



Resources for Incoming K Parents

How can I support my child's small motor development?

- Play with playdough or clay
- Introduce sticker books
- Play any activity that involves pinching, try using tweezers to pick things up and sort them
- Remove all oversized writing implements, have your child write with golf pencils or crayons broken in half
- Encourage detailed drawing with crayons and paper

See this video to demonstrate proper pencil grip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VhtdJ4DoOtQ>

How can I support my child with reading development at home?

- Recognize the value of the early reading books and repetitive reading
- Read aloud books to your child every night to model good fluency and phrasing. This is how children first learn grammar. They learn how to hear if a sentence sounds right or not.
- Study the pictures. Talk about how they fit with the story.
- Practice building your child's reading comprehension by engaging in conversations about books, not just what happened, but what you think about what happened

Where can I find information on proper letter sounds?

FUNdations A-Z Letter Practice

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kbPqHe4u7k>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-yJzrx7GIO8>

*Be careful as some videos stretch out the letter sounds for too long which makes it harder for children to learn how to spell.

Additional Related Link

Usher's ABC Song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWvBAQf7v8g>

How can I support my child with writing and spelling development at home?

- Encourage your child to 'write' often and allow approximation.
- When your child asks you to spell for him/her, ask "What sounds do you hear in the word?"
- Celebrate when your child hears the sounds in a word.
- Make writing fun!
- Phonemic Awareness activities - Play with letter sounds, matching sounds to letters and letters to sounds
- Make lists
- Write notes or thank you notes
- Use a variety of materials...
 - Dry erase boards and markers
 - Triangle crayons
- Create a writing center (box, suitcase, special area, etc.) with all these materials

- Model writing
 - Let children see you write notes: grocery lists, recipes, letters. You are showing them that writing is useful!

How can I support my child with mathematical curiosity at home?

- Read books about numbers and counting
- Sing songs and finger plays that include numbers
- Use numbers as you talk with children about what they are doing
- Play board games or card games
- Count with your child...count coins, place settings, dogs, swings in the park etc....
- Compare who has more cookies, coins etc.
- Create with building blocks, LEGOs, tiles etc.
- Recognize shapes in the world

Questions?



Please write your question below and include an email address. We will get back to you.

Or you can contact us at cgillette@darienps.org and ljohnson@darienps.org