

LEARNING TO GROW

CENTER ON THE FAMILY ♥ UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Quality Producer

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 Hawai'i's Department of Education to evaluate students' performance in all grade levels and all academic disciplines.

This month's readiness activities focus on GLO #4:

Quality Producers recognize and produce quality performances and quality products.

When you create a supportive home environment and provide consistent encouragement for children – by encouraging them to “stick with it” when they face challenges, and by giving them positive feedback about their work along with appropriate consequences if they do not do their work – you help them to:

- ♥ develop perseverance,
- ♥ understand that learning requires practice and persistence, and
- ♥ accept responsibility for their actions.

These are important readiness skills that will help children be **quality producers** in school. In kindergarten, children will be expected to:

- ♥ **strive to complete work neatly and correctly, and**
- ♥ **set and strive toward learning goals.**



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 **quality producers**. In addition, you help them develop their physical, social-emotional, language, and cognitive skills.



Matching Game *

WHAT YOU NEED:

- ♥ 10 cardboard squares of the same size or ten 3x5 inch index cards
- ♥ Jumbo crayons or washable markers

WHAT TO DO:

1. Divide the 10 cardboard squares or index cards into five pairs.
2. Have the child draw a picture of the same item on a pair of cards – for example, a heart on two cards, a circle on two others. Continue with all five pairs.
3. Mix up the cards and put them picture-side down on the floor.
4. Explain the rules of the matching game: Each player turns over two cards per turn. The goal is to find two cards that match. If they do, the player keeps the pair and turns over another two cards. If the cards do not match, the player turns the cards over and lets the next person try. The person with the most matched pairs wins.
5. While playing the game, talk about how the pictures are the same or different. Name the picture on each card, e.g. “This is a star. I’m looking for another star.”
6. Remind the child of the rules as needed, and praise him/her for following them.
7. Create different sets of cards, such as one set on colors, another on shapes, alphabets, numbers, or other items. Name the items as the cards are turned over.

*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. **More Matching:** Find common household items such as slippers, shoes, or socks to match and count. While outdoors, collect natural materials such as rocks, sticks, twigs, dried leaves, etc. to sort. Ask children to sort the items in different ways.
2. **Artwork:** Provide paper, crayons, blunt child-size scissors, and glue. Invite children to create their own artwork and tell you about it. The process is more important than the end product.
3. **Board Game:** Make your own board game. Draw connecting squares and label the first one “Start” and the last one “Finish.” Using buttons or coins as game pieces, take turns rolling the dice and moving your game pieces. Celebrate when each person reaches the “Finish.”
4. **Place Mat:** Make a place mat by decorating a sheet of construction paper. Cover each side with clear contact paper and use it as a place mat. Together, create one for each family member.
5. **Puppet Show:** Have children put on a puppet show for family members.

These types of activities also help children:

- ♥ Use and strengthen small muscles such as facial muscles, fingers, hands, and toes (Physical Development)
- ♥ Feel important and good about themselves (Social and Emotional Development)
- ♥ Increase their observation, listening and understanding skills, and attention span (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.