

Early Learning and Literacy: Online Games and Activities for 4K and 5K

ABC Mouse

Ages 2-8

Free for 30 days

ABCmouse.com's reading curriculum spans the entire range of early reading, from learning the names of each letter and the sounds they represent to being able to read books, starting with a few words on a page and gradually advancing to paragraphs.

ABCmouse.com teaches numbers, addition and subtraction, shapes, patterns, measurements, and more! Our games and creative activities make math fun while giving young learners the practice they need to build a strong foundation for success.

<https://www.abcmouse.com/abt/homepage?msclkid=66c5c1bff92c1bc7dd739fd1814caabf>

SC State Library - www.statelibrary.sc.gov

Under Program and Services heading there is an online resources link that will take you to a directory of all various databases, including educational videos, games and activities. Examples: Brainpop and Brainpop Jr., TumbleBooks, Britannica Animal Kingdom, Magic School Bus, Knowitall.org for Teachers and Parents.

<http://www.statelibrary.sc.gov/daybyday> (Online and At Home activities)

Preschool Games

Jump start your child's love of learning with our professionally designed preschool games.

Perfectly tailored for your littlest learners' needs, these preschool games will begin introducing your child to the letters of the alphabet, counting, shapes, measurement tools, and number sense.

If your child is ready for more challenge, try our collection of kindergarten games!

With these captivating games, designed specifically for preschoolers, your child will discover the letters of the alphabet, the names of shapes, measuring tools, and number sense skills. Preschool introduces kids to many new subjects and skills, but games like these keep kids from feeling overwhelmed. Your child will love exploring new ideas with colorful animation, puzzles and riddles to solve, engaging speed challenges, and the cast of Brainzy characters that help make learning fun and accessible to even your littlest learners. Once your child is flying through these games with ease, take it to the next level by trying out our collection of kindergarten games!

Take advantage of our free resources with a basic membership to start, and upgrade to a premium account to access our full collection of educational games and activities.

<https://www.education.com/games/preschool/>

Jumpstart

Preschool games are one of the best ways to introduce your little one to the world of **online games**. With the perfect blend of entertainment and learning, the free preschool games available online are a great way to instill a love of exploration and discovery in kids.

For fun and engaging games for young learners, visit StoryLand in the **online virtual world** here at **JumpStart.com**. With more than 70 games, StoryLand will help players with their pre-reading, early math, thinking, social science and art and music skills.

<https://www.jumpstart.com/parents/games/preschool-games>

There are games, puzzles and activities to teach all levels of preschool math available on both the computer and smart phone: pbs.org/parents/education/math/games/ or turtlediary.com/kindergarten-games.html or mathgames.com

Kahn Academy has activities to help master all the kindergarten math skills: khanacademy.org/mission/early-math. Available on both computer and smart phone.

Try <https://Funbrain.com/pre-k-and-k-playground> for games and stories to read that include math fun and thinking.

Another site for kindergartners is <https://splashmath.com>. It is free but you must sign up.

For Spanish speaking children, www.fredisalearns.com/free-lessons/ helps young children with basic English in a fun, interactive video format. Don't forget <https://www.uniteforliteracy.com/> with its many language options.

At Home Activities

Reading books and nursery rhymes with your child is one of the best things you can do!

(Make it fun! Talk about the characters in books, during reading: stop and ask what do you think might happen next, and point out letters, dark, bold print, rhyming words, etc.)

Simply playing board games (i.e. Chutes and Ladders, Candy Land, etc.) and familiar card games (i.e. Go Fish, Uno, etc.) increases students' math, literacy and social skills.

If you're the parent of a 4-year old or 5-year old, it's no surprise your child has a short attention span and always seems to be in search of something to do. At this age, they're curious to discover new things and are constantly learning. But what are some of the activities for 4 and 5-year-olds that can entertain and engage them?

<https://www.care.com/c/stories/3791/15-activities-for-4-year-olds-to-educate-and/On>

Outdoor play

Sidewalk chalk

Using the sidewalk as a canvas inspires them to think big. Sidewalk chalk can also be used for hopscotch, tic-tac-toe, tracing out a roadway for toy cars or even making life-size game boards, which is the perfect combination of creativity and physical play.

Nature walk

A great way to make fresh air educational is a nature walk. Collecting leaves, interesting rocks or acorns can be a great way for kids to learn about their environment. Be sure to supervise that what they're touching is not something harmful like poison ivy.

Sandbox

Adding a few plastic dinosaurs to your child's sandbox for a dinosaur dig or even coins for a treasure hunt can make sand really exciting and ignite a hunger for exploration and discovery. Sand can also be one of the best activities for 4-year-olds who love building and construction.

Literacy at Home

Book exploration

Letting your 4-year-old explore books is an important activity as she develops the skills necessary to read. Looking at pictures, imagining their own stories and reading aloud are all invaluable.

