

Parents,

Welcome to Pickerington Local School District! We are excited that your child will be joining us in August for kindergarten. Developmentally, it is likely the most important year in your child's life. We believe that the first year of formal schooling is an essential introduction to academics, social/emotional interactions, and building upon their natural curiosities through discovery.

Our kindergarten program was designed to promote that discovery and build their self-confidence through introduction to literature, mathematics, social sciences, and natural sciences. Our teachers and principals work to ensure that your child feels comfortable and safe while learning in a new environment.

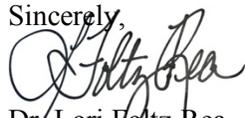
To help us build class lists and to understand your child, a time slot will be assigned for one of three days (August 15th, 16th, or 17th). During that time, you will drop your child off at the school and a team of teachers will complete diagnostic assessments to identify what students know and can do in different domains. These assessments help teachers determine what students understand in order to build on the student's strengths and address specific needs. It helps the principal to build heterogeneous classrooms. Students will also meet all kindergarten teachers, tour the building, and interact with a few of their peers. Using this time to orient your child to the new learning environment is one essential component to ensure your child's success in the coming school year. On August 19th, the principal or classroom teachers will call you to let you know who your child's classroom teacher will be for the coming school year. More information regarding this plan was sent to you by your principal.

To accomplish all that we hope for this year, we need a strong partnership with you. There are two important features to the partnership from our perspective. First, please review the following academic resources that focus on skills that are helpful as children enter kindergarten. We ask that you work with your child on these skills over the next two months. Secondly, your academic support will be needed throughout the school year. This year we will provide literacy-focused mini-lessons and activities that can be completed at home or during time at daycare. These activities and mini-lessons will extend their learning and help meet academic goals to prepare them for first grade. More information will be provided through your child's teacher or principal after the school year begins. Our goal is to ensure that every child meets her or his potential, remains curious, and is prepared for first grade.

Pickerington also has a literacy intervention program. Based on reading diagnostic assessments completed in early September, some students will qualify for KLIP (Kindergarten Literacy Intervention Program). More information on KLIP will be provided in September.

We look forward to working with you to ensure your child is healthy, happy, and learns to love learning during this first formal year. Please review the August calendar and resources below.

Sincerely,



Dr. Lori Holtz-Rea
K-6 Curriculum Coordinator
Pickerington Local School District
614-920-6196

August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Convocation	12 Work Day	13 PD/Open House Kindergarten Parent Meetings-	14
15	16 First Day (1-4) Kindergarten Assessment Days 1/2 day AM & PM parents will set up appointment times with the office for these asesment days	17	18	19 Principal /Teacher Meets AM-Develop class lists based on data PM-Parents are notified of assigned teacher	20 Kindergarten First Day	21
22	23	24	25	26		28
29	30	31	Bring your child on assigned appointment (one of the half days on 16 th , 17 th , or 18 th).			

PARENT/GUARDIAN SUMMER RESOURCES

- **Ohio Department of Education’s “Getting Ready for Kindergarten”**
- The Ready Family: An Important Component of Preparing a School-Ready Child
- Preparing a School-Ready Child
- Learn more about the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Revised
- KRA-R-Postcard-English
- KRA-R Postcard-Arabic
- KRA-R Postcard-Chinese
- KRA-R Postcard-Japanese
- KRA-R Postcard-Somali
- KRA-R Postcard-Spanish

From Firstthingsfirst.com

- Read with your child at least 20 minutes per day. Try books that repeat words; involve activities like counting, identifying colors, objects or letters; or, are about things your child likes. Ask questions like, “What do you think happens next?” or ask your child to tell you what the story was about once you’ve finished.
- Talk with your child everywhere – at home, in the car, at the store. Make up stories or songs about your outings.
- Writing begins with scribbling. Give your child safe writing tools to play with, like crayons, chalk or markers and blank paper. Ask your child to tell you about their drawings.
- Teach your child how to use the bathroom by themselves, to wash their hands after going to the bathroom and before eating, to blow their nose and sneeze into their elbow.

