



Dear Kindergarten Parents,

Congratulations! You and your child are starting an exciting and important adventure: Kindergarten!

You might think that it's most important for children to start Kindergarten knowing their ABC's, numbers, shapes, and colors. But there are equally, if not more, important skills that prepare your child for success in school. Raising an eager learner is the goal, and it can be achieved through play and day-to-day activities. Here are the top readiness skills that Kindergarten teachers look for:

- Excitement toward learning
- Talking about thoughts and feelings
- Listening to others
- Desire to be independent
- Playing well with others and taking turns
- Following simple instructions
- Ability to hold and use a pencil, crayons, and scissors
- Recognizing numbers and letters

Most parents wonder, "What can I do to help my child be ready for Kindergarten in the Fall?" Attached you will find a variety of activities that you and your child can engage in over the summer. We have also supplied you with some materials that may be helpful when participating in some of the activities.

There will be a Kindergarten Orientation Night in August. The orientation is an excellent opportunity for parents and students to meet their teacher and learn basic procedures. More information will be sent to all parents over the summer.

Thank you for bringing your child to Minooka Community School District 201's Kindergarten Round-Up. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Kindergarten Round-Up, please contact Dr. Palaniuk at 815/467-3127.

Enjoy your summer!

The Kindergarten Teachers

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## Kindergarten Readiness Tips

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1. Talk positively about Kindergarten and school. Your child will pick up on your feelings about school.
2. Read aloud to your child every day.
  - a. Together, discuss the title, author, illustrator, names of characters, the illustrations, and what happened in the story.
  - b. Pay attention to signs. Road signs are a great way for children to experience the usefulness of print. Try to read signs aloud: "Stop, S-T-O-P. That red sign tells me to stop the car."
  - c. Attend library story times so your child can experience being with other children.
3. Assemble an art supply box, including scissors, glue, markers, crayons, paints, pencils, and paper to encourage writing and drawing. Together explore with these materials.
  - a. Set up a play office. Children love to collect and use old office supplies. Help your child set up a place where he or she can "work" at pretend writing.
  - b. Practice using scissors. Provide playdough snakes and straws to cut into little pieces or cut out coupons.
  - c. Trace lines, shapes, and objects.
  - d. Have your child practice writing his/her first name and then his/her last name.  
Correct example: Sam Hiser                      Incorrect example: SaM HISeR
  - e. Make lists together! Make and use shopping and things-to-do lists. Let your child hold the list and use a pencil to mark off items as you shop or work.
  - f. Help your child make greeting cards, thank-you notes or get-well cards. He or she will see that you can express feelings through writing.
  - g. Draw pictures with details.
4. Help your child follow simple instructions, like: "Please get your coat and meet me by the front door."
5. Practice counting with your child: people on the bus, stairs, socks, windows, toys, etc.
6. Make patterns: (AB Pattern) 1, 2, 1, 2; (ABB Pattern) red, blue, blue, red, blue, blue; (ABC Pattern) circle, square, triangle, circle, square, triangle
7. Identify numbers, shapes, and colors.
  - a. Go on a walk and look for shapes and colors in the environment.
  - b. Play the *I Spy* game by looking for colored objects or shapes in your home.
  - c. Play "Bingo" with colors, numbers, or shapes
  - d. Sort items by color, size, and shape (ie. cereal, buttons, Legos, or skittles).

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## Tips For Using Provided Materials

To print additional copies of the materials explained below, please visit <http://www.min201.org/MPC.html> .

**\*\*You can simply cut apart the flashcards and place them in a Ziploc baggie for future use.\*\***

### Letter Flashcards

- Start slow...Practice showing your child the flashcards for the letters in his/her name. Gradually introduce a few letters at a time.
- Make additional copies of the flashcards and play a game of "Memory".
- Show your child each letter card (in a random order). Practice identifying the names of letters.
- Find the letter shown in the newspaper, books, magazines, etc.
- Match uppercase letters to lowercase letters.
- If your child can identify the letters of the alphabet, have your child put the letters in alphabetical order.
- Have your child practice the letter sound when shown each letter.
- You can provide a letter sound and your child can find the letter flashcard that makes that sound.
- Name things that begin with the letter shown; find them in your house or in a magazine.
- Practice making "CVC" words together. "CVC" simply means consonant, vowel, and consonant words such as hat, men, sit, fox and bug.

### Number Flashcards 0-20

- Start slow...Practice showing your child the flashcards for numbers 0-5. Once your child has accomplished the numbers 0-5, try to identify numbers 6-10, 11-15, and then 16-20.
- Make additional copies of the flashcards and play a game of "Memory".
- Have your child practice putting the number cards in order.
- Practice identifying the numbers out of order.
- Show your child two numbers and ask: Which number is more? Which number is less?
- Use a piece of cereal, candy, or simple objects to represent each number.
- Show your child a number. Have them draw objects to represent the number. For example, if you show them the number two, they should draw two apples, two trees, two, cars, etc.

