



## Griffin is Rooted in Excellence!



February 12, 2025

Hello Future Griffin Kindergarten Parents,

We are so excited for your child's kindergarten adventure to begin. There are two ways that you can help your child get ready for kindergarten. Practice Letter Names and Sounds and Phonemic Awareness. Listed below are some fun activities that will help your child with these skills. Have fun this summer!

### **Letter Names and Sounds**

- Use index cards to create two sets of alphabet cards (letters A - Z). Play "Go Fish" or "Memory" with the alphabet cards. Have your child say the letter name and sound when he makes a match.
- Use paper and crayons or markers and have your child make his own alphabet books. Help write the letter on the top of the page and then draw items or find pictures in magazines that begin with that letter. You can extend this activity by talking about the sound that the letter makes.
- After reading a book with your child, you can play "I Spy" with letter names or sounds. Open to a page in the book and say, "I spy the letter\_\_." Or "I spy the letter that makes sound /t/." Have your child find the letter.
- Cut out letters from magazines, newspapers, or "junk mail" printed in different fonts. Have your child sort the letters to give practice recognizing the key features of a letter.
- Use paper or plastic cups and label each cup with one letter of the alphabet. Cut out pictures from magazines or use objects from around your home to play a matching game. Have your child sort the objects into the cups based on the first letter sound that occurs in the name of the object (e.g., "boat"- match the object to the cup with the letter "b" on it).

### **Phonemic Awareness**

- Take turns thinking of two words that begin with the same sound. Examples: "mom" and "moon," "dog" and "door," "fun" and "fast," "paper" and "pet."
- Play the "Say it Quickly" game. You say a word, one sound at a time, and then have your child say the word at the normal rate. For example, you say each sound in the word "cat," /k/ /a/ /t/. Then your child says the word at the normal speed, "cat." Play this game with five to ten short words (words like: am, is, it, in, on, sit, pan, sun, top, net, and fin) every day.
- Play rhyming games. Say a two-word rhyme (e.g., "cat" and "sat") and ask your child to say a word that rhymes with your words. Take turns. Ask to say a word and then you respond with a rhyming word. For example, your child says "run" and you say "fun;" he says "hair," you say "pair."



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- Play the “Say it Slowly” game. Say a word at a normal rate and then have your child say the same word slowly, one sound at a time. For example, say the word “mat.” Then your child will say that same word slowly, one sound at a time, /m/ /a/ /t/. Play this game using about five to ten short words each day.
- Take turns thinking of two words that end with the same sound. Examples: “mom” and “some,” “dog” and “rug,” “fun” and “ran.”
- Play the “Change that Word” game. Think of a one -syllable word and have your child think of another word that is different by one sound. Take turns with each word. Examples: “sat” and “sit,” “sip” and “lip,” “mat” and “map.”

We can't wait for your child to begin school with us!

Sincerely,

The Griffin Elementary Kindergarten Team