Before the first day, talk with your child about what to expect during the school day and types of after-school activities they may be involved in. The more details kids know, the less anxious they will feel.

Rehearse for the big day with test-runs of the new routine, which will include:

- Choosing what to wear the night before.
- Waking up early to have plenty of time to get ready.

Sample Morning Routine Chart

- Eating a healthy breakfast.
- Walking to the bus stop and talking about boarding and where to sit.
- From a mom of twins – “making a chart of the morning routine can help young children visualize their morning routines” – **We’ve included a sample at the end of this packet.**
- Practicing how to open parts of lunch, whether it’s a carton of milk or a small bag of carrots.
Remind them that teachers or lunch staff can help if needed.

Even if you don’t have kindergarteners this year, it’s never too early to start helping toddlers and preschoolers prepare. Children who have positive early childhood experiences tend to score higher on school readiness assessments and are more likely to do well in school and graduate.

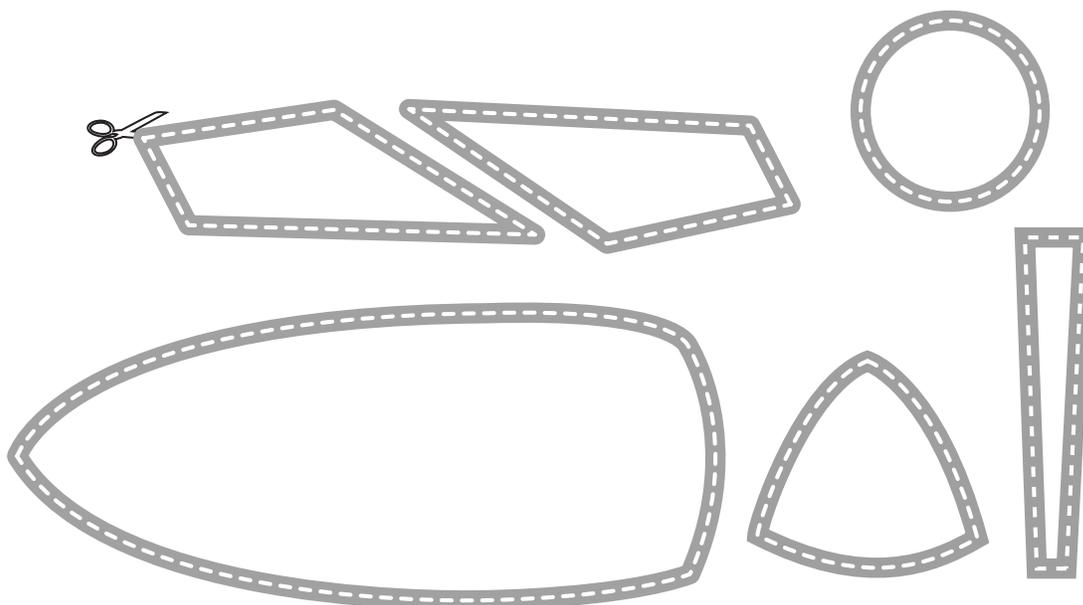
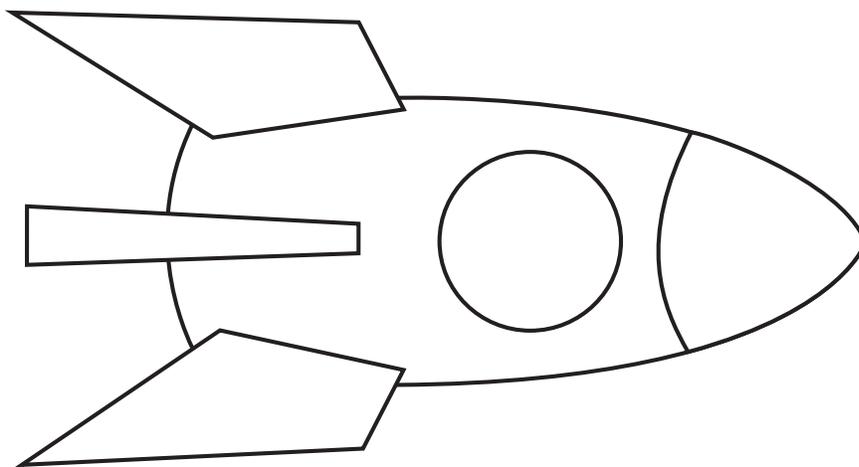
By turning everyday moments into learning moments, we can send our young kids to school with the skills – and the love of learning – that will help them succeed in kindergarten and beyond!

