10 Ways to Get Ready for Kindergarten

1. Create a routine over the summer. Give your child a bedtime (8:00 PM is great!) and stick to it.

2. Have your child practice writing her/his first name. If your child can do this, try the last name, or practice lower case letters.

3. Use counting in your daily activities. Count how many steps it takes to get to the mailbox or the park. Count out fruit, placemats, napkins, and so forth.

4. Take your child with you to the grocery store, post office, library, and other errands. Talk with her/him about what you are seeing, hearing and touching. It’s all part of learning!

5. Visit your local library and help your child get a free library card. Then use the card to visit the library each week and borrow a book. Talk about the books you read. (you can also get passes to museums and zoo)

6. Let your child practice independence by allowing her/him to make choices (“Do you want an apple or a banana?”), and by encouraging him/her to try new things and to solve problems.

7. Limit the amount of TV your child watches (1-2 hours should be the maximum). When possible, watch TV together and talk about what you see.

8. Prepare a “school spot” for your child and supply it with crayons, paper, scissors and other kindergarten “tools.” Set aside a time each day for your child to draw there.

9. Read, Read, Read! (In English or your native language!)

10. Help your child:
   - know her/his own name, address, and telephone number
   - use the bathroom independently
   - button and zip clothes
   - share and play with other children