What Kindergarteners Need to Know Before the First Day of School

Learning basic skills such as colors and shapes and the alphabet may be more important to kindergarten success than parents realize.

Monterey, CA (June 25, 2015)—Like it or not, kindergarten is being called the “new first grade,” with longer days, more academics, and less active play than the kindergarten that most adults experienced. While implementation of the Common Core State Standards has contributed to consistency of kindergarten expectations (in English language arts and math), these standards have also ramped up the expectations of a child’s development and learning. (NAEYC “Not Yesterday’s Kindergarten”)

For example, today’s kindergarteners are expected to master in-depth geometry skills by the end of kindergarten, namely identifying, describing, analyzing, comparing, and composing shapes. One standard stipulates that kindergarteners “analyze and compare two- and three-dimensional shapes, in different sizes and orientations,” and be able to describe shapes’ similarities, differences, parts, and other attributes. (http://www.corestandards.org/Math/Content/K/G/)

Since kindergarten is a child’s bridge into formal primary education, it’s beneficial for children to enter kindergarten with an understanding of basic skills, such as recognizing upper- and lowercase letters, recognizing some letter sounds, identifying and drawing basic shapes, recognizing some numbers 1–10, and counting or sorting objects.

To this end, Evan-Moor is offering a series of online activities to help parents check their child’s understanding and provide engaging practice of basic skills. Use this link to access Evan-Moor’s free Colors and Shapes online activities and The Alphabet online activities.
Evan-Moor’s online activities provide an interactive format for children to learn colors and shapes and the alphabet—and for their parents to monitor their progress. Using photographic examples, children have the experience of matching color words, shapes, and letters to real-life objects that they likely see around them.

“Learning basic skills such as colors and shapes is important to prepare children for kindergarten success,” said Trisha Thomas, the parent of a kindergartener and chief marketing officer, Evan-Moor Educational Publishers. “We are pleased to offer parents a complimentary resource to use with their child for supplemental practice.”

For more information on Evan-Moor’s educational materials for kindergarten readiness, visit www.evan-moor.com.

About Evan-Moor
Evan-Moor Educational Publishers has been “Helping Children Learn” since 1979, publishing high-quality resource materials for both teachers and parents across the PreK–8th grade curriculum.