



**Bristol Township School District**

**TIGER STRONG**

**EMPOWERED ENGAGED INSPIRED**

**Welcome to Bristol Township School District**



Transitioning to kindergarten is an exciting time in a young child's early learning years. Transitions in early childhood education are filled with many questions and new learning opportunities for you and your child. As educators and parents, we know that a smooth transition to kindergarten is an essential part of a child's academic experience.

Please explore the resources provided in this packet to learn more about Kindergarten in Bristol Township School District and how to best support your child.

WILLKOMMEN स्वागत  
欢迎 BIENVENIDA  
**WELCOME**  
BIENVENUE ようこそ  
добро пожаловать  
ترحيب BEM-VINDO



# Transition into Kindergarten

Bristol Township School District has created eleven “I am learning” skills that we see as important opportunities for a successful transition into kindergarten.

- **I am learning through play.** Play is how a child makes sense of the world and it helps them understand abstract concepts, improve thinking abilities, and practice making sense of new information.
- **I am learning to follow rules and routines in different places.** Rules help keep children safe and help them understand expectations in school.
- **I am learning about numbers.** Counting helps children create a foundation for future math skills.
- **I am learning to hold pencils, markers, and crayons with three fingers.** Learning the correct grip will make drawing and writing easier for children.
- **I am learning to dress myself, keep myself healthy and use the bathroom independently.** Learning self-help skills creates independence for young children.
- **I am learning to answer questions and ask for help using a complete sentence.** The more students hear words and practice, the more their vocabulary expands.
- **I am learning to use writing to express myself. Don't worry if I only make partial letters to draw.** Writing everyday helps children express ideas, share information, relate to others, and learn.
- **I am learning the names and sounds of letters, especially those in my name!** When adults sing together with children, read together and practice letters, it helps children get ready to read.
- **I am learning to follow 3 – 4 step directions (such as get your coat, get your backpack, meet me at the door).** This is an important skill to help children become more independent.
- **I am making connections between new information and what I already know.** Memories and experiences help children solve more challenging tasks.
- **I am learning to focus and engage with activities that are appropriate for me.** Being able to attend to tasks and ignore distractions are skills that will be helpful throughout my life and K-12 school experience.



## To help prepare your child for Kindergarten, please practice these skills over the summer months:

- Saying his or her first and last name
- Taking care of bathroom needs independently
- Washing hands
- Wiping face and hands after eating
- Zipping and buttoning pants and jackets
- Opening water bottles
- Using scissors and glue
- Tying shoes
- Taking turns
- Asking for help when needed
- Knowing their teacher's name
- Knowing how they will get home from school (car, van, bus, walker)

## Academic skills:

- Write his/her name using uppercase and lowercase letters
- Identify upper and lowercase letters
- Identify the letter name and sound
- Recognize and state basic colors and numbers
- Practice counting using one-to-one correspondence
- Count objects to 10
- Sing the alphabet song





# How to Hold a Pencil

RIGHT HANDED

Thumb and index finger pinch the pencil.

Middle finger supports the pencil.

Ring and pinky fingers are tucked into the palm of the hand.



[www.YourTherapySource.com](http://www.YourTherapySource.com)

---

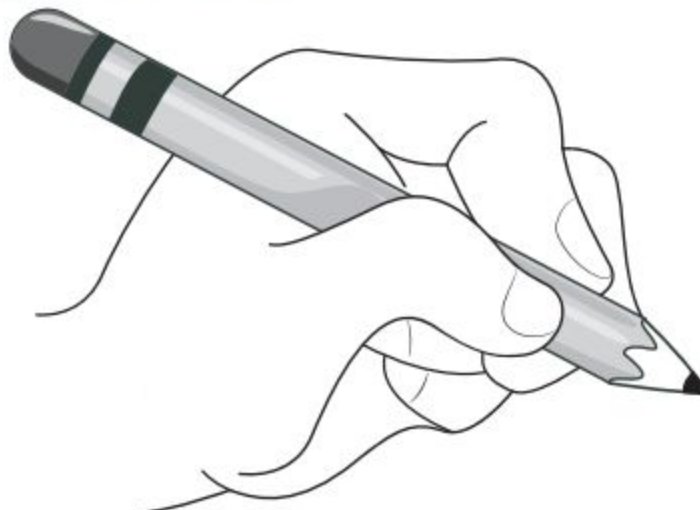
# How to Hold a Pencil

LEFT HANDED

Thumb and index finger pinch the pencil.

