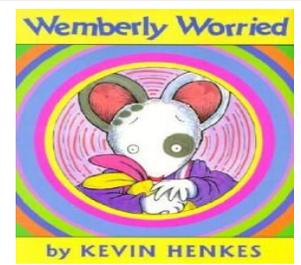
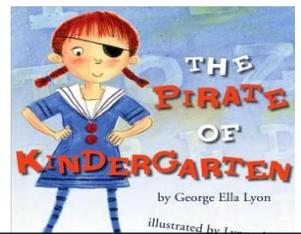


Check out these Great Books all about starting school at your local library

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|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| “The Night Before Preschool” | By Natasha Wing |
| “Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon” | By Patty Lovell |
| “I Don’t Want To Go To School” | By Stephanie Blake |
| “First Day Jitters” | By Julie Danneberg |
| “How Do Dinosaurs Go To School?” | By Jane Yolen |
| “Wemberly Worried” | By Kevin Henkes |
| “The Pirate of Kindergarten” | By George Ella |

Call the Agency or ask your Consultant to borrow our NEW set of Books all about KINDERGARTEN!!!



Try this fun activity to work on tying shoe laces. You will need; empty tissue boxes, shoe laces, a hole punch or pen. Take the empty tissue box and plan where you would like the holes to be, then using the hole punch or a pen poke a hole in the box. Thread the laces through finishing with the ends poking up. Give the children a class on the different ways that they can loop the laces to create a knot and then let them practise. Depending on the ages of the children some will be engrossed on making the loops and some will have wearing their tissue box shoes!

Self-Help Readiness – Helping children learn and perform their independent skills before they begin school is a great ability to have. Knowing how to put on shoes, unzip coats, open snack containers, use a tissue to wipe their nose and use the washroom independently are all great talents to possess especially when there are many little people and only one teacher. A fun way to practise is to set up an obstacle course in your Day Home. The object of the obstacle course is not to finish first but, to successfully complete each task. For example, the course could start with each child taking off their coat and hanging it up, next go to the table and unpack their back pack then hang it up... Start with a few skills and increase the number and difficulty as each child masters the course. Another fun idea to encourage independence is try going for a picnic and let the older children in care open their own containers and then help the younger ones too. All of these small accomplishments will lead to a confident and capable school age child!

Safety Readiness - With starting school comes a new independence that some children have never had before. Use this opportunity to introduce some safety skills and knowledge, so if an emergency were to happen they could get help. 3 basic things a child should be able to tell a trusted adult (Community Helper – Police, Paramedic, Teacher, Fire Fighter, Neighbour) **1.) Their name 2.) Their Mom or Dad’s Name 3.) Their parents phone number or home number.** Working on these verbal/social skills may come easy for some children while others may struggle and memorizing a phone number can be a tricky issue at any age. Here are a few ways to memorize a number: *First* show them what a phone number looks like – you can write it out large numbers and then have them cut each number out for them to place in the correct order. *Next*, try clapping and singing the number out to the tune of a favorite song. Also, try making a large-scale keypad for them to practise. Another active way to reinforce remembering the phone number is to make a hopscotch using the phone key pad for them to jump from number to number. Check out this website for more ideas on fun ways to memorize a phone number for children. <http://lastingthumbprints.com/8-ways-to-teach-children-their-address-and-phone-number/>



August 2018- This month let's focus on **Kindergarten Readiness**. Many of these skills are areas that you focus on anyway but, lets ensure that the children in care who are starting Kindergarten get going with a boost from your day home! School is of course the place where so much great learning happens but, you are one of their very first teachers and allies! ~ "We see how early childhood experiences are so important to lifelong outcomes, how the early environment literally becomes embedded in the brain and changes its architecture." ~ Andrew S. Garner

Reading Readiness – Story Stones are an excellent way for children to develop their reading skills, understand the left to right movement of reading and work on their verbal abilities. To make your own you will need – smooth flat stones (collect them or purchase from the Dollar store or craft store), to create the pictures you can paint them, use permanent marker, stickers, cut out pictures from magazines or pieces of fabric (if using fabric or paper you will also need Mod Podge to seal them onto the rocks) and varnish to coat and protect them. If varnishing the stones allow for a couple of days to completely dry. Provide the children with the Story Stones and watch the ideas, stories and imaginative play take off. <https://happyhooligans.ca/story-stones/>



Listening Readiness – Listening skills can be a difficult task for busy little learners. Here are a few easy games where listening and following simple 1 or 2 step directions can improve on these skills.

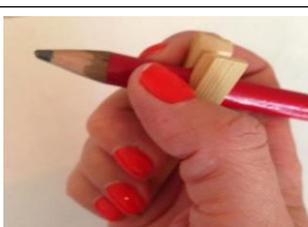
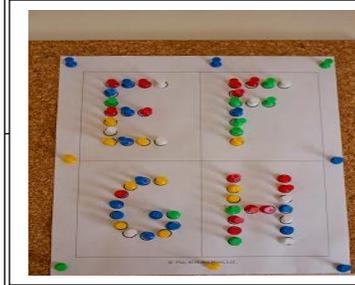
- "Spiderman Says" – just like "Simon Says" but with a character your little ones love (Paw Patrol). Or make it seasonal, "The Snowman Says", "The Scarecrow Says"
- Red Light, Green Light – A classic game of go and stop. Once the children have mastered this add other "lights" (Blue light – hop like a frog, Yellow light – crawl like a bear).
- Obstacle Course – These can be great for listening and comprehension, keep them simple to start, 3-5 part courses with open ended stations (hula hoop to jump through or hula with?, a tunnel to go through or jump over?)

Writing Readiness – Research shows that having strong Fine Motor Skills is linked to having success in writing and academics. Help your little learners in care strengthen their skills with these fun activities that focus on the Pincer Grasp (pinching with thumb and index finger), Finger Isolation (activating a single finger – pointing, pushing a button), Hand-Eye coordination, Tripod Grasp (Pinching with thumb and index finger while resting the object on the middle finger, the type of grip you would use to hold a pencil) and Bilateral coordination (Coordinating the use of two hands to accomplish a task, such as stabilizing an object with one hand while working with the other). Here are a few activities that children of all ages and abilities can enjoy (Standard 2.1 b)

-**Squishy Bag** – This is a great multisensory and tactile activity for all ages to practise their pre-writing/writing skills. You will need; a large Ziploc bag, Hair gel (one whole large bottle), food coloring and Glitter (if you like). Have the children squeeze and mix the materials and then they are ready to go. The Squishy bag can be used on any flat surface to practise writing letters, shapes and working on *Finger Isolation*. Try using on a Light Table for an exciting change.

-**Getting Creative with Push Pins** – This is an easy activity to set up for older children in care that focuses on the development of the *Pincher Grasp*. You will need; push pins, a cork board or a card board box, white paper. The children can create pictures, practise letters, numbers or shapes (you can create outlines for them to follow or let them do it on their own)

-**Chopstick Competition** – This game would work well for children who are already aware of the Tripod Grasp and are eager to strengthen it in a fun way. You will need; chopsticks several pairs, mini marshmallows, containers and a timer. Once the children are ready with their chopsticks start the timer and see who can fill their container with the most marshmallow before time runs out.



Try using a clothespin to help children hold their pencil until they are able to do it on their own.