Bookmaking

Allow your child to create a book about anything and everything. Staple 4-6 pages together and let them tell a story [through drawing pictures and/or adding scribbles, letter like forms, or letters.

Dry erase boards

Your child can practice new writing skills or draw a picture from his imagination. Without a lot of different materials to confuse or overwhelm him, this simple activity is perfect to entertain.

Create greeting cards

Provide paper and crayons or markers so children can make cards and then "sign" their names when finished. Show them old cards with phrases like "Happy Birthday" and "I Love You" to add to their cards.

Write while running errands

Offer a pad and pencil and suggest your child make a "reverse shopping list"—a list of things you've already bought. At the bank, give her a blank deposit slip while you fill out yours.

(adapted from <https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/support-writing-home>)

Independent Play

Stickers

Letting your child play with stickers is a great way for her to manipulate materials, develop fine motor skills and control the progress of the activity.

Creative play

Dough

Manipulating clay or modeling compound is an open-ended way for kids to create and express their imagination with the benefit of developing their fine motor skills.

Dramatic play

A few costumes or props are all that your 4-year-old needs to act out different roles such as pretending to be mommy or daddy, a chef, farmer, ice princess or whatever his growing imagination thinks of. This type of play helps him to learn about other people in the community and is a great way to introduce new vocabulary words. Example: Playing restaurant - Children write and draw menus, set prices, take orders, and make out checks. Play provides rich learning opportunities and leads to children's success and self-esteem.

Art

Paint, crayons, markers, pipe cleaners, tissue paper -- the supplies and possibilities are endless. Providing an opportunity for your children to express themselves, their ideas and their emotions helps them develop valuable communication skills that they will use for sharing with others their entire lives.

Water play

Laboratory

Use a few bottles of colored water to allow your children to mix and create new colors. You can also let them add dish soap or mud so they can experiment with materials and their results when added to water.

Washing

Let your child wash things with a bin of water, some soap and a rag or scrub brush, or even let her wash a few dishes. Although this cleaning activity could get messy, she will take great pride in the chore.

Ice dig

Plan ahead and freeze a few small plastic toys in water, and then let your kids dig and chip the toys out. Ice is an exciting substance to discover, and because it melts, the fun lasts for a long time.

The U.S. Department of Education also has information and activities for helping your child become a reader at <http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/reader/index.html>.

For Spanish speaking children, www.fredisalearns.com/free-lessons/ helps young children with basic English. Don't forget <https://www.uniteforliteracy.com/> with its many language options.

Themes/Skills (3-5 YEARS)

<http://resourcesforearlylearning.org/parents/>

The themes offer quick, fun, low-cost activities that you can do with your toddler or preschooler. For each theme, you'll find a brief introduction, three detailed activities, and a list of "more ideas." Plus you'll find tips to help you get the most out of the time you spend with your child.

Family, Friends, and More (3 - 5 years)

Colors All Around (3 - 5 years)

Stop and Listen (3 - 5 years)

Making Music (3 - 5 years)

Ramps and Rolling (3 - 5 years)

Building Houses and Homes (3 - 5 years)

Watch Them Grow (3 - 5 years)

The Plants We Eat (3 - 5 years)

Wonderful Water (3 - 5 years)

For preschoolers, start with a basic game that helps them learn numbers, colors, shapes, farm animals, zoo animals, etc. Go on a scavenger hunt around the house—create a color hunt, a number hunt, or a shape hunt, etc.

Kids can play games (look for things that start with certain sounds), and hunt for letters. Start with letters that your child knows. You can make letter cards and have children hunt for items

that begin with that letter and bring them to the table and place on the letter. For example, Mm (monkey, marble, money, m&ms, etc.)

See below for more at home activities:

<https://frugalfun4boys.com/learning-activities-four-year-olds/>
<https://www.pre-kpages.com/nursery-rhyme-number-game/>
<https://carrotsareorange.com/activities-for-4-year-olds/>
<https://www.rookiemoms.com/indoor-activities-for-kids/>
<https://happyhooligans.ca/fun-things-kids-do-at-home-this-summer/>

Mathematics:

Get ideas and instructions for hands on activities in math and literacy for all levels of preschoolers at teachingmama.org.

<https://www.naeyc.org/math-at-home> - Resources and activities for mathematics learning at home

Bath toys can also be props in math games. For example, line up several rubber ducks (or any toys) and reenact the “Five Little Ducks” song:

Five little ducks went out one day, over the hills and far away. Mother duck said, “Quack, quack, quack, quack”. But only four little ducks came back . . . (Keep the song going until you reach zero ducks)

This site, created by an early childhood educator has a number of interesting activities for your child, with pictures, and suggestions on the questions to ask to encourage imagination and exploration: <https://www.theempowerededucatoronline.com/learning-activities/>

Parent Map offers some fun play ideas to get your child moving, creating, crafting.
<https://www.parentmap.com/article/25-indoor-play-activities-from-a-preschool-teacher>