



Tech4Learning®



Pixie®

HOME EDITION 2013

Guide for Parents:
Kindergarten



What is Pixie?

Pixie is software your young child can use to write, paint pictures, and tell stories. Pixie makes learning fun and your child can use Pixie at home to continue exploring topics they are learning in school.

Your child can add text to a Pixie page to practice their writing, draw ideas from their imagination using the paint tools, record narration for stories, and more. Your child can share their work in Pixie as a printed page, comic book, or even a video.



Using Pixie with Your Kindergartener

In Kindergarten your child is building the foundations for a life of learning. They need some direction and assistance, but learning is mainly accomplished through exploration and play. You and your child can explore and play in Pixie to build on these early learning foundations in a way that is fun and exciting.

Pixie is also the perfect canvas for free play on the computer. Play is a powerful way for children to learn about the world. But rather than consuming computer games, Pixie encourages children to create – create artwork, stories, diagrams, designs, and more.

As you explore some of the ideas in this guide, listen to your child. Allow them to drive the activities and take them wherever their interests lead. Passion for learning is perhaps the most important thing you can teach your child at this age.



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Reading and Writing

Reading

Students match sounds to letters to learn to hear and say the separate sounds in words.

Starts with B or C



Your child is beginning to explore how letters look and sound. In this activity, work with your child to click and drag the images to put them in the box to show the correct initial sound.

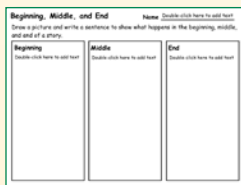
[Click the Project button](#)> [click New on the left](#)> [in the Activities area](#)> [open Language Arts folder](#)> [open Starts with B or C activity](#)

Your child can also use Pixie to make a word journal of everyday words (e.g. it, go, see, up...). They can use the stamp tool to create the words and then record their voice saying the word. Playing the recording back to them while viewing the word will help them master the sounds.

Reading

Students read and talk about books every day.

Beginning, Middle, and End



Have your child describe the beginning, middle, and end of a story you are reading at home. Choose a story and work with your child to write and draw what happens at the beginning, middle, and end of a story.

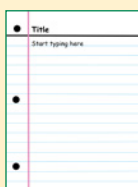
[Click the Project button](#)> [click New on the left](#)> [in the Activities area](#)> [open Language Arts folder](#)> [open Begin and End activity](#)

Your child can also use Pixie to summarize a recent event like a family vacation or a holiday telling what happened at the beginning, middle, and end.

Writing

Students write every day on topics that interest them.

Writing Page



The computer engages kids in practicing things they might not normally enjoy, such as writing. Use the Text tool or letter stamps with your child to write sentences and stories. Paint pictures, or find them in the Stickers tab, to represent the story.

[Click the Project button](#)> [click New on the left](#)> [in the Activities area](#)> [open Language Arts folder](#)> [open Writing activity](#)

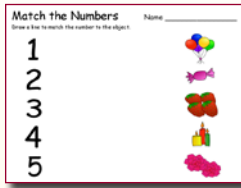
Your child can also use the Stamp tool in Pixie to write their name. Have them add stickers from the Library to match the sound for each letter.

Mathematics

Numbers and Operations

Students start to recognize numbers in the world around them.

Match Numbers



Children enjoy showing off their counting skills. Work with your child to draw or add pictures from the Stickers to show the correct number.

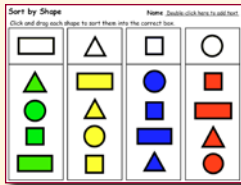
Click the Project button> click Activities on left> open Math folder> open the Match Numbers activity

Your child can also use Pixie to extend the counting from 6 to 10 by typing the numbers and dragging stickers from the Library to represent the number.

Algebra

Students begin to identify objects by shape, color, and size.

Sort by Shape



Young children naturally see and identify patterns in everyday life. You can help your child build on this skill by working with them to identify and match shapes.

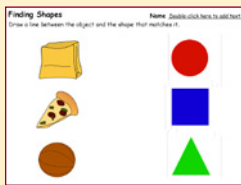
Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Math folder> open Sort By Shape activity

Work with your child to take a digital picture of an item in your home. Open the picture in Pixie (Open button) the file and use the paint tools to outline the shape or shapes in the picture.

