Welcome to Kindergarten
Summer Ideas for Growth!

Developing the joy of reading

- Point out the front of a book.
- Hold books up the right way up.
- Turn pages one at a time.
- See if your child asks for a favorite book to be read over and over again.
- Encourage your child to pretend to read to stuffed animals or toys.
- Visit the West Vancouver Memorial Library.

Playing with sounds and letters

- Point out letters on street signs, license plates.
- Draw letters in the sand at the beach, or with finger paint.
- Familiarize your child with his/her own name and some high interest words in print.
- Sing simple songs and familiar rhymes.
- Talk about the difference between text and pictures.
- Talk about print as used for various functions (e.g. menus, shopping lists, signs).

Listening + Following Directions

- Have your child listen to stories for 5 minutes with you.
- Play games that involve listening to instructions and following instructions.
- Turn taking! The more your child comes to learn the social rules of play, the more these rules can be expanded to include language. Encourage turn taking during play activities by engaging your child in activities that you can each play.
- Use "first" and "then" to let your child know your expectations. For example, say "First puzzle, then snack". As you show your child the puzzle and a snack. This will help him/her to understand that you expect him/her to sit and complete a puzzle before you will enjoy a healthy snack together.
- Make transition times more manageable for your child by clearly indicating the beginning and end of events and activities. Label the end by saying "Puzzles are done" or "Apples are finished".

Speaking Skills

- Have your child fill in the blanks when reading a familiar book.
- Encourage your child to tell you simple stories, and personal past experiences (e.g. visit to grandma).
- Expand on what your child says, adding new information about the location of a toy, action of that toy or additional characters.
- Reduce the number of questions and increase the number of comments (e.g., You can say, "Look, an airplane" instead of "what is that?).