

# Learning at Home

Families are so busy - it's hard to find extra time, but little changes add up.

Children Begin Learning at Home  
**You count! You and your family are the first people in a child's life to:**

- \* appreciate who they are and what they do
- \* to encourage curiosity
- \* communicate family values
- \* establish a strong foundation for learning that lasts a lifetime

**Young children are more likely to thrive in school when...**

- \* they know lots of words
- \* are able to express their ideas and needs

**Spending time talking and playing with your child helps...**

- \* increase their vocabulary
- \* makes them feel good about themselves
- \* helps them begin school eager and ready to learn

Play to Help Your Child Learn

**These activities have no-cost, no calories and require no batteries!**

**Just 20 minutes a day makes a big difference.**

## TALK

Talk often to your child!

Listen carefully to what he/she says. **Tell stories and jokes.**

**Activity: "Once Upon a Time"**

- \* Tell a story about yourself.
- \* Tell about your grandparents.
- \* When your child hears you talk they learn new words.
- \* Your stories help them love stories!
- \* Ask him/her to tell you a story.

## PLAY

Let your child have plenty of playtime.

Playing encourages the use of imagination, practicing language and having fun.

When you play with your child, it's a great time for the whole family to share words and ideas.

## GO PLACES

When you go places, there are lots of new things to talk about.

Remember what is routine for you is probably new to your child.

**Activity: Driving in the Car**

- \* Turn off the radio and have a conversation with your child.
- \* Describe what you see out the window.
- \* Sing songs.
- \* Ask questions about what your child can see.
- \* Be sure to listen.

## Learning at Home *continued*

### Activity: Let's Pretend

- \* Play pretend with your child.
- \* Act out events that interest them.
- \* Pretend to have a birthday party, go to a restaurant, fly in a plane, go swimming or sledding.
- \* Remember, it is just pretend.

### DRAW OR "WRITE"

Drawing and scribbling are the beginning stages of writing. This helps develop fine motor skills and their imagination.

- \* Have your child "write" their own shopping list, even if it is just scribbles. Use anything you have, plain or recycled paper and crayons or washable markers.
- \* Make pictures and pretend to write.

### Activity: "I Spy"

You can play this anywhere, while shopping, driving or reading the newspaper.

- \* Pick a letter from your child's name and see if you can find it.
- \* Pick a color and see if they can find an object in that same color.
- \* Pick a number and have your child find that many items.

### READ

The more books your child reads, the more successful they'll be in school. Set the example for lifelong reading.

- \* Books don't have to be new to be great.
- \* Ask relatives and friends to give books as presents.
- \* Pick up books at a yard sale.
- \* Go to the library.
- \* Talk about the pictures in the books.
- \* Show children how to use books by showing them how to turn pages gently and handle them with care.

Make a commitment to read to your child every day! Anytime of the day works. It WILL be the most important 20 minutes in your day.

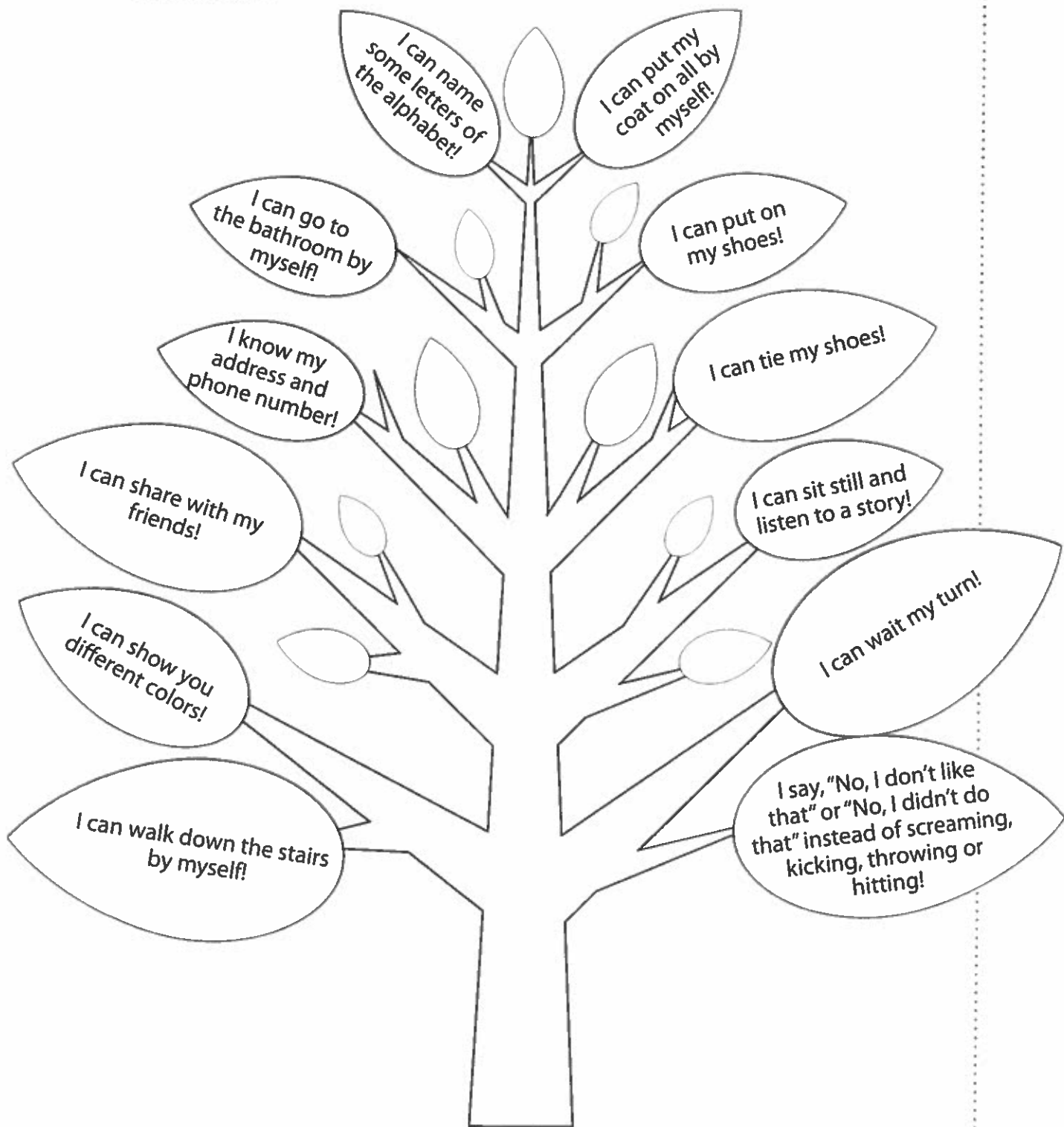
### Activity: "My Favorite Part"

After reading a book, talk with your child about each of your favorite parts of the story. Ask them about their favorite part.



# Am I Ready for Kindergarten?

Color in the leaf when you can accomplish the task.



# Am I Ready for Kindergarten? *continued*

