

# School Readiness Tool Kit

Your School Readiness Tool Kit is packed with engaging materials that have been specially selected to help your students meet established content standards—all designed to be versatile and easy to use with any curriculum. It contains everything you need to set up skill-building centers covering phonological awareness and listening, alphabet knowledge, writing, and math.

In each section of this guide, you will find a handy list of components, plus a list of specific standards targeted by each group of activities. For each component, we have provided helpful tips for daily use and curriculum support as well as a variety of step-by-step extension activities that will help you get the most out of your kit—all designed for small groups of between 1 and 6 students.

## Spanish Version

If you have the Spanish version of the School Readiness Tool Kit, some of the materials will be different than those listed here. However, most of the activities in this guide can easily be adapted for use with the materials in your kit.

## Before You Begin

To maintain the surfaces of your write & wipe lapboards (included in the Writing Center and ABC Center materials) and to make sure that they erase properly, perform the following steps on the write & wipe surface:

1. Pre-treat the surface of the board by wiping it with a soft, clean, moist cloth.
2. To remove tough stains, clean the board with mild soap.

**Note:** *Materials listed in italics are common classroom materials not provided in the kit.*

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## Phonological Awareness Pocket Chart Activities (Beginning Sounds and Rhyming Words)

These easy-to-use activities help children practice important phonemic awareness skills by identifying and distinguishing initial consonant sounds and rhyming sounds. The self-correcting cards allow children to use the kit independently at a language center or in small groups. Most of these activities can be completed with either kit. Following are some ideas for daily use and curriculum support:

- Introduce each activity by allowing children to examine the picture cards. Ask children to name as many as they can. **Note:** With some of the pictures, you may need to prompt children with the intended word.
- Encourage children to search through the cards and match up two with the same beginning sound/rhyming sound.
- Use the cards to create experience charts: Create word family charts with the rhyming words cards and alliteration charts with the beginning sounds cards.
- Refer to the Teacher's Guide included with each set for additional activities that build phonological awareness skills.
- When children are familiar with the activities, place several starter strips in the chart and put it in your ABC Center with the corresponding cards as either a beginning sounds or rhyming words activity. Encourage children to find 3 picture cards with the same beginning sound/rhyming sound as the picture on each starter strip.

### Match a Sound

#### Group Size

1-4 students

#### Materials Needed

- Beginning Sounds or Rhyming Words Picture Cards and Starter Strips
- Pocket Chart

#### Instructions

Select one starter mat, the three picture cards that go with it, and two or three extra cards. Place the cards on the table and have children identify each of the pictures. Place the starter strip in the pocket chart and ask children to determine if any of the picture cards have the same beginning sound/rhyming sound as the picture on the strip. Ask volunteers to place the cards with matching sounds into the pocket chart. Once all of the blank spaces on the strip are filled, ask children to turn the cards over to check whether the black-line pictures on the backs match the picture on the starter strip.

**Extension:** Place several more starter strips in the chart and have children take turns finding picture cards with matching sounds.

## Number Match-Ups Puzzle Set

With numerals 1-12 and colorful sets of corresponding images, these simple puzzles help children connect early counting skills with primary number recognition. Following are some ideas for daily use and curriculum support:

- Ask children to count and identify each set of objects on the puzzles.
- When children are familiar with the puzzles, place them in your Math Center for independent exploration.

### Number Order

#### Group Size

2-4 students

#### Materials Needed

- Number Match-Ups Puzzle Set

#### Instructions

Have children work together to connect the puzzle pieces, then ask them to place the completed puzzles in order from least to greatest or greatest to least. Encourage students to use the terms "more," "less," "greatest," and "least" to discuss how and why the puzzles are placed in this order.

#### Additional Pre-K Readiness Student Objectives

- begins to name "how many" are in a group of up to three or more objects without counting
- puts together puzzles of increasing complexity

### Number-Word Match

#### Group Size

2-4 students

#### Materials Needed

- Number Match-Ups Puzzle Set
- Marker (from Writing Center materials)
- *Masking Tape*

#### Instructions

For each puzzle, write the number word and number symbol on separate pieces of masking tape and adhere them to the backs of the corresponding puzzle pieces. Have children put the puzzles together by matching the number symbol to the image, then ask them to turn over the completed puzzles and identify the symbol with the number word.

#### Additional Pre-K Readiness Student Objectives

- begins to name "how many" are in a group of up to three or more objects without counting
- puts together puzzles of increasing complexity