

TEACHING PRESCHOOL at home



Preschool at home can be easy, rewarding, and one of the greatest things you can do with your child.

The fact is, you're probably teaching your kiddo the things he or she would learn in preschool already. Preschool at home can easily be fit into what you have already been doing with your children. **They need to know some simple things: life skills, routines, and basic academics.** There are lots of ways to integrate those three things into your day.

Life skills

Learning to get along with others, following through on promises, obeying rules... these are important things to put in place before any kind of academics happen.

Before anything else is attempted, work on those things. Help your child get along with others. He can put away the silverware to help you in the kitchen. Simple chores, family rules and sibling love is important, and these are the skills that will grow your preschooler into a loving, compassionate adult.

Routines

Teaching your preschooler that there is a time and a place for everything can be tiring. It's so much easier sometimes to just let him sleep in or put on another video.

Instead, remember that you're raising a learner and leader. Have a set time to get up and start the day. Eat breakfast together and some morning chores. Have loosely structured play and learning times, and make sure you plan for rest {or nap} times as well. Having a routine doesn't necessarily mean punching a clock, but it does mean giving your child something to look forward to. If breakfast just finished, and you always read together on the couch after you clean up the dishes, your child will come to look forward to that time together.

Building those little rituals starts with routine. And those rituals build closeness.

Academics

There are skills that most children will learn before they finish preschool, and they're easily taught with a few simple school supplies and books. **Children – especially preschoolers- learn by doing, and don't forget, play IS their job and education at this age.**

You may wonder, though, what academic skills your preschooler should know by the time she is ready to head into kindergarten. By that time, your child should be able to:

- name the letters of the alphabet.
- sit and listen to a book.
- retell events from a favorite story.
- draw and write shapes and letters.
- write his first name.
- label drawings.
- tell a story through drawing and/or writing.
- sort objects.
- make simple patterns.
- name shapes.
- identify numerals 1-10.
- count to 20.
- speak clearly and in complete sentences.
- take turns talking.
- listen to and follow instructions.
- identify emotions and feelings.
- engage in activities for 15 minutes or more.
- follow rules.
- play well with others.
- hold pencils, crayons, and scissors properly.