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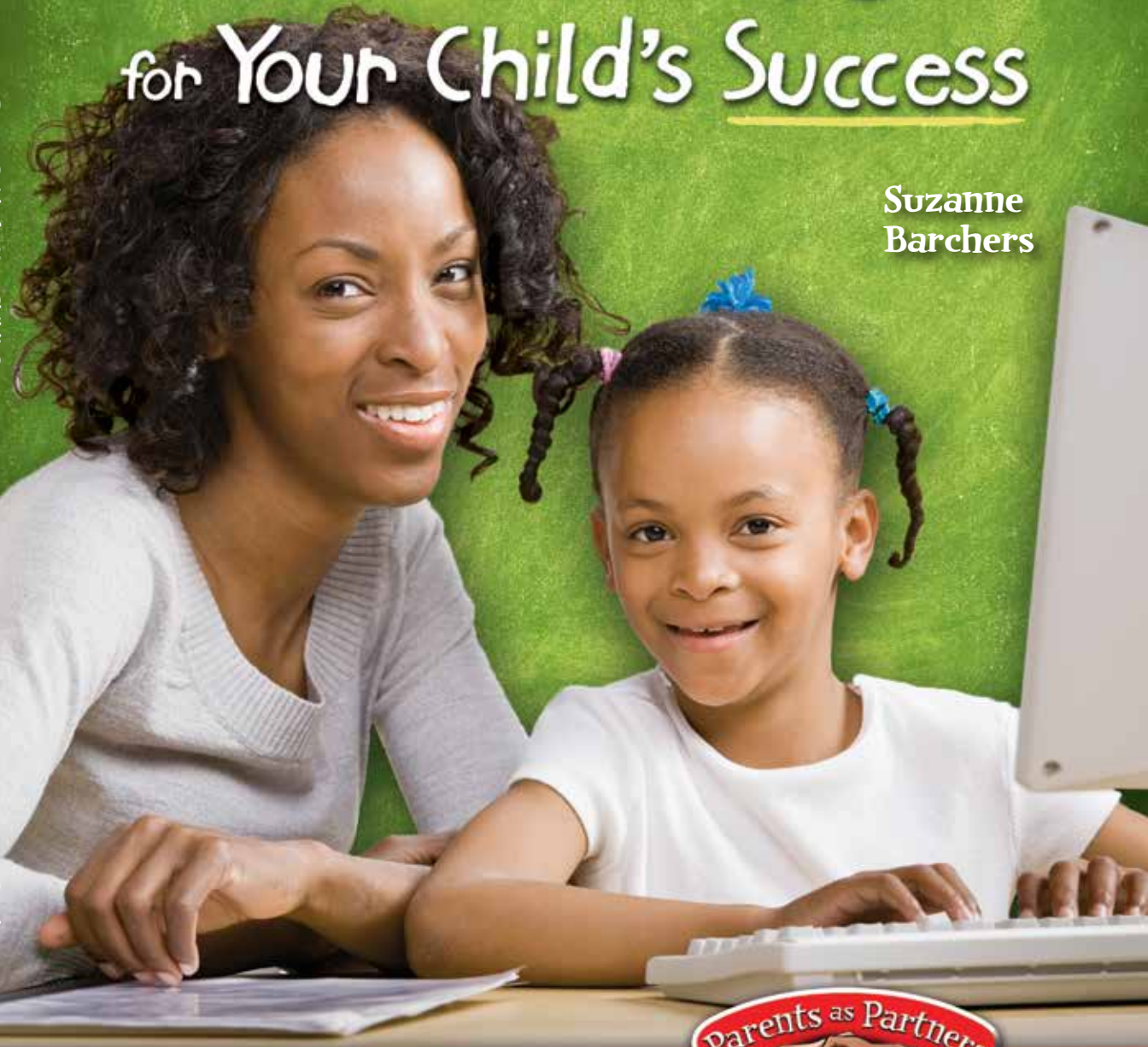
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# Kindergarten Parent Guide

for Your Child's Success

Suzanne  
Barchers



Teacher Created Materials

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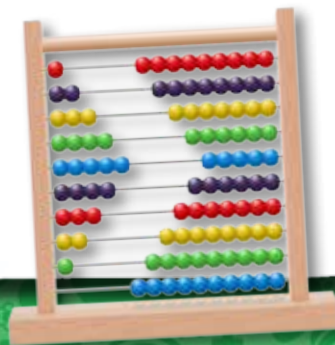
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# Dear Family,

What a great milestone—you have a kindergartner! You may have heard of the book titled *All I Really Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* by Robert Fulghum. Although there is more to learning than knowing how to share, play fair, and clean up, there is a lot of truth in the notion that this year sets the stage for formal learning. And, the work and learning habits that you help your child establish this year will pay off for the next dozen or more years.

If your child went to day care or preschool, he or she is used to a formal learning setting. If not, there may be a bit of an adjustment period. You'll want to keep in close touch with the teacher so the year goes smoothly. You've been your child's primary teacher for five or so years, and that won't change. This parent guide will give you a variety of parent-tested ideas for having a successful year, beginning with getting organized at home so that your child is ready for the "work" of learning.



## One last thought...

Robert Fulghum includes a lesson about how to live a balanced life. That's good advice for parents, too!

# Top 10

## *Things Your Kindergartner Needs to Know*

1. **Ten basic colors:** red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, black, brown, white, and pink
2. **Recognizing and writing the letters** of the alphabet in upper and lowercase
3. **Relationship between letters and the sounds** they make
4. **Sight words 1–100**
5. Writing **consonant-vowel-consonant words** (e.g., bat and fan)
6. **Retelling a story** that has been read aloud
7. Reading and writing **simple sentences**
8. Counting, reading, writing, and comparing **numbers 0–20**
9. **Classifying and counting objects** in categories
10. **Shapes** (e.g., square, triangle, rectangle, circle)



# Discoveries

## Unlimited

Your kindergartner has been investigating his or her world since birth. Every new thing was a discovery that had to be tasted, touched, smelled, and watched.

.....

*Try these activities to keep those discoveries going.*

### **Listen**

Turn a routine walk into a nature sounds walk and listen for animals, birds, the wind, rain, etc.

### **Observe**

Collect some clean snow in a glass jar and let it melt to see if it still looks clean. Let it evaporate.





## Measure

Plant some seeds and track their growth.

## Explore

Gather a variety of objects, such as light and heavy paper, white and colored paper, clear and colored glass bottles, etc. What happens when they are placed in the sun?

## Touch

Touch things that are smooth, sticky, rough, soft, or hard.

## Journal

Record findings in a notebook with drawings or pictures. Use a camera to document discoveries.



## One last thought...

Keep that wonder about the world alive by staying alert to opportunities to stop and observe, touch, and discuss.