



CURRICULUM NOTEBOOK

ADDENDUM FOR SUMMER 2019





April 10, 2019

Dear Countdown to Kindergarten Teacher,

Thank you for your participation in the Countdown to Kindergarten program. We're delighted that you will be a part of this exciting movement across South Carolina for rising kindergartners and their families.

We know that the transition to kindergarten is an important milestone for both children and their parents. From previous years, we've learned that Countdown to Kindergarten has encouraged parents to gain a better understanding of kindergarten expectations, keep in touch with teachers throughout the school year, support teachers' teaching and behavior management practices, and work more effectively with their children in at-home activities that improve academic skills. It also has helped both children and parents feel confident and excited about kindergarten.

While the Countdown to Kindergarten curriculum entails a weekly activity based on academic content, the program's primary objectives have less to do with student mastery of specific academic content and more to do with the learning of parents. **Parents should be actively involved in each weekly visit, with teachers modeling approaches and strategies that parents can imitate to support their child's classroom success.** Additionally, although this notebook outlines a specific weekly curriculum, we acknowledge that each family is unique and that you as the teacher are the expert in how this curriculum should be delivered. Please feel free and encouraged to deliver this material in the way that is best for each family.

Again, please accept our most sincere thanks for your willingness to serve as a 2019 Countdown to Kindergarten teacher. We invite you to contact South Carolina First Steps or your local First Steps County Partnership if we can offer you additional support.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Georgia Mjartan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Georgia Mjartan
Executive Director
South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness



The following pages highlight changes to the 2018 Countdown to Kindergarten Curriculum, which have been updated as part of the 2019 edition.

Please note that:

1. Magnetic letters have been replaced by letter tiles so that the toolkit can contain both upper- and lower-case letters. This especially affects activities in Visit #1 and #2.
2. Visit #3 (Math) book is now *Ten Black Dots* by Donald Crews.
3. Visit #4 (Science) book is now *My Five Senses* by Alik.
4. Visit #5 (Social Studies) books are now *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten* by Joseph Slate and *Manners at School* by Carrie Finn.
5. An activity for Visit #5 (Social Studies) is now included.

You may vary the activities in the Summer 2018 Curriculum to reflect the new books for Summer 2019.



VISIT THREE: MATH

Purpose of the visit

Introducing mathematical concepts such as one-to-one correspondence, patterning, sorting, measuring, and spatial relationships.

Materials

- *Ten Black Dots* by Donald Crews
- Unifix Cubes
- Number floor puzzle
- Parent handout: *Have Fun with Everyday MATH!*

Parent Talk

Introduce the book, *Ten Black Dots*, and encourage the parents to make **anytime a good time to talk about math!** For example, they can use household containers (small pots, plastic bowls, measuring cups, deli containers) in the tub to help the child explore “empty” and “full” and compare volumes.



VISIT FOUR: SCIENCE

Purpose of the visit

The purpose of this visit is to introduce the scientific concepts of observation and inquiry in the SC Kindergarten Learning Standards for Science.

Materials

- *My Five Senses* by Alik
- Magnifying glass
- Parent handout: *The Importance of Sleep*

Interactive Read Aloud: *My Five Senses*

Today's activities are designed around the science process skill of observation – one important emphasis within South Carolina's 5K science standards. Accordingly, introduce the visit as focused on "looking closely." Suggested language is included below. As always, use your own words.

"One of the things we'll do in kindergarten is learn to think like scientists. Do you know what a scientist is? (Solicit child's responses.) That's right...a scientist is someone who is curious – a person who has lots of questions and works to find the answers. There are lots of different kinds of scientists. There are scientists who learn about animals. There are scientists who learn about rocks, and space, and bugs."

"One of the things that scientists all do is get to know the things they want to learn more about. They call that 'observation.' When you observe something you use your senses to learn as much as you can. You look with your eyes and listen with your ears. You touch with your fingers and smell with your nose – and if it's safe to do so maybe you even taste this thing!"

"Today we're going to talk about our senses. *My Five Senses* by Alik describes what we can do with our senses."

Read *My Five Senses* interactively with the child and parent. Be sure to incorporate the child's own "reading" of this predictable text .



VISIT FIVE: SOCIAL STUDIES AND WRITING

Purpose of the visit

The purposes of this visit are to provide an introduction to the SC Kindergarten Learning Standards for Social Studies (with a specific focus on community rules) and to reinforce the importance of daily writing.

Materials

- *Miss Kindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten* by Joseph Slate
- *Manners at School* by Carrie Finn
- Journals
- Parent handout: *6 Ways Parents Can Encourage Writing*

Warm-Up Activity

As always, begin the visit with a favorite classroom song, poem, or finger play. Because today's visit will focus upon the importance of rules as both a SC Social Studies curriculum standard and kindergarten transition concept, you may wish to choose a song focused upon friendship (or rules) such as "The More We Get Together":

The more we get together, together, together...
The more we get together the happier we'll be.
For your friends are my friends and my friends are your friends,
The more we get together the happier we'll be!

Rules: One key focus of the SC Social Studies Standards for Kindergarten is an introduction to the concepts of rules, laws and the consequences for breaking them. This is also an ideal topic of conversation as we prepare for the child's transition into kindergarten. Today's visit is designed to combine this key social studies content with a parental introduction to emergent writing.

Introduce the topic and the journal using your own words. Lesson will begin with a conversation about rules. Explain that rules are what we follow to keep us safe. Help the child think of some rules that he/she must follow at home (e.g., no balls in the house, no pushing his siblings). Record answers or have children attempt to record answers (via pictures).

Give the child a sheet of paper (divided in half width-wise) where they chose a rule; illustrate themselves following the rule (top) and what would happen if no one followed that rule (bottom). Talk more about the consequences of not following the rule.

Have the child think about whether or not they think this would be a good rule for their kindergarten classroom. Ask "why or why not?"

Explain that one of the things that the class spends time talking about in our class at the beginning of the year is our classroom rules. Spend a few minutes talking about what might be good rules for the classroom, helping the child record his/her thoughts.

Besides rules, the other key idea of this session is: Writing is a form of communicating meaning with print.