10 ladybug counters, 10 leaf bases
- Colorpillar maze: 1 wood and plastic maze with magnet pen
- Double-sided magnetic letter tiles: in blue mesh bag - 48 tiles
- Magic board with attached magnet pen and sliding eraser
- Magic board pre-writing practice cards: in blue mesh bag - 30 cards
- What’s Inside? Soft Feely Box: 10 sensory objects - airplane, ball, butterfly, car, elephant, fish, flower mirror, frog, ladybug, and lion
- 2 Activity balls

## What to know about this kit...

### Let's Get Ready For Kindergarten

A kindergartner is a child attending or of an age to attend kindergarten. Kindergarten is the school year in which children around the age of 5 learn reading, writing, math, sharing, and generally learn how to learn! Kindergarten is often considered a milestone year in a child's educational journey — but it is a time for children around the age of 5 to blossom and grow into more independent individuals.

Children also learn how to be in a group, wait their turn, and listen to others. This kit will help your child gain skills needed to step into kindergarten ready to learn and participate, such as cognitive and gross motor skills, number and letter recognition, and fine motor skills.

The chart below shows the five major activities included in this kit that explore being a kindergartner. Each activity offers one or more activities that highlight science, language, and math literacy skills. Hands-on activities included in the kit also provide suggested vocabulary, fun facts, and further reading.

In addition, the activities in this kit offer opportunities to incorporate the practices of singing, playing, talking, reading, and writing into your child's learning experience. \*Current early literacy research has shown that regularly sharing these five practices with young children can help them to become ready to read by the time they start school. *\*(from "Every Child Ready to Read," 2011)*

Activity #1	Activity #2	Activity #3	Activity #4
Hopscotch	Tracing	Let's Count	Letter Fun!
Activity #5			
Counting with Ladybugs			

## Activity #1: Hopscotch

**SUMMARY:** Playing hopscotch is a typical childhood activity but there are many benefits of playing this simple game such as cognitive and gross motor skill development, hand-eye and bilateral coordination, and math and social skills.

### **WORDS TO USE:**

- Taking turns
- Hopping
- Jumping
- Numbers 1-10

### **MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- The hopscotch pieces
- A beanbag or something similar in weight and size.

### **ACTIVITY:**

1. With your preschooler, put the hopscotch together taking your time and helping your preschooler find the correct numbers, putting them in order.
2. One player goes at a time.
3. Start in front of square 1 and throw the stone/beanbag into square
4. Jump over square 1, land in square 2, and continue jumping along the squares.
5. Hop on one leg on a single square and land with two feet where two squares are next to each other (one foot in each square).
6. When you reach the number at the end, turn around and continue hopping back in the same way.
7. When you get back to square 2, bend over to pick up the marker on square 1, and jump over square 1 to finish the course.
8. If you touch a line at any point, your turn is over and the next player goes.
9. If you did not touch a line, continue onto the next round by then throwing the marker into square 2 and hopping through the course again (this time jumping onto square 1 but jumping over square 2 and landing on square 3).
10. The winner is the first player to complete all the courses in one round.
11. Each player must place the marker in square 1 at the start of each new turn.

**OBSERVATIONS:**

- Demonstrate by “going first” to see if your preschooler can “copy” your movements. Don’t be afraid to “warm up” by hopping on one foot and then the other with your preschooler to help develop this skill. Be sure to praise their efforts, this is a new skill!

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Bilateral coordination refers to a child’s ability to use both sides of the body together in a coordinated way.
- This skill is important for performing everyday tasks such as eating, dressing and cutting. It is also necessary for movement activities and sports such as jumping, riding a bike or learning a sport.
- During Hopscotch, children learn to coordinate the two sides of their body as they hop on one leg, and also on two legs together. This is quite an advanced skill for young children to master.

**SUGGESTED READING:**

- E Benjamin “Oh, no,” said the elephant
- J 796 K Cool Outdoor Activities

## Activity #2: Tracing

**SUMMARY:** Tracing is a wonderful activity for children that can help with fine motor skills, pre-writing skills, concentration and focus, visual-spatial skills and creativity and drawing skills.

### WORDS TO USE:

- Pen/pencil
- Writing
- Tracing

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

The shapes and lines tracing set.

### ACTIVITY:

- Talk about the shapes that are in the sheet, are the squiggle lines or circles? What do they look like?
- Practice with a finger in the air first. Play with size and make HUGE or tiny shapes or squiggles in the air.
- Let the child try to trace with the pen, praise their efforts pointing out places where they followed along well.

