



Learning starts long before kindergarten



Do you want to prepare your child for kindergarten?

Including your child in everyday situations is the best way to encourage their development. It doesn't need to be anything out of the ordinary. What's important is letting your child do and experience as much as possible. Enjoy their successes together and encourage them along the way. From birth onwards, children have important learning experiences that are important for their later learning at kindergarten and school.

You can find ideas for supporting your child in everyday life as well as information about language development and educational topics at www.gfi.nw.ch › [Vorschulkind](#).



You can find information on kindergarten and starting school at www.nw.ch Search for "Kindergarten und Einschulung".



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the following experts: counselling for mothers and fathers, paediatrician, playgroup manager, daycare specialist or kindergarten teacher.

Ist Edition 2021. This flyer is based on the flyer "Lernen ist schon für kleine Kinder sehr wichtig!", 2014, Schule Buchs and "Lernen beginnt lange vor dem Kindergarten", 2016, Education Directorate of the Canton of Zurich.

Aside from age, there are no admission requirements for kindergarten. However, it will be helpful for your child if they have already had the following experiences:

- › playing, running, balancing with other children
- › being separated from their parents for a few hours
- › drawing, gluing, cutting with scissors
- › dressing and undressing independently
- › going to the toilet by themselves
- › washing their hands and face, brushing their teeth
- › understanding simple statements in German
- › concentrating on one activity for a while
- › consideration of others and of things around them
- › tidying up after play – with help if necessary




Suggestions and ideas

For children, it helps to have many different experiences.

Early learning is important.

This begins already in early childhood.



SPEAKING

Do you speak to your child in their mother tongue? Do you show and explain new things to them?

Your child learns best when you actively speak to and interact with them. A large vocabulary in their mother tongue will help with learning German later.



SHAPING AND BUILDING

Do you allow your child to play with water, sand, shovels, cups, stones, building blocks, Lego, puzzles, etc.?

Children gain their first knowledge of mathematics by emptying, filling, shaping, building and puzzling. They get to know and can distinguish between shapes, sizes and quantities.



PAINTING AND CREATING

Do you give your child paper, paints, boxes, tape, scissors, glue and do handicrafts together with them?

While painting and doing handicrafts, the child learns movements that are later necessary for learning to write. Throughout, your child can develop their creativity and realise their ideas.

SHARING STORIES

Do you look at picture books with your child and talk about them together? Do you tell them fairy tales and stories?

Reading and writing is easier for children later if they experience interest and joy in books and stories at an early age.



PLAYING TOGETHER

Does your child have the opportunity to play with other children on a regular basis?

In such play, children learn how to be considerate of others, to assert themselves and to help one another. This will make it easier for your child to settle in later when they are in a group.



EXPERIENCING AND UNDERSTANDING

Do you go into woods or forests with your child? Are they allowed to help in the kitchen? Are they allowed to touch and use things and get dirty as they do so?

Children expand their knowledge and learn to follow rules in many areas of life.



LEARNING TO DEAL WITH EMOTIONS

Do you name the feelings that your child experiences? Do you allow your child to be bored?

Increasingly, your child is able to empathise with other people and is learning to enjoy pleasant feelings as well as cope with unpleasant feelings.



PLENTY OF MOVEMENT

Do you go to the playground and into nature with your child? Do you help your child to get lots of physical activity?

Movement is vital for your child's development. It promotes good body awareness and reinforces skills such as the ability to concentrate, spatial perception and problem-solving.



DOING THINGS THEMSELVES

Support your child as they do things themselves, even if it takes longer and doesn't work right away (e.g. getting dressed, going to the toilet, setting the table, cutting vegetables, etc.)

Independence will make everyday school life easier for your child and will give them confidence.