



February

Kindergarten Skills Development

Skills to Practice this Month

- Encourage exploration, manipulation and dramatic play. *Provide toys, games and household objects that encourage your child to explore, ask questions, and use her imagination. Allow your child to manipulate small objects to improve her fine-motor skills.*
- Provide opportunities to play with other children. *Allow your child to interact and play with other children in a variety of settings: the park, playground, library, etc. Talk to your child about taking turns, sharing, and cooperating with others.*

Activities *Further listings available at <http://www.getSet4k.org>*

- To encourage your child's sense of exploration, have a scavenger hunt indoors or outdoors.
- Improve fine-motor skills by encouraging your child to make simple patterns using a string and large beads, hollow pasta noodles, or buttons.
- Allow your child to practice sorting small items by placing various items of differing sizes, shapes, colors, and textures into a box or bowl.
- Play board games and other games with your child. These types of games require children to wait for their turn and encourage patience and cooperation.
- Create a dramatic play area in your home with clothing items and other household items that allow children to use their imagination to pretend to be all kinds of things.
- Talk to your child about introducing him/herself to others when first meeting someone new and making new friends.

Books for Children *Further listings available at <http://www.getSet4k.org>*

- *I Spy* books by Jean Marzollo
- *The 13th Clue* by Ann Jonas
- *A String of Beads* by Margarette S. Reid
- *Enrico Starts School* by Charlotte Middleton
- *The Big Blue Spot* by Peter Holwitz

Books for Parents *Further listings available at <http://www.getSet4k.org>*

- *Treasure Hunts! Treasure Hunts! Treasure Hunts!* by Lenny Hort
- *1-2-3 Games: No-Lose Group Games for Young Children* by Jean Warren
- *Everybody Wins: Non-Competitive Games for Young Children* by Jeffrey Sobel
- *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool* by Diane Trister Dodge
- *Making Make-Believe: Fun Props, Costumes, and Creative Play Ideas* by MaryAnn F. Kohl

Getting Ready to Read

Skills to Practice this Month

- Talk to your child about the stories that you read together and ask your child to tell the stories back to you. *Being able to tell or retell a story helps children understand what they read.*

Health and Wellness

Skills to Practice this Month

- See that your child has opportunities for rigorous physical activity, outside when possible, everyday. *Your child should be able to run, jump, climb, swing, and know how to use balls.*

More information available at <http://www.getSet4k.org>