Geometry

Students name and describe the shapes they see around them.

Match Shapes



Children begin to see math in the shapes around them. In this activity your child will recognize everyday objects and drag the shapes associated with them.

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Math folder> open Match Shapes activity

Talk to your child about the shapes that you see when you are together – for example different wheels on cars, trucks, and bikes. Your child can then use Pixie to draw a picture of objects that have the same shape.

Mathematics (continued)

Measurement

Students learn the days of the week and begin to compare objects by size, length, and weight.

Which weighs more?



Your child currently uses nonstandard units to measure items in their environment. In this activity students circle which item weighs more than the other.

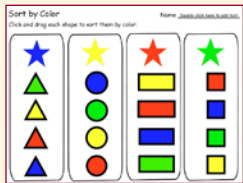
Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Math folder> open Weight 2 activity

Your child can also use Pixie to create a simple weekly calendar. Have them illustrate the activities they have scheduled to do for the week on each day. Discuss with your child “Today is Tuesday. Yesterday was Monday.” and so on.

Data Analysis and Probability

Students learn to group objects (organize data) based on a particular feature.

Sort by Color



You can help your child start to recognize common characteristics so they can begin to organize and understand data. Work with your child to complete this activity by dragging the correct color to the correct shape.

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Math folder> open Sort by Color activity

Your child can also use Pixie to organize and sort objects. For example, work with your child to find objects in or around your house that are all orange, or shaped like a circle, or small. Your child can paint a picture of this collection in Pixie.

Science

Inquiry Skills

Students begin to ask questions about the world around them.

Find Out About Your World



As you are walking around your neighborhood, or riding in the car, ask your child to tell you what they see or hear (make observations). Work with your child in Pixie to begin describing and asking questions about what they observed.

[Click the Project button](#)> [click New on the left](#)> [in the Activities area](#)> [open Science folder](#)> [open Inquiry - Primary activity](#)

Your child can also use Pixie to create a book about their the neighborhood. Have them write and draw pictures to describe what they observe in front of their house, at the neighbors, or down the street.

Physical Science

Students use their senses to observe the world around them and describe what they find.

Loud or Quiet



As you play with your child, ask them what they see, hear, touch, and smell. Work with your child in Pixie to identify noises that are loud and quiet.

[Click the Project button](#)> [click New on the left](#)> [in the Activities area](#)> [open Science folder](#)> [open Loud and Quiet activity](#)

Your child can use Pixie to create a Five Senses book, located in the Five Senses folder in Activities, to identify their senses and what they use them for in their surrounding environment.

Life Science

Students study how plants and animals live, move, and grow.

Things That Move



Children are fascinated by the living world around them. During the day, ask your child to identify things that move and things that don't move. In Pixie, have your child sort objects that move and do not move.

[Click the Project button](#)> [click New on the left](#)> [in the Activities area](#)> [open Science folder](#)> [open Living-Move activity](#)

Talk with your child about how living things move and grow. Work with your child to use Pixie to write and draw a picture that shows several things that are alive.

Science (continued)

Earth and Space Science

Students begin to explore changes in the world around them.

Seasons



Children become aware of weather at a young age. Work with your child to help them describe how the weather changes over the seasons.

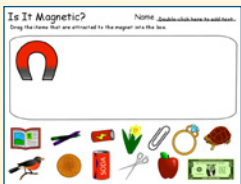
[Click the Project button](#)> [click New on the left](#)> [in the Activities area](#)> [open Science folder](#)> [open Seasons Sort activity](#)

Talk with your child about how the seasons affect our daily lives. (e.g., when it's cold outside, you wear a coat). Your child can use Pixie to draw a picture of live each season showing things you do, what you wear, and how it looks outside.

Science and Technology

Students identify simple tools of technology and how it affects them in their daily lives.

Is It Magnetic?



Children will be interested in the ways that technology affects their lives, such as how buildings are built and the tools required to do the job. Find a magnet and explore with your child to find objects in your house that are attracted to the magnet. Then work together to complete the Pixie activity.

