What can I do to prepare my child for school?

• Make reading with your child part of your daily routine.
• When reading with your child, stop periodically to discuss the content of the text and pictures. This promotes reading comprehension.
• After reading a story with your child, immediately engage them in retelling the story (with your support).
• Provide a wide variety of books.
• Make a special place for books in your child’s room.
• Obtain a library card for your child. For more information about the Frisco Public Library go to www.friscolibrary.com.
• Give your child books as presents.
• Encourage your child to draw pictures and tell a story about their drawings.
• Accept your child’s pretend reading.
• Point out print in the environment (signs, cereal boxes).
• Make signs and labels for objects.
• Provide materials (crayons, pencils, paper) and a space for writing.
• Provide opportunities for your child to scribble and draw. Scribbling is early writing.
• Have a place to display your child’s writing efforts.
• Provide magnetic letters for your child to practice forming words.
• Let your child see you write and read.
• Encourage your child to recognize their first name in print.
• Allow your child the opportunity to practice writing their name with the first letter capitalized and the remaining letters in lowercase.
• Sing familiar songs.
• Teach your child nursery rhymes.
• Focus on your child’s strengths and celebrate their accomplishments.
• Set up a routine or sequence for personal care and other daily routines.
• Talk with your child about what interests him or her.
• Use open-ended questions that have more than one answer such as “What do you think?” “How would you feel?”
• Encourage language development by listening carefully to your child and encouraging two-sided conversations.
• Play rhyming games.
• Get down on eye level and show your interest.
• Encourage other family members to listen.
• Provide age appropriate toys that require thinking. This includes puzzles, blocks, or sorting toys.
• Foster creativity.
• Provide experiences with scissors such as cutting pictures from a magazine.
• Provide opportunities to use crayons, markers, pencils, and glue.
• Save scraps, bits, boxes and other things from around the house to use for building and other creative experiences.
• Let your child set the table and count objects around the house such as plates and forks for the table, crackers for snacks, etc.
• Provide opportunities to compare objects.
• Play games with your child using directions such as: “Put the ball under the chair.”
• Play Simon Says.
• Take your child to the park to play on outdoor equipment.
• Allow your child time to dress himself/herself.
• Provide opportunities for your child to experiment with balls, tricycles, and jump ropes.
• Practice hopping, skipping and balancing.
• Set expectations for behavior and consequences.
• Help your child develop appropriate skills for learning by: following directions, attending to a speaker and getting an adult’s attention appropriately.
• Most importantly, enjoy your child.
What skills will help ease my child’s transition into kindergarten?

**Reading Readiness**
- Remembers pictures from a printed page
- Repeats a 6 to 8 word sentence
- Pretends to read (has been read to often)
- Identifies own first name in writing
- Attempts to print own first name
- Answers questions about a short story
- Looks at pictures and tells a story
- Understands words are read left to right
- Familiar with the letters of the alphabet
- Can recite some nursery rhymes
- Knows the meaning of simple words

**Motor Skills**
- Runs
- Jumps
- Alternates feet walking downstairs
- Marches
- Walks backwards/5 feet
- Throws a ball
- Claps hands
- Zips/snaps clothes
- Builds with blocks
- Draws or colors beyond a simple scribble
- Controls pencil and crayon well
- Handles scissors
- Cuts and draws simple shapes

**Time**
- Understands day and night
- Knows age and birthday

**Recognizes Colors and Shapes**
- Recognizes primary colors
- Recognizes shapes
  - Rectangle
  - Triangle
  - Circle
  - Square

**Number Concepts**
- Counts to 10
- Can count objects

**Listening and Sequencing**
- Follows simple directions
- Pays attention
- Recognizes common sounds
- Retells a simple story in sequence
- Repeats a sequence of sounds
- Repeats a sequence of numbers heard

**Size Position and Direction**
- Big and little
- Up and down
- Front and back
- Hot and cold
- More and less
- Left/right
- Long and short
- In and out
- Over and under
- Empty and full
- Fast and slow

**Social-Emotional**
- Expresses self verbally
- Looks forward to going to school
- Recognizes authority
- Helps with family chores
- Identifies other children by name
- Takes care of toilet needs independently
- Washes hands thoroughly after toileting and before eating
- Cares for own belongings
- Dresses self
- Can be away from parent for several hours
- Joins in family conversation
- Carries a plate of food
- Talks easily
- Puts toys away
- Maintains self-control
- Brushes teeth
- Gets along well with others
- Meets visitors without shyness

**My Child Knows...**
- Body parts
- Own first name
- Own last name
- Own gender
- Parents’ names
- Siblings’ names, if any
- Home address
- Home phone number
- When to use a handkerchief/tissue
- Helps with family chores

The above skills do not represent the Frisco Independent School District’s kindergarten curriculum. This listing simply provides a checklist for parents noting skills that will ease the child’s transition into kindergarten.