

## MARCH

### Kindergarten Skills Development: Skills to Practice this Month

Encourage work values such as effort, persistence and initiative. Your child will encounter new experiences every day at school. Upon entering kindergarten your child should be willing to try new things and to try to complete tasks.

### Getting Ready to Read: Skills to Practice this Month

Encourage your child to practice writing the letters in her own name. It's important for children to know their first and last name. Provide opportunities for children to talk about the letters and sounds in their name. Provide pencils, markers and paper and encourage your child to practice writing the letters in her name. Write your child's name often.

### Health and Wellness: Skills to Practice this Month

Help your child develop independence in eating. Upon entering kindergarten, your child should be able to sit at a table, eat unassisted and use silverware.

### Activities

- To encourage persistence and initiative, talk to your child about what it means to be committed to a task and determined. Talk to your child about a time when she was persistent and her hard work and effort paid off.
- Ask your child to tell you what the world would be like without cars, telephones or computers. Ask him if he thinks it was easy or difficult for someone to create these things.
- Sing "The Itsy, Bitsy Spider" together. He kept trying even when the rain had washed him out!
- Plan a project with your child that requires several steps to complete. Try planting a vegetable or flower garden or just plan and prepare a meal together. Be sure to finish each step of the project before moving on to the next step or starting something new.

### Books for Children

- *Pearl's New Skates* by Holly Keller
- *Apple Batter* by Deborah Turney Zagwyn
- *The Little Engine that Could* by Watty Piper
- *The Little Red Hen* by Paul Galdone
- *The Itsy Bitsy Spider* by Iza Trapani
- *Inch by Inch* by Leo Lionni
- *The Carrot Seed* by Ruth Krauss

### Books for Parents

- *The Values Book: Teaching 16 Basic Values to Young Children* by Pam Schiller and Tamera Bryant