

Countdown2K Activity Cards

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How to Use These Cards

These 50 activity cards guide students through the countdown to kindergarten, building essential skills each day. Each card focuses on one of four key areas: Literacy, Math, Fine Motor, or Social-Emotional development.

Literacy

Math

Fine Motor

Social-Emotional

Day 50

Social-Emotional

My Kindergarten Dreams

Draw a picture of what you think kindergarten will be like. Talk about your hopes and any worries.

Materials: Paper, crayons

Day 49

Literacy

Name Writing Practice

Practice writing your first name. Trace it, then try writing it yourself. Decorate your name!

Materials: Paper, pencil, crayons

Day 48

Math

Counting to 10 Walk

Take a walk and find 10 things to count: rocks, flowers, cars. Touch each one as you count.

Materials: None needed

Day 47

Fine Motor

Scissor Snipping

Practice cutting straight lines, then try wavy lines. Make a fringe on paper strips.

Materials: Safety scissors, paper strips

Day 46

Social-Emotional

Following Directions

Play "Simon Says" with 2-3 step directions. Take turns being Simon!

Materials: None needed

Day 45

Literacy

Letter Hunt: A-E

Find objects that start with A, B, C, D, and E. Say the letter sound for each.

Materials: None needed

Day 44

Math

Shape Detective

Hunt for circles, squares, triangles, and rectangles around the room. Make a tally chart.

Materials: Paper, pencil

Day 43

Literacy

Rhyming Riddles

Say pairs of words and decide if they rhyme: cat/hat, dog/sun. Make up silly rhymes!

Materials: None needed

Day 42

Math

Counting Collections

Collect 10-15 small items. Practice counting them, then sort by size, color, or type.

Materials: Small objects (buttons, blocks, etc.)

Day 41

Fine Motor

Playdough Letters

Roll playdough into snakes and form the letters in your name.

Materials: Playdough

Day 40

Social-Emotional

Taking Turns Game

Play a simple board game or card game. Practice waiting and taking turns.

Materials: Any board/card game

Day 39

Literacy

Letter Hunt: F-J

Find objects that start with F, G, H, I, and J. Practice the letter sounds.

Materials: None needed

Day 38

Math

Pattern Party

Create patterns with objects: red-blue-red-blue or big-small-big-small.

Materials: Colored objects or blocks

Day 37

Fine Motor

Pencil Grip Practice

Practice holding a pencil correctly. Draw circles, lines, and zigzags.

Materials: Paper, pencil

Day 36

Social-Emotional

My Family Story

Draw your family. Tell a story about something fun you did together.

Materials: Paper, crayons

Day 35

Literacy

Beginning Sounds

Look at pictures and say what sound each word starts with: /b/ for ball, /c/ for cat.

Materials: Picture cards or books

Day 34

Math

Number Match 1-10

Match number cards to groups of objects. "This says 5, let me count 5 blocks."

Materials: Number cards, small objects

Day 33

Fine Motor

Cutting Curves

Practice cutting curved and wavy lines. Try cutting out a simple shape.

Materials: Safety scissors, paper

Day 32

Social-Emotional

Asking for Help

Practice saying "Can you help me, please?" Role-play asking a teacher for help.

Materials: None needed

Day 31

Literacy

Letter Hunt: K-O

Find objects that start with K, L, M, N, and O. Practice writing one letter.

Materials: Paper, pencil

Day 30

Math

More and Less

Compare two groups of objects. Which has more? Which has fewer? How do you know?

Materials: Small objects for counting

Day 29

Literacy

Story Retelling

Read a short story together. Retell what happened: beginning, middle, end.

Materials: Picture book

Day 28

Math

Counting Backwards

Practice counting backwards from 10 to 1. Try a "blast off" countdown!

Materials: None needed

Day 27

Fine Motor

Lacing Cards

Practice lacing through holes in a card or paper plate. Make patterns!

Materials: Lacing card or hole-punched plate, string

Day 26

Social-Emotional

Feelings Charades

Act out different feelings (happy, sad, angry, scared). Guess each other's feelings.

Materials: None needed

Day 25

Literacy

Letter Hunt: P-T

Find objects that start with P, Q, R, S, and T. Which letter was hardest?