### Numeral Counting Chart

It does help children to touch each number when children are "rote" counting. Please use the number chart to help your child practice counting.

### Zaner-Bloser Alphabet Chart

Please use the alphabet chart to help your child practice forming the letters in his/her name correctly (a sample and writing paper has been provided). Once your child can write his/her name, begin practicing additional letters of the alphabet.

# Lowercase Letter Flashcards

m	k	o	b	j	i	n
p	l	q	h	u	y	g
v	t	f	c	r	d	x
e	s	z	w	a		

Uppercase Letter Flashcards

M	K	O	N	J	I	Z	N
P	L	Q	H	U	Y	A	G
V	T	F	C	R	D	W	X
E	S	Z	W	A			

# Number Flashcards 0-20

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

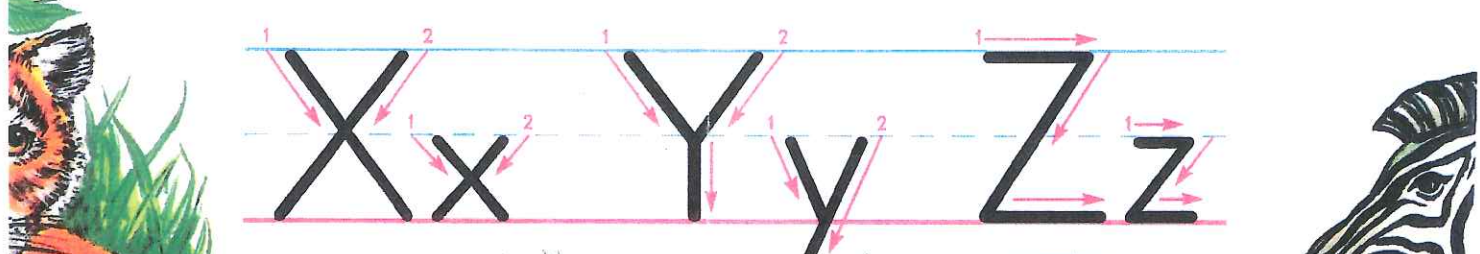