Middle finger supports the pencil.

Ring and pinky fingers are tucked into the palm of the hand.



[www.YourTherapySource.com](http://www.YourTherapySource.com)





# Why Are Scissor Skills So Important?

## **Build Fine Motor Strength**

Cutting helps children develop the small muscles in their hands through the open and close motion. These muscles are crucial for tasks such as writing, painting, and everyday activities like brushing teeth, using utensils, and getting dressed.

## **Develop Eye-Hand Coordination**

Cutting involves children using their eyes and hands together to complete the task. This coordination is crucial for activities like catching or throwing balls, eating with utensils, and zipping up a jacket.

## **Increase Bilateral Coordination**

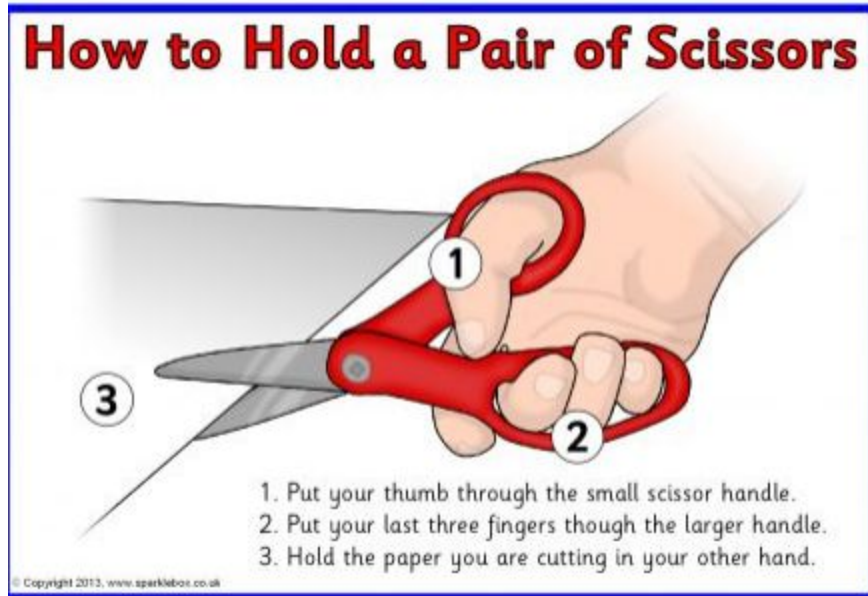
Encouraging your child to engage in cutting activities promotes the coordination of both sides of their body simultaneously, as each hand carries out its unique task. When cutting a shape, a child learns to grip the paper with one hand while the other hand operates the scissors by opening and closing them to make precise cuts. This skill is crucial for various activities such as zipping up clothing, washing dishes, and opening envelopes.

## **Improve Focus and Attention**

Cutting out shapes requires concentration and attention to detail. These skills are vital for success, not just in academic settings but also in daily life. The capacity to maintain focus is crucial for tasks like reading books, following instructions, and completing various classroom activities.



# Scissor Skills for Preschool/Kindergarten



## Holding scissors properly:

- The proper way to hold scissors is with the thumb up in the small loop and the fingers in the large loop. Thumb stays pointing up to keep the forearm in a neutral position.

## Fun ways to help children hold scissors:

- **Thumbs up!:** Tell the child to make sure their thumbs are up when holding scissors.
- **Smiley Face:** Draw a smiley face (or put a sticker on) the child's thumb to remind them that their thumb goes on top.
- **Googly Eyes:** Glue googly eyes on the sides of the handle that holds the thumb or on top of the handle.
- **Animal Scissors:** Make scissors into animals by drawing eyes on the handle where they put their thumb and teeth on the blades.

