



SHELL
EDUCATION

Conquering Kindergarten

GRADE

K

Reading

Mathematics

Science

Social Studies

Writing

Certificate of Achievement



Publishing Credits

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Dear Family,

Welcome to *Conquering Kindergarten*. Kindergarten will be an exciting and challenging year for your child. This book is designed to supplement the concepts your child is learning in kindergarten and to strengthen the connection between home and school. The activities in this book are based on today's standards and will help your child develop essential skills in reading, word study, language, writing, mathematics, social studies, and science. It also features fun, yet challenging, critical-thinking activities and games. In addition to the activity sheets in this book, the end of each section also provides engaging extension activities.

Your child should complete one unit per month, including the extension activities. This will allow your child to think about grade-level concepts over a longer period of time. This also ensures that the book can be completed in one school year. Since your child is developing his or her skills, it is important that you work through the activities in this book with him or her.

Keep these tips in mind as you work with your child this year:

- Set aside specific times each week to work on the activities.
- Have your child complete one or two activities each time, rather than an entire unit at one time.
- Keep all practice sessions with your child positive and constructive. If the mood becomes tense or you and your child get frustrated, set the book aside and find another time to practice.
- Read the directions aloud to your child. If your child is having difficulty understanding what to do, work through some of the problems together.
- Play the games with your child. Read the directions and explain the rules to your child. Then, have fun playing and learning together.
- Encourage your child to do his or her best work, and compliment the effort that goes into learning.

Enjoy the time learning with your child during kindergarten. Summer will be here before you know it!

Sincerely,

The Shell Education Staff

Suggested Family Activities

You can extend your child's learning by taking fun family field trips. A wide variety of experiences helps expand and develop a child's vocabulary. Field trips also provide greater context and meaning to his or her learning in school.

A Trip to a Zoo

Before your trip, create a Zoo Bingo card. Include pictures of a variety of animals you will see at the zoo. Bring the Zoo Bingo card with you. As you spend the day exploring, have your child cross out each animal you come across. When he or she gets bingo, celebrate the accomplishment!

A Trip to a Museum

Play a family game in the museum. Have your child pick an artifact, piece of art, etc., without telling the other players what it is. The other players then try to guess what the secret item is. Ask for clues that require a yes or no answer. For example, "Does the item have sharp teeth?" or "Is the item made out of clay?" The person who guesses the secret item correctly gets to choose the item in the next room.

A Trip to a Library

Have your child pick books he or she has never read (or that you have never read to him or her). Look carefully at the covers of the books together. Ask your child what he or she thinks the stories are going to be about based on the covers alone. Then, read the books aloud to your child, and see if his or her guess was correct.

A Trip to a National Park

The National Park Service has a great program called Junior Rangers. If you go to a local park, check in with the rangers at the visitors center to see what tasks your child can complete to earn a Junior Ranger patch and/or certificate. Your child can also go to the WebRangers site (www.nps.gov/webangers/) and check out a vacation spot, play games, and earn virtual rewards!

A Trip to a Monument or Memorial

Ahead of time, look up some interesting stories about the person who is honored by the monument/memorial. Focus on stories about the person's childhood or early accomplishments, as those will be more relatable to your child. As you stand and look at the monument/memorial, tell the stories and ask your child to describe what kind of monument/memorial he or she thinks could be built for him or her someday!

Suggested Family Activities (cont.)

By discussing the activities in this book, you can enhance your child's learning. But it doesn't have to stop there. The suggestions below provide even more ideas on how to support your child's education.

General Skills

- Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep. Children this age need between 9–11 hours of sleep each night. Establish a nightly bedtime routine that involves relaxing activities, such as a warm shower or bath or reading a story.
- Help your child become organized and responsible by setting a good example. Have places to keep important things. Make to-do lists of your chores or errands. When your child sees you making time for those things, he or she will recognize that organization and responsibility are important.

Reading Skills

- Create an alphabet book with your child. Go through old magazines, newspapers, advertisements, etc., to find an image for each letter of the alphabet. Help your child cut out the images and glue them into a book.
- Set a reading time for the entire family at least every other day. Have your child read familiar words or letters. Point to words that he or she may already know (or words that are similar to ones he or she already knows), and have your child sound them out.

Writing Skills

- Have your child practice writing letters through sensory activities. For example, you could pour an impressionable substance (this could be salt, flour, sugar, pudding, shaving cream, etc.) into a cookie tray and let your child get messy while learning to write letters.
- Supply your child with writing tools that better fit his or her hands to help develop his or her fine motor skills. Normal-length pencils are often too large and are awkward for smaller hands to hold. Golf pencils, broken crayons, and small markers will make writing more comfortable.

Mathematics Skills

- Help your child practice counting, whenever possible. You can do this in everyday situations such as counting the number of stairs, silverware pieces at the dinner table, etc.
- Involve your child in grocery shopping. Ask him or her to help solve basic mathematical problems. For example, "I have two apples in my hands. You have two apples in yours. How many apples do we have altogether?"