### OBSERVATIONS:

- Watch which hand your child uses, tracing can help children develop a dominant hand although it is normal for children to use both hands till they are at least 4 years old.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Tracing can help children develop a dominant hand although it is normal for children to use both hands till they are around 4-5 years old.

### SUGGESTED READING:

- E Bossio      *The line*
- E Reynolds    *The Dot*
- E Vogrig      *Line and Scribble*

## Activity #3: Let's Count

**SUMMARY:** Counting games help your child develop mathematical ideas, problem solving and school readiness skills.

### **WORDS TO USE:**

- Numbers 1-10
- "Touch and Count"

### **MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- Ladybug Number Match Game
- Simple objects around house to count
- Numbers 1-10 written on pieces of paper

### **ACTIVITY:**

- Write numbers 1-10 on different pieces of paper.
- Have your children find simple objects around the house to match the numbers on the papers. Ex.. 1-doll, 2- shoes, 3 - spoons, etc...
- Practice touching and counting each object, reinforcing the skill of one-to-one correspondence.
- Play Ladybug Number Match Game, practice counting the dots on each ladybug (by touching each dot) and matching it to the correct leaf.

### **OBSERVATIONS:**

- Demonstrate how to correctly count with your preschooler. Practice "counting to quick" or "missing objects" and have your child "correct" you.
- Read counting books together. There are many counting books in the concept area the library.
- Use the I Can Count Puzzle Board to practice counting, too!

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- "When we watch and listen to how children play math games, we learn a lot about the mathematics they already know and what they're ready to learn."

### **SUGGESTED READING:**

- E Crew      Ten Black Dots
- J 513.2 D    How many?: a different kind of counting book

## Activity #4: Letter Fun!

**SUMMARY:** Learning the alphabet is important in developing early literacy skills. This activity focuses on letter recognition (being able to name a letter in the alphabet quickly, without much thought) and the shape of letters.

### WORDS TO USE:

- Alphabet
- Letters
- Upper case
- Lower case
- Letters with curves
- Letters with straight lines

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Double-sided magnetic letter tiles
- Magnetic board (a refrigerator, cookie sheet, etc.. )

### ACTIVITY:

- Using the letter tiles, place the letters of your child's name on the magnetic board along with a few random letters. Say "Let's spell your name as fast as we can!" Call out each letter of his/her name and have your child find it on the board. Play this with other letters, too.
- Match upper and lower case letter tiles.
- Sort the letter tiles by upper and lower case, letters with straight lines, curved lines and both. After sorting, always name the letter.
- You can practice writing the letters, too!

### OBSERVATIONS:

- Be sure to always included letters your child can identify and only a few unknown letters at a time. Start with a few letters to choose from so he/she does not get overwhelmed.
- If your child seems interested in writing the letters, starting with straight line letters first may be easier.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- There are so many letter games you can play at home! Finding letters around your house, in magazines and in books are just a few. Letter recognition leads to letter sound relationships and beginning reading skills.

**SUGGESTED READING:**

- E Martin Chicka Chicka Boom Boom
- E Johnson Alphabet City

Visit any branch for more ABC book options!



## Activity #5: Counting with Ladybugs

**SUMMARY:** Counting is a super important skill for kindergarteners. Reinforce your child's understanding of math concepts and number visualization with this rhyme and counting activity.

### WORDS TO USE:

- **Addition** - process or skill of calculating the total of two or more numbers or amounts
- **Subtraction** - the process or skill of taking one number or amount away from another

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Ladybug Number Match toy

### ACTIVITY:

- Separate the ladybugs from their leaves.
- Count the dots on the ladybugs' backs.
- Match them to their leaves and sing the first verse of the rhyme.

One little, two little, three little ladybugs,  
Four little, five little, six little ladybugs,  
Seven little, eight little, nine little ladybugs,  
Ten little ladybugs play.

Now separate the ladybugs from their leaves again and sing the next verse.

Ten little, nine little, eight little ladybugs,  
Seven little, six little, five little ladybugs,  
Four little, three little, two little ladybugs,  
One little ladybug stays.

### OBSERVATIONS:

- Notice if your child misses numbers or has a hard time putting the ladybugs in order by number. Is there one number in particular that they have difficulty recognizing?
- Try using this rhyme to count out other items in groups of ten and replace "ladybug" with whatever you're counting.
- This is a simple introduction to addition and subtraction as well as a fun matching game.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- The spots on ladybugs backs are a form of camouflage to help them avoid predators and blend in with their environments.

**SUGGESTED READING:**

- E Alko            *One Golden Rule at School: A Counting Book*
- E Baker        *Big Fat Hen*
- E George       *Dot the Ladybug: Dot Day*