Materials: None needed

Day 24

Math

Number Writing 1-5

Practice writing numbers 1-5. Say each number as you write it.

Materials: Paper, pencil

Day 23

Fine Motor

Bead Stringing

String beads to make a pattern bracelet or necklace.

Materials: Beads, string

Day 22

Social-Emotional

Making Friends

Practice introducing yourself: "Hi, my name is _____. What's your name?"

Materials: None needed

Day 21

Literacy

Syllable Clapping

Clap the syllables in words: wa-ter-mel-on (4 claps), cat (1 clap).

Materials: None needed

Day 20

Math

Number Writing 6-10

Practice writing numbers 6-10. Count objects and write how many.

Materials: Paper, pencil, small objects

Day 19

Fine Motor

Coloring Inside Lines

Color a picture, trying to stay inside the lines. Take your time!

Materials: Coloring page, crayons

Day 18

Social-Emotional

Problem Solving

Talk about what to do if: someone takes your toy, you feel lonely, you need help.

Materials: None needed

Day 17

Literacy

Letter Hunt: U-Z

Find objects for U, V, W, X, Y, Z. These are tricky! Use a book if needed.

Materials: Alphabet book (optional)

Day 16

Math

Adding One More

Put out 3 objects. Add one more. How many now? Try with different numbers.

Materials: Small objects

Day 15

Social-Emotional

Two Weeks to Go!

Make a countdown chain with 15 loops. Remove one each day until kindergarten!

Materials: Paper strips, tape or stapler

Day 14

Literacy

Sound Blending

Blend sounds together: /c/-/a/-/t/ = cat. Try: sun, dog, map, red.

Materials: None needed

Day 13

Math

Teen Numbers

Practice counting 11-20. Find groups of objects and count them.

Materials: Various small objects

Day 12

Fine Motor

Tying Practice

Practice the first step of tying: making an X with the laces.

Materials: Shoes with laces or tying board

Day 11

Social-Emotional

Calming Strategies

Learn 3 ways to calm down: deep breaths, count to 10, squeeze and relax.

Materials: None needed

Day 10

Literacy

Alphabet Sequence

Sing the alphabet song. Point to each letter. What letter comes after M?

Materials: Alphabet chart

Day 9

Math

Simple Addition

Use fingers or objects to solve: $2+1=?$, $3+2=?$, $1+4=?$

Materials: Small objects (optional)

Day 8

Social-Emotional

One Week Away!

Visit the school if possible. Talk about the bus, classroom, and playground.

Materials: None needed

Day 7

Literacy

Writing First & Last Name

Practice writing your full name. Sound out each letter as you write.

Materials: Paper, pencil

Day 6

Math

Counting by 10s

Count by 10s to 100: 10, 20, 30... Use hand claps for each number!

Materials: None needed

Day 5

Fine Motor

Zippering & Buttoning

Practice zipping jackets, buttoning shirts, and snapping snaps.

Materials: Clothes with fasteners

Day 4

Social-Emotional

Kindergarten Questions

Write down any questions about kindergarten. We'll find the answers together!

Materials: Paper, pencil

Day 3

Literacy

All the Letters

Go through the alphabet. Name each letter and its sound. You know so many!

Materials: Alphabet chart

Day 2

Math

Shapes Review

Draw and name: circle, square, triangle, rectangle, oval, diamond, heart, star.

Materials: Paper, pencil, crayons

Day 1

Social-Emotional

Ready for Kindergarten!

Celebrate! You've worked so hard. Draw yourself as a kindergartner. You're ready!

Materials: Paper, crayons

Weekly Themes

Week 1 (Days 50-44): Getting Ready

Week 2 (Days 43-37): Building Skills

Week 3 (Days 36-30): Growing Confidence

Week 4 (Days 29-23): Learning Together

Week 5 (Days 22-16): Getting Stronger

Week 6 (Days 15-9): Almost Ready

Week 7 (Days 8-1): Final Countdown

Tips for Teachers

- **Circle Time:** Introduce each day's activity during morning meeting
- **Centers:** Set up materials at a dedicated Countdown2K center
- **Take Home:** Send cards home for family practice
- **Differentiate:** Adjust difficulty based on individual student needs
- **Celebrate:** Mark progress on a classroom countdown display