

SUMMER ACTIVITIES TO HELP PREPARE FOR KINDERGARTEN

By Donna D. Elder, Ph.D. – Dinwiddie County Public Schools

- Practice writing with crayons, pencils, chalk and markers. Make sure your child is holding the crayon or pencil correctly. Let him use sidewalk chalk outside. Encourage your child to trace letters in the sand. Draw big dots on the paper and have the child connect them with lines. Make a dotted outline of the child's name and have your child trace over it. Gradually reduce the number of dots in the outline. Teach the names of the letters as your child draws.
- Practice cutting with blunt scissors. Give your child old magazines and let him cut them up into little bits. Give the child a bowl to put the paper in and let him pretend to stir with a big spoon.
- Your child will need to be more independent in kindergarten. Teach the proper way to use a tissue. Have your child practice combing and brushing hair. Review bathroom routines so that the child knows to flush the toilet and wash hands.
- Encourage your child to sing along with recorded music. CDs and tapes are available at the library. This helps develop listening skills and recognition of sounds that will help the child learn to read.
- Teach your child his/her full name, address, and telephone number.
- Count any and everything...it is more important that the child learns that each number corresponds to one object rather than being able to count by rote to a certain number.
- Young children enjoy activities in the kitchen that help them develop motor and thinking skills. Let your child stir mixes, pour from one small container to another, spread jelly or peanut butter with a blunt knife, and set the table.
- Practice safety procedures. Your child should know who is a stranger. Teach a family code word to identify who can pick up the child.
- Contact your local Parks & Recreation Division. They often have free and low-cost classes and activities throughout the year.

