



HELP YOUR CHILD BE READY FOR KINDERGARTEN:

There are lots of things you can do now to help your child be ready for their first day of school. Helping them learn and develop social-emotional, language, and physical skills is just as important as being able to count or knowing some letters.



TO-DO LIST BEFORE KINDERGARTEN:

 **Get a library card.**

Reading together is a great way to prepare your child for school. Visit your local library to get a free library card and check out books they're interested in. For more information, call 602-262-4636 or visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org.

GET FREE TICKETS FOR FUN LEARNING EXPERIENCES.

Your child learns and grows when you give them opportunities to explore and discover new things. The Great Start program provides your family with free tickets to these fun, educational attractions.



Phoenix Zoo in Papago Park
455 N. Galvin Parkway
Phoenix, AZ 85008
phoenixzoo.org



Arizona Latino Arts & Cultural Center
147 E. Adams St.
Phoenix, AZ 85004
alacarizona.org



Arizona Science Center
600 E. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85004
azscience.org



Japanese Friendship Gardens
1125 North 3rd Avenue,
Phoenix, AZ 85003
japanesefriendshipgarden.org



Desert Botanical Gardens
1201 N. Galvin Parkway
Phoenix, AZ 85008
dbg.org



Musical Instrument Museum
4725 E. Mayo Boulevard
Phoenix, AZ 85050
mim.org



Children's Museum of Phoenix
215 N. 7th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85034
childrensmuseumofphoenix.org



Pueblo Grande Museum
4619 E. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85034
phoenix.gov/parks/arts-culture-history/pueblo-grande

 **Visit a family resource center.**

Phoenix families resource centers provide information and referral services, free parent and child activities, and parent education for families with young children. For locations and information visit phoenix.gov/education/familiesfirst.

 **Contact your local elementary school.**

Most schools have special programs and activities to help children know what to expect and get excited about starting kindergarten.

MORE WAYS TO HELP YOU CHILD BE READY FOR SCHOOL

You are your child's first teacher. But you don't need flashcards or worksheets. Just do your best to be a loving, responsive caregiver. Play with them. Read to them. Talk with them. Give them as many positive, stimulating experiences as you can. All of these everyday moments add up to what your child needs to be ready for school. Learn more at firstthingsfirst.org/kindergarten-readiness.

- 1. Talk with your child.** Having short, back-and-forth conversations with your child helps them develop vocabulary, language and social-emotional skills. Talk about what you're doing, where you are and what you see. Listen to what your child says and then respond to keep the conversation going. Learn more at readonarizona.org/smart-talk.
- 2. Read together every day.** Sharing books introduces your child to new and unusual words that you might not use in everyday conversation. That's important, because vocabulary is a big part of school success. Find books that your child is interested in, and ask them open-ended questions while you read together, like "What do you think will happen next?" or "Why did that happen?" Find free books and activities at makewayforbooksapp.org.
- 3. Encourage learning at home.** Young children learn through play, so join in the fun and let them use their imagination. You can also encourage learning at home through play and art activities. Writing begins with scribbling, so give your toddler safe writing tools, like crayons, chalk, or markers. Have them scribble and draw, and ask them questions about their drawings.
- 4. Help your child be more independent.** The months leading up to the first day of school are the ideal time to help your little one develop the independence and self-confidence they'll need to be ready for the transition to kindergarten. But it's never too early to start.
- 5. Check in on your child's development.** While all children develop differently, it helps to know if your child is meeting typical milestones and how you can support their healthy development. How your child plays, learns, speaks, acts and moves offers important clues. Talk with your child's doctor about their development and if you have any concerns. Learn more at firstthingsfirst.org/resources/ages-and-stages/.
- 6. Keep your child healthy and smiling.** Just like they need regular check-ups with their doctor, your child needs regular dental visits to prevent tooth decay, which is a leading cause of school absences. Dental visits are covered by insurance if your child is on AHCCCS or KidsCare. Learn more at firstthingsfirst.org/healthy-teeth.

