

Today's Topics: Classroom Skills

Overview and Things to Know:

Classroom Skills are routines and actions that a child encounters at school. Children entering kindergarten should be potty trained and bathroom independent. They should know how to undo their own clothing and dress again. Children should be able to follow basic directions, stay focused and sit and listen to a story. They can follow 2 step directions and practice sitting still for short amounts of time. They'll need to know how to keep their hands to themselves, how to pack their backpack and how to blow their nose. They also need to know how to open containers for example, milk or string cheese during lunch and be able to identify their personal items, backpack, lunch bag.

Activities We Did:

- Practice getting in line
- Waiting our turn to speak
- Decorated our school box

Things to Try at Home:

Set up a night that the kids will be doing lunch "cafeteria style" where they get their lunch boxes and open them up/clean up themselves. The novelty of it will encourage participation and they will get great practice for school. Fight the urge to open packaging for them. When encountering an emergency drill of some kind at school tell them its important follow the teacher silently. Fire Drills and Active Shooter Drill are something your child will encounter at school. We've provided some links for good information on how you can approach that subject.

Songs to Listen to:

- Scissors, paper, and glue by Big Bird and Olivia
- Classroom Song by The Kiboomers
- I Can Follow the Rules Song by Heidi Butkus

If You Want to Dive Deeper:

<https://childmind.org/article/anxiety-schoolshooting/>
<https://www.texaschildrens.org/content/wellness/how-talk-children-about-school-shootings>

Books to Check Out

For the Pre-Kindergartners