Name: _____



Build a Rocket

Cut the shapes along the dashed lines and glue them on top of the spaceship.

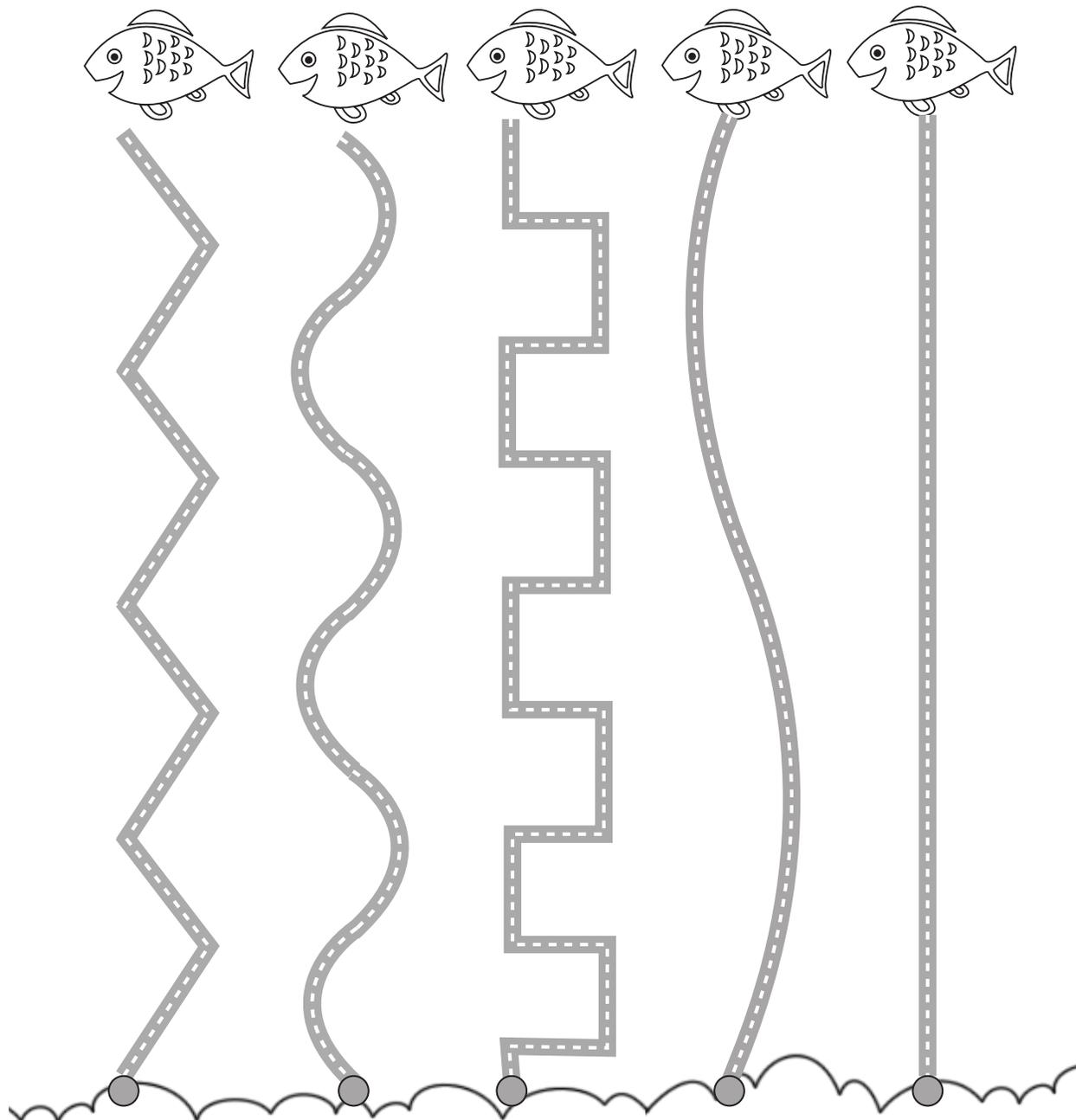


Name: _____



Feed the Fish

Cut along the lines to move food up to the fish.



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Ways to Have Fun with MATH at Home

Kids who learn basic math concepts before kindergarten have a better shot at future mathematics success. Try these fun ideas at home to help your child learn about math throughout your day!



When getting dressed...

...count out articles of clothing with your child
 ...count body parts as the clothing is put on
 ...have your child point out shapes like circles, triangles, squares, and rectangles in fabric prints, fasteners, and pockets

When doing laundry...



...sort clothes with your child into piles of "more" or "less"
 ...ask your child to help put a specific number of clothing items into the hamper or basket, and then count with her as she does it
 ...have your child match socks to help them understand sets of objects

When waiting around...

...try simple math games such as "counting cars" to create learning opportunities



When cleaning up...

...ask your child to pick up a set number of objects and count with him as he does it.
 ...have your child count the number of steps she took to pick up each of the objects or to complete the cleanup task.
 ...name the shapes of the objects that the child is tidying up

When washing hands...



...count the squirts of soap and then count to 10 while your child washes—you'll reinforce counting knowledge and thorough hand washing!

When preparing meals...

...try measuring out an ingredient using three different cup containers so your child can see and count "three cups of flour"
 ...teach "order irrelevance" by asking, "If we count from left to right, do we still get the same number of cups of flour?"



When eating dinner...

...engage your child in conversations about *more* or *less*: "Do I have more or less mashed potatoes than you have?"
 ...play "how many" games: "How many forks are on the table? How many carrots are on your plate?"
 ...have your child count food items as they are served

When bathing...



...ask your child to count the cups of bath soap or number of toys in the tub.
 ...hang a wall clock in the bathroom and show your child how to tell how much time has elapsed while they're in the tub

When brushing teeth...

...use a small egg timer to help your child develop a sense of elapsed time (and to be sure they brush their teeth long enough!)

When reading bedtime stories...

...choose stories that incorporate math themes like counting or shapes
 ...look for ways to introduce math talk even if the book isn't specifically about math—have your child count the number of animals a character meets, for example



When saying goodnight...

...have your child count the number of events in his "goodnight routine": getting into bed, fluffing pillows, turning on night lights, organizing stuffed animals
 ...put the child's night light on a timer and say, "Count to the highest number you can to see how long the light takes to go to sleep."
 ...count bedtime kisses with your child—and then give him an extra one!

