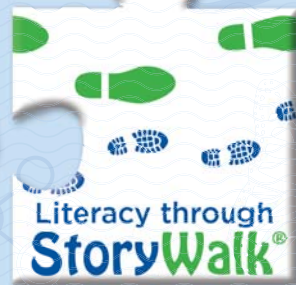


PASSPORT

to KINDERGARTEN



**BOSTON
CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM**



Department of
Early Education
and Care

Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge Grant

About Passport to Kindergarten

You and your child are invited on the adventure of a lifetime! Don't forget to pack this Passport so you can keep track of the activities and new skills your child develops that will prepare him for kindergarten. It's never too early to join the fun! Babies, toddlers, and preschoolers are welcome.

You can use this Passport in museums, libraries, and other locations in your community. Some organizations are planning a year's worth of activities using *Passport to Kindergarten* as a themed program. Others may offer a drop-in program or a program that you can sign up for and attend weekly or monthly.


If you found this Passport on your own, you may want to create your own adventure! You might visit a park, a zoo, or even the grocery store to explore and practice your child's kindergarten readiness skills.

How to Use This Passport

This Passport focuses on four important areas of development for children: STEM, Brain Building in Progress, kindergarten readiness, and literacy. Use this Passport as you share with your child early learning experiences like reading together, cooking, and playing outside. Your local museum or library can provide stickers or stamps for each activity you participate in.

Passport to Kindergarten is a product of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts's Race to the Top—Early Learning Challenge grant initiative, which is managed by the Department of Early Education and Care in partnership with Boston Children's Museum.



An illustration of various pieces of laboratory glassware, including beakers and test tubes, some containing colored liquids (blue, red, green, yellow).

Science, technology, engineering, and math

(STEM) activities include exploring water and sand; rolling balls across the floor; identifying simple machines like gears, wheels, and pulleys; working with blocks; and counting, sorting, and recognizing patterns. Don't stop there: STEM activities can even be done at home in the kitchen! Cooking, doing dishes, and playing with pots and pans can be very scientific.

Giving your child opportunities to observe, experiment, and predict what is going to happen helps her answer her own questions and solve her own problems—and this is more empowering for children than being told the answer!

*Keep track of the STEM experiences
your child has in January, February
and March!*



January



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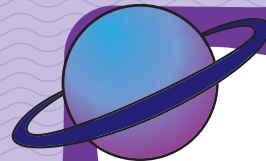
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February

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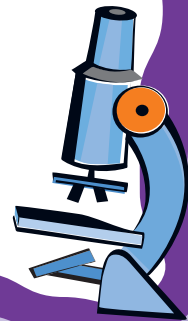
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March

$\div 2$

$\div 5$





Massachusetts celebrates
Brain Building in Progress
Week in April. Join in!

An explosion of research in neuroscience and other developmental sciences shows us that the basic architecture of a child's brain is constructed through an ongoing process that begins before birth and continues through adulthood. Like the construction of a home, the building process begins with laying the foundation, framing the rooms, and wiring the electrical system in a predictable sequence. **Early experiences literally shape how the brain gets built.**

Between the ages of 0 and 5, young children learn life skills like how to walk, talk, and feed themselves. Their social-emotional skills are growing, too, as they learn how to get along with others and how to recognize their own feelings. Children need adults to encourage this skill building and be excited about reaching milestones.

Keep track of the brain building experiences
your child has in April, May, and June.

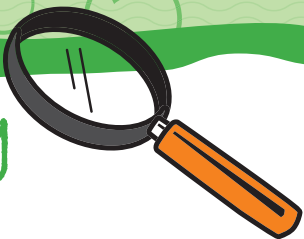


April

April celebrates Brain Building in Progress Week!
Find a brain building zone in your community!
www.brainbuildinginprogress.org/resource-locator



May



June





Judging a child's **readiness for kindergarten** is not an exact science. Children develop at different rates.

Some children may learn to read at age four but have trouble controlling a pencil before age seven. Some children may have no interest in reading until age seven but are very advanced socially at a younger age. All of this is perfectly normal.

Playing school is one way to prepare for the new experiences your child might have. Together you can practice skills like sitting in a circle, taking turns, raising hands, and following two- and three-step directions.

If your child is entering kindergarten soon, make sure to register with your local school department and find out about opportunities to visit the school, meet the teachers, or attend a celebration for incoming children.

Keep track of the kindergarten readiness experiences your child has in July, August and September!



July



August



September





Early language and literacy

(reading and writing) development begins in the first three years of life and is closely linked to a child's earliest experiences with books and stories.

The interactions that young children have with books, paper, and crayons and with the adults in their lives are the building blocks for language, reading, and writing development.

You and your child might experience a StoryWalk® or attend a story hour or circle time to hear a museum or library educator read a story aloud. You can also explore and improve your child's literacy skills by singing silly rhymes, making up stories, or listening together to audiobooks while you travel.

Keep track of the literacy experiences your child has in October, November and December!



October

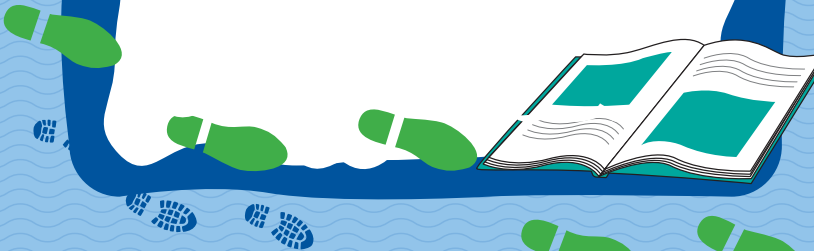
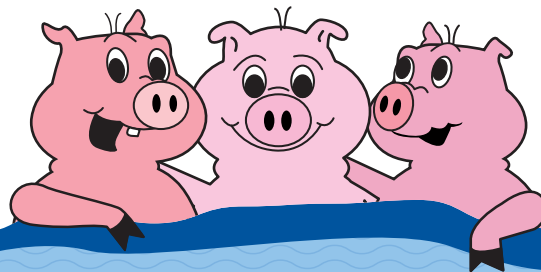


November

November is National Family
Literacy Month!



December



The Gallery

Paste a photo, draw a picture, or write about the adventures you and your child had this year!





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