



Preparing your child for Kindergarten actually begins shortly after birth! We often need to prepare ourselves as much as our child. After all, we've spent months, approximately forty-eight months, with our child and we know them better than anyone. We know their wants and needs and what makes them happy...and we all want a happy child!

But for Kindergarten, we want a well-rounded and capable child, right? That's huge, but what does that actually mean? It means equipping your child to be motivated to continue to grow emotionally, mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually.

Here are my observations and tips garnered through my experience as a parent and teacher.

EMOTIONALLY:

We know there are disappointments in life! Letting your child always win at board games because they feel sad when they lose isn't helpful. It's tough, but it can get easier if we work through a difficult situation and realize that we're okay. Sometimes, love is just a quiet, comforting hug!

MENTALLY:

Telling your child the answers or fixing the problem doesn't allow for problem-solving skills. However, asking relevant questions or sharing a similar problem may in turn help your child work through their own solution (perhaps even fail) and build confidence in drawing from different learning styles. Sometimes, love is just listening to your child's strategy!

PHYSICALLY:

Tying your child's shoes because it's simply faster isn't helpful. Allowing an extra ten minutes before leaving the house can help a child develop self-help skills. At the same time, friends and/or siblings who are faster are hopefully learning patience and self-control. Sometimes, love is waiting patiently.

SOCIALLY:

Some children find it more difficult to share, wait their turn, listen to others, take direction, or accept consequences. Keep listening to their needs and talk with your children once they are calm. Try role-playing play situations. Sometimes, love is just being available!

SPIRITUALLY:

Share God's faithfulness. Proverbs 22:6, (NIRV) "Train a child in the way he should go. When he is old, he will not turn away from it." Sometimes, love is just teaching by example!

As we prepare for Kindergarten and strive to become more aware of individuals around us, more accepting of others, more willing to accept direction from others, to stumble, fall and get back up, we may find ourselves with a happier disposition. All the while, our children are watching. Are you ready for your child's first day of Kindergarten?