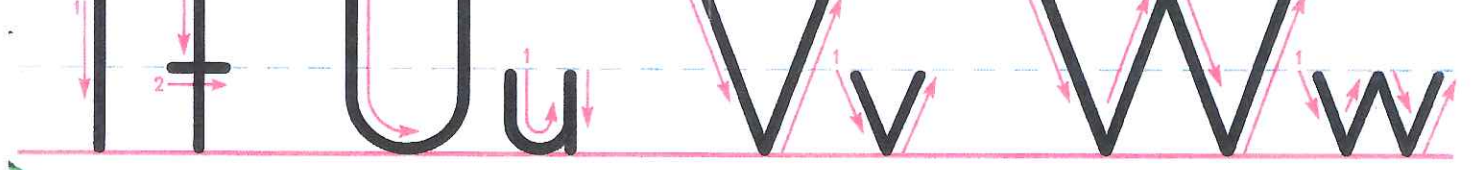
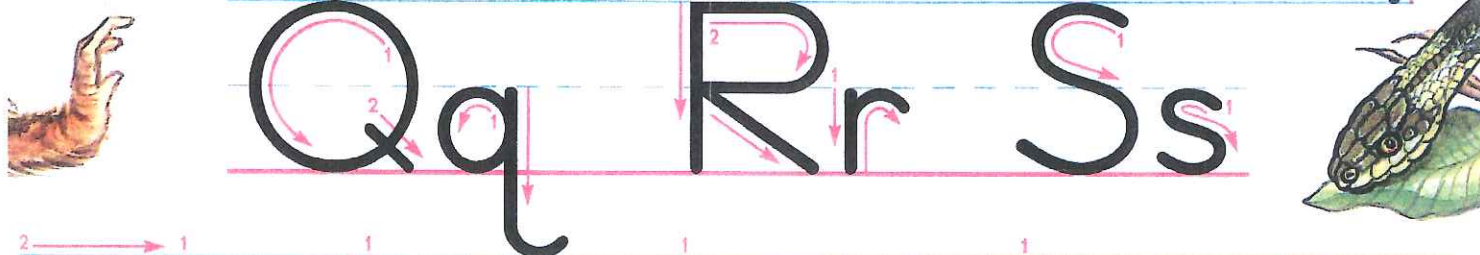
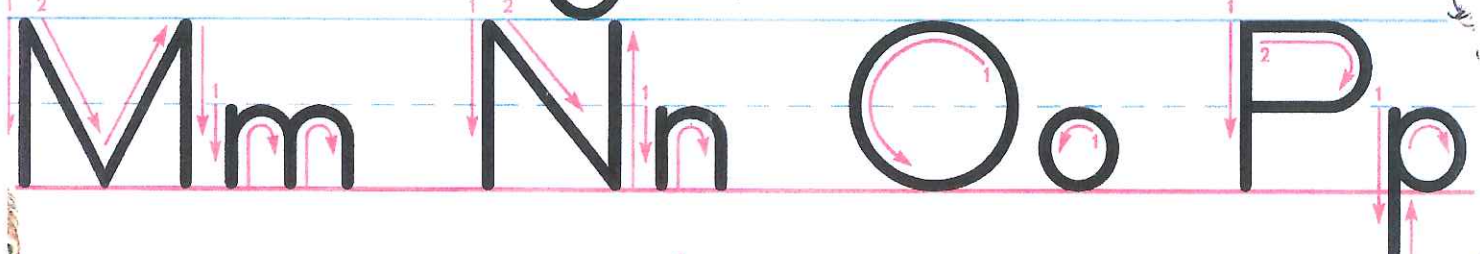
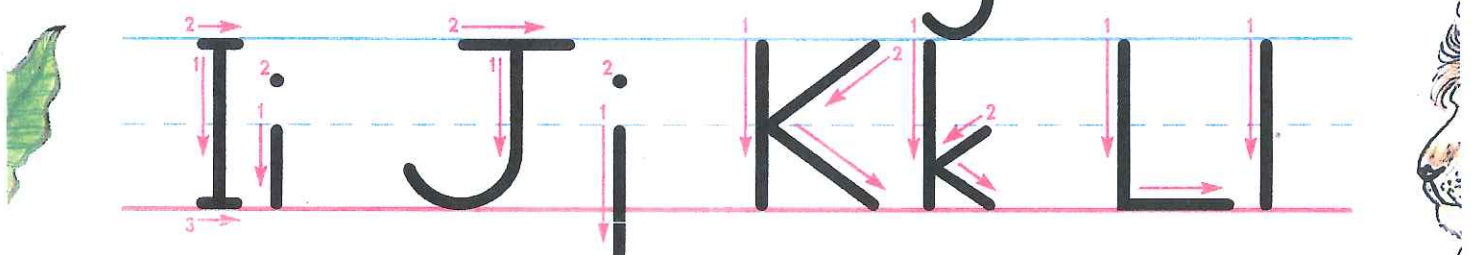
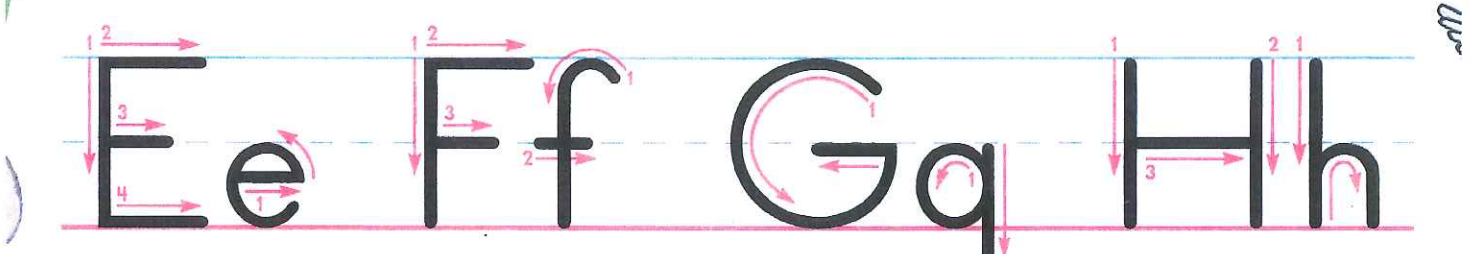
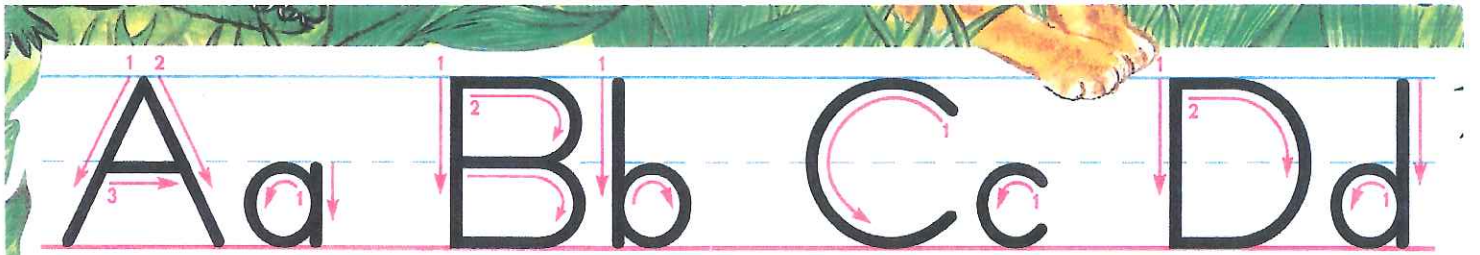
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20

This "100 Chart" may be useful when you help your child practice counting to 100. Some children are visual learners and it helps them to see the numbers while they learn to count. It will also help them to see the '10's numbers" that they usually have trouble transitioning to.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100







Always do your best!





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