

LEARNING TO GROW

CENTER ON THE FAMILY ♥ UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Effective/Ethical Users of Technology

Raising A School-Ready Child

As parents, guardians, and/or child care providers, you have a powerful influence on children's learning. Children's love of learning begins at home. Your active involvement in providing positive early learning experiences gives them a solid base to build on when they enter school. It also makes an important contribution toward creating strong, positive home and school partnerships that help children succeed in school.

Each month, *Raising a School-Ready Child* will provide you with ideas on how to engage young children, especially 3- and 4-year olds, in everyday activities that help them develop the characteristics, positive behaviors, and skills that lead to success at home, school, work, and in life. These activities will be linked to one of the six General Learner Outcomes (GLOs) identified and used by Hawaii's Department of Education to evaluate students' performance in all grade levels and all academic disciplines.

This month's readiness activities focus on
GLO #6:

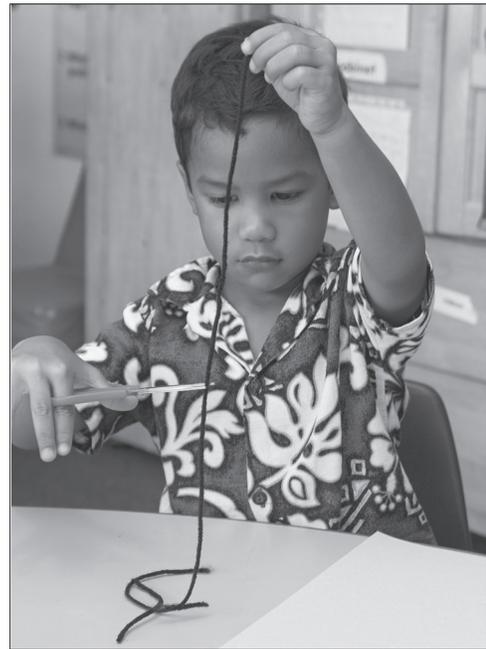
***Effective/Ethical Users of Technology* have the ability to use a variety of technologies effectively and ethically.**

When you use electronic technology as a supplement rather than as a replacement for interaction and set limits on TV watching and use of computer/video games, you help children learn to use such media responsibly.

These are important readiness skills that will help children be **effective/ethical users of technology in school.**

In kindergarten, children will be expected to:

- ♥ use school materials/tools properly, e.g. books, computers, TV, DVD, crayons, pencils, scissors, glue,
- ♥ use various technologies to find information and create new products,
- ♥ explain how technology is used every day, and
- ♥ use technology in a responsible manner.



See the back of this sheet for suggestions of activities you can do with young children. As you involve them in these types of activities, you give children the practice and encouragement they need to become **effective/ethical users of technology.** In addition, you help them develop their physical, social-emotional, language, and cognitive skills.



Tracing Shapes *

WHAT YOU NEED:

- ♥ Small objects of different sizes that will lay flat on a surface such as blocks, cookie cutters, or plastic container lids
- ♥ Paper
- ♥ Jumbo crayon or pencil
- ♥ Blunt, child-sized scissors
- ♥ Glue stick or white glue

WHAT TO DO:

1. Show the preschooler how to place an object on a piece of paper and trace it by holding it down and moving the pencil/ crayon around its edge. Explain that an outline of the object is left on the paper.
2. Let him trace the outlines of a few objects on a piece of paper.
3. Ask questions such as: "Which shapes have straight lines?" "Which ones have curved lines?"
4. Have him color then cut out the shapes and match the cutouts to the objects that he used to make the tracings.
5. Encourage the child to combine several cutouts to create something new, e.g., several small circles to make a flower. Ask him to describe his new creation.
6. Show him how to use the glue to secure the shapes on the sheet of paper.
7. Have him put away the supplies he used.

*Adapted from *Learning to Grow Early Learning Activities for Young Preschoolers*, produced by the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Center on the Family.

Other Activities:

1. **Measuring Tools:** Let the child use different measuring tools such as a ruler for small objects, a tape measure for big items or distance, measuring spoons and cups for dry and liquid ingredients for a recipe, big and small containers to pour into each other.
2. **Responsible Use:** Show the child how to properly use and care for materials, equipment, and tools, including safe storage after each use.
3. **Using Tools:** Play a game of naming a tool and all the different uses/functions of that tool (even made-up uses). For example, a pencil can be used for writing, to measure the length of an object, to make a hole in a sheet of paper, dig a hole in the ground, to mark a place in a book like a bookmark, as a hair clip, as a boundary line, 4 pencils can make a square, etc.
4. **My Home:** Show the child how to safely and correctly use different types of technology in your home, e.g., phone, microwave oven, computer.
5. **Tools and Work:** Match the tools, equipment, or materials needed for different projects, jobs, or occupations. For example, a carpenter uses a (hammer) to pound nails, a gardener uses a (shovel) to dig the soil, or a doctor uses a (stethoscope) to listen to your heartbeat.

These types of activities also help children:

- ♥ Use and strengthen small muscles (Physical Development)
- ♥ Learn to cooperate with others (Social and Emotional Development)
- ♥ Develop skills needed for writing (Language and Literacy Development)
- ♥ Develop their thinking and problem-solving skills (Cognitive Development)*

IMPORTANT REMINDER

The knowledge and skills children learn at an earlier age provide the foundation for more complex learning as they get older.

To encourage children's love of learning:

- ♥ focus on having fun rather than improving specific skills
- ♥ follow their interests; select activities they enjoy
- ♥ adapt activities to match their capabilities, making them more challenging as children mature.