

Counting up to kindergarten

Learning begins at birth and continues for a lifetime. Gwinnett County Public Schools looks forward to welcoming your child to kindergarten, but we know that you are your child's first and most important teacher!

While every child reaches milestones at different times, this flyer provides you with a snapshot of what you can expect your child to know and be able to do by age 5. We hope this guidance will help you and your child prepare for the exciting transition to kindergarten and put your child on the path to school success!

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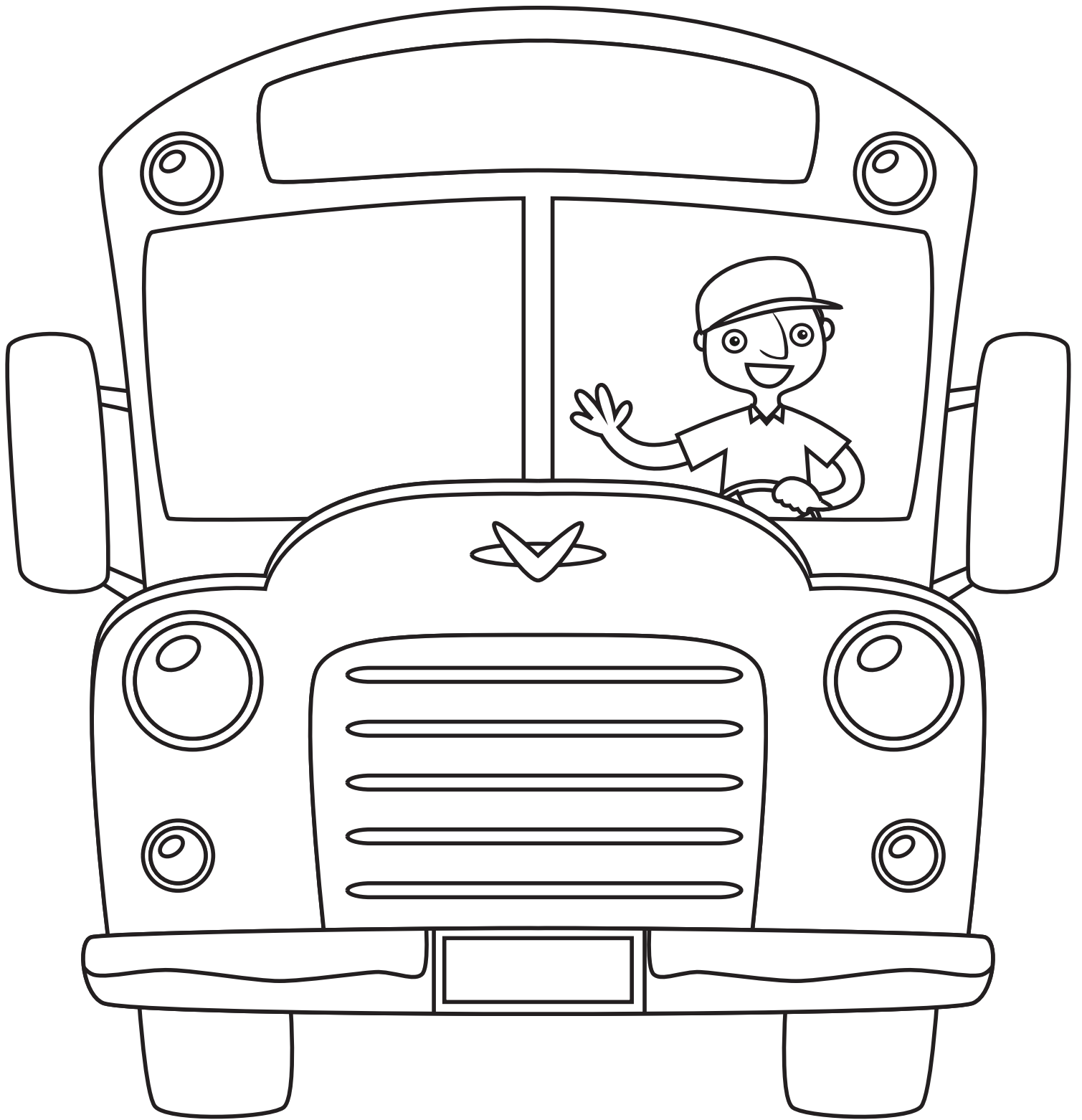
By age **5** a child typically will:

- Begin to form friendships with other children.
- Work well with others in a group.
- Follow rules and routines independently.
- Show problem-solving skills such as putting together a puzzle with up to 20 pieces.
- Take turns and wait for his or her turn.
- Focus on an activity for 10 minutes or longer.
- Follow multi-step directions independently.
- Recover quickly from a setback and try again.
- Use words to communicate thoughts and ideas and share feelings.
- Say first and last name when asked.
- Answer related questions after finishing a story.
- Make real-world connections to stories read.
- Identify words that rhyme.
- Recognize and name many upper- and lowercase letters and numbers 0–10.
- Understand that letters make words.
- Understand the meaning of *more* and *less*.
- Count to 20 in order and count a set of objects up to 10.
- Recognize and name common shapes, both 2-D (circle, triangle) and 3-D (sphere, cube).
- Hold a pencil or crayon appropriately to draw simple pictures and copy letters, numbers, and shapes.
- Dress and undress independently.

Getting ready for kindergarten

You have a very important role in your child's education. In fact, your child has been learning since birth and you've been teaching from the very start! Here are some suggestions for preparing your child for elementary school next fall: Look for opportunities to teach your child numbers and letters. Play rhyming games, sing songs, share nursery rhymes, and enjoy rhyming and repeating books. Encourage activities that involve sharing, turn-taking, listening, following directions, and taking part in conversations. And, most important, set aside a regular time to read with your child every day.





**Get on board the
School Bus!**