

5 4 3 2 1 Countdown To Kindergarten

Countdown To Kindergarten suggests monthly activities to help prepare a child for Kindergarten.

Monthly Activities

February: You've Got Mail!



Have your child draw a picture and "write" (or scribble) a note to himself/herself. Address the envelope and write the return address. Talk about why you write a return address and why it is important to know your own address. Put a stamp on your letter and explain why. Take the letter to a mailbox or the Post Office and ask: "How long do you think it will take for the letter to come back to us?" See if you are right. To have writing materials ready to use, make a writing box. Decorate a shoebox and put writing materials in it such as: pencils, crayons, note pad or scrap paper, scissors, glue stick, scraps of yarn or cloth, old greeting cards, stickers. You can keep this in a special place in the house for writing/drawing projects. Take the writing box with you when you travel (by car, bus, subway, plane).

Other Ideas:

- Lift the flap on an envelope to make the shape of a "house." Write your address on it and have your child decorate it. Put it on your refrigerator.
- Send a card or letter to a friend or relative. Have your child draw a picture of someone they love and mail it. This is a good opportunity to talk about feelings: loving someone, missing someone, being sad, being happy, or mad, etc.

Related Books:

- *Letter to Amy* by Ezra Jack Keats
- *Mailing May* by Michael O. Tunnell
- *Dear Mr. Blueberry* by Simon James
- *Loving* by Ann Morris
- *Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratney / Spanish Version: *Advina Cuanto Te Quiero*
- *Everybody Has Feelings / Todos Tenemos Sentimientos: Moods of Children as Photographed* by Charles E. Avery

For more ideas visit www.countdowntokindergarten.org