Sample Morning Routine Chart

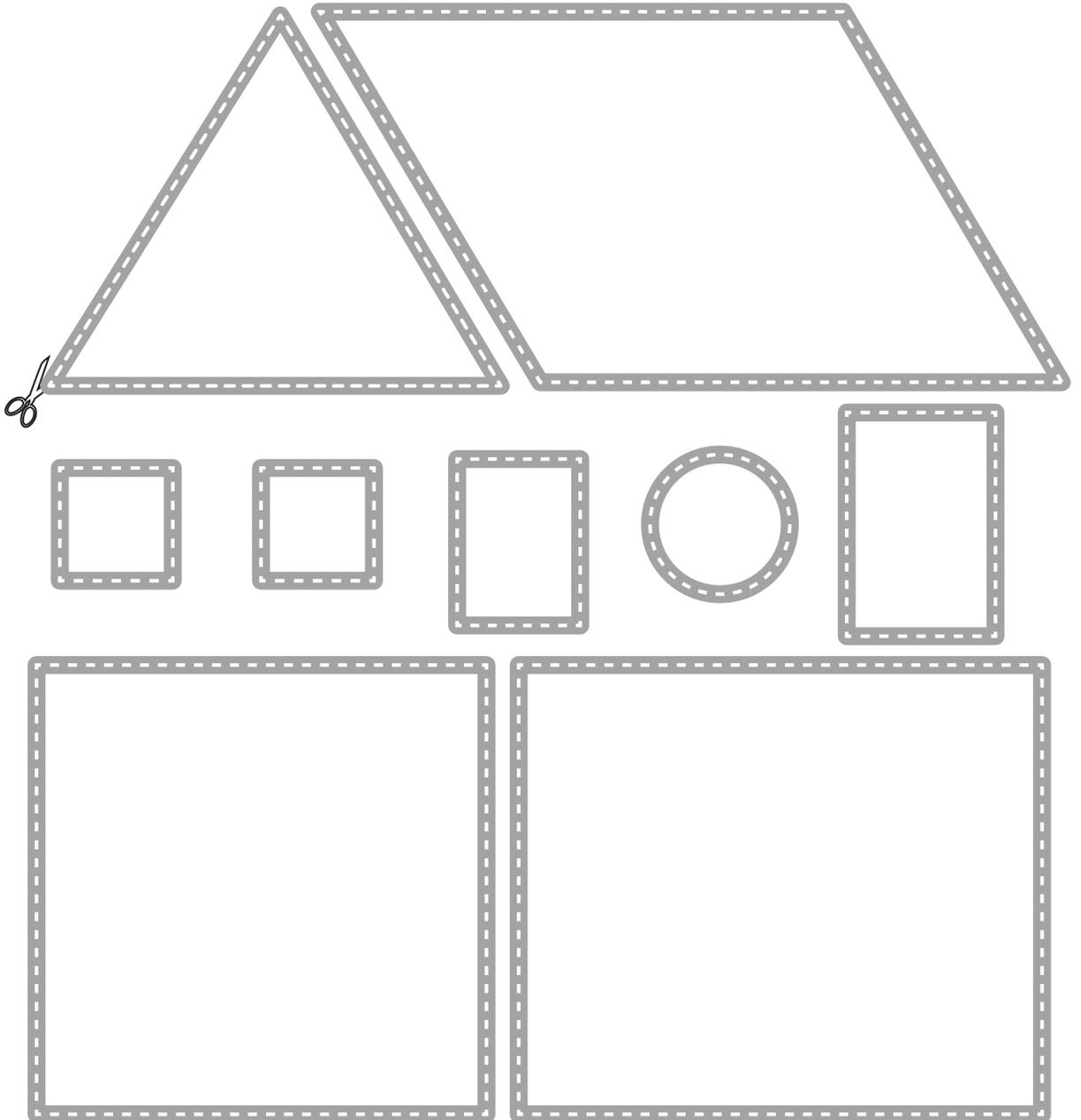
Name: _____

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G g 	G G G g g g
H h 	H H H h h h
I i 	I I I i i i
J j 	J J J j j j
K k 	K K K k k k
L l 	L L L l l l
M m 	M M M m m m



Build a House

Cut the shapes along the dashed lines and glue them on the next page to build your house.



Sample Morning Routine Chart



Wake-up and get out of bed



Brush your teeth



Get dressed



East breakfast



Get on the bus