



The following items are skills kindergarten students need to know in preparation for school in the Fall:

- Understands left-to-right and top-to-bottom orientation for books and print.
- Knows the parts of a book and their functions.
- Recognizes uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Can retell simple stories or what they learned in informational texts.
- Uses descriptive language to explain and explore.
- Recognizes letters and letter sounds.
- Recognizes beginning sounds and sometimes middle and end sounds in simple words.
- Recognizes and uses "word families"
- Identifies the sounds of each letter in simple, one-syllable words.
- Recognizes some "sight words,"-- common words kids have to recognize instantly without sounding them out. A few examples are a, the, I, my, you, is, are.
- Uses new vocabulary and grammar in own speech.
- Connects information and events in texts to life and life to text experiences.
- Likes to dramatize stories or parts of stories.
- Correctly answers questions about stories read aloud.
- Makes predictions based on illustrations or portions of stories.
- Independently writes many uppercase and lowercase letters (although they may not be clearly written).
- Writes own name (first and last) and the first names of some friends or classmates.
- Begins to write some words they use and hear often.
- Uses invented spelling — children at this age are translating the sounds of spoken words into writing.
- Begins to build a bank of correctly spelled words.
- Draws pictures that relate to stories.
- Writes (unconventionally) to express one's own meaning.
- Begins to write stories with some readable parts.

*These literacy tips were created by Fort Worth ISD and align with its literacy curriculum standards.*