



All About Pre-K

Want to prepare for the next school year?

Pre-K is a year full of new experiences learning through play, exploration, and new friends. Below are suggestions of activities, based on the [Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards \(GELDS\)](#), that families might explore before the school year begins. Students do not need to know everything when school starts. Teachers will meet students where they are at the beginning of the school year.

Physical Development & Motor Skills

To support physical development and motor skills, parents/caregivers can...

- Listen to various types of music on the radio (jazz, classical, rock, reggae). Discuss the sounds of the instruments and how the music makes you feel.
- Sing familiar songs together.
- Create works of art to tell a story using various art supplies and craft materials found at home.
- Provide opportunities to use tongs, tweezers, spatulas, hand juicers, and clothespins.
- Cut magazines or newspapers before you recycle.
- Play outside: run, jump, hop, skip, and explore.

Communication, Language & Literacy

To support the development of communication, language and literacy skills, parents/caregivers can...

- Visit the public library.
- Allow the child to select books.
- Read, Read, Read!
- After reading, discuss what happened in the story.
- Point out letters on labels to help identify uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Encourage drawing pictures and telling stories.
- Recite nursery rhymes together.
- Provide opportunities to engage in conversation with adults and peers.
- Give reasons to write such as creating grocery lists or writing down recipes.



Mathematical Thinking

To support the development of mathematical thinking skills, parents/caregivers can...

- Play "I spy" to support color identification.
- Draw attention to the shapes of traffic signs to help recognize and name shapes.
- Build one-to-one correspondence by setting the table: i.e., one plate and one cup for one spot.
- Create games around counting common objects, such as the number of doors, windows, or steps in your home.



Social & Emotional Development

To support social and emotional development, parents/caregivers can...

- When reading, discuss how the book characters feel. Draw attention to facial expressions, actions and words.
- Practice self-help skills including cleaning up toys and materials, brushing teeth, toileting, handwashing, zipping, snapping, and buttoning.
- Provide choices to make throughout the day, "Should we play with legos or playdough? Would you like soup or a sandwich?"
- Talk about different rules in different places. Practice being quiet in the library and waiting in line at the bank or concession stand.



Approaches to Play & Learning

To support the development of approaches to play and learning, parents/caregivers can...

- Encourage new activities.
- Play games that require turn taking. For example, "Catch," or "Go Fish."
- Provide props for pretending "chef," "school," or "doctor's office" to prompt creativity and imaginative play.



For activity ideas to practice these skills, go to gpb.org/learn.