[Click the Project button](#)> [click New on the left](#)> [in the Activities area](#)> [open Science folder](#)> [open Magnetic activity](#)

Your child can use Pixie to draw a picture that shows what they wish a magnet would attract (like candy or toys) and how they would use it.

Science in Personal and Social Perspectives

Students learn ways to protect the environment and conserve resources.

We Can Recycle



Use this activity to start the conversation about recycling and the types of things that can be recycled. Work with your child to draw pictures or drag stickers to appropriate place.

[Click the Project button](#)> [click Activities on left](#)> [open Science folder](#)> [open We Can Recycle activity](#)

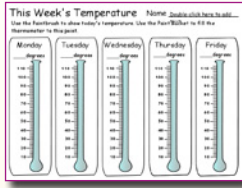
Talk with your child about ways your family can conserve energy and help the environment. Your child can use Pixie to make a poster that informs and encourages others to recycle or conserve energy.

Science (continued)

History and Nature of Science

Students learn how science is used in daily life.

Temperature



Children are familiar with hearing adults talk about the weather. Discuss how knowing the temperature helps you plan what to wear or do for the day. Work with your child to document the temperature everyday for a week.

[Click the Project button](#)> [click New on the left](#)> [in the Activities area](#)> [open Science folder](#)> [open Temperature activity](#)

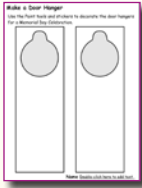
Talk with your child about how people use science every day. For example, a parent knows how temperature affects food (kitchen scientist) and a mechanic knows what makes an engine work (car scientist). Have your child use Pixie to draw a picture of one way they use science.

Social Studies

Citizenship

Students learn what it means to be a good citizen.

Door Hanger



Discuss with your child the basic principles of what it means to be a good citizen. Decorate a door hanger that shows what good citizenship looks like in a family environment.

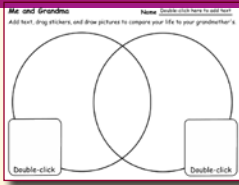
Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Templates folder> open Door Hanger activity

Your child is beginning to recognize symbols and understand what they stand for. Use Pixie to add an American flag and add words and images that represent what it means to be a citizen of the United States.

Culture

Students learn about their family.

Me and Grandma



Children in Kindergarten begin to notice some families are different than others. Work with your child to draw a picture of the members of your family.

Click the Project button> click Activities on left> open Social Studies folder> open Color or Black and White All About Me activity

Use the activity as the starting point for a book about your family. Have your child use Pixie to draw pictures of and write sentences about other family members.

Time, Continuity, and Change

Students learn how people's activities change over time.

Home or School



Now that your child is going to school they may talk about the difference in things they do at school and home. Talk to your child about how people do different things and act differently in different places.

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Social Studies folder> open Home or School activity

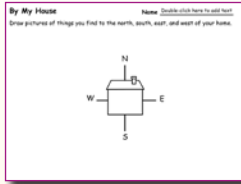
A typical morning in your household may consist of reminding your child of certain things they need to take to school. Your child can use Pixie to draw a picture or create a chart of the things they need to do before they go to school.

Social Studies (continued)

Space and Place

Students learn about where they live in the world.

By My House



Children begin to understand where their home is in relationship to their neighborhood. Work with your child to write and draw pictures about things they find in the neighborhood around your house.

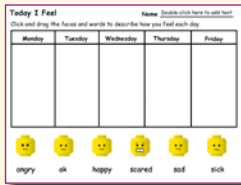
Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Social Studies folder> open By My House activity

Your child can use Pixie to mark on a United States (or single state) map the place where you live. Work with your child to think of people you know (family, president, television character) in other places around the country and mark where they live as well.

Individual Development and Identity

Students learn to identify feelings and emotions.

Feelings



Your child is beginning to recognize their feelings and identify emotions in others. Work with your child to observe and document their feelings on a daily basis.

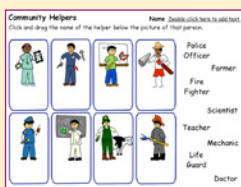
Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Social Studies folder> open Feelings activity

Your child can use Pixie to draw a picture of something that makes them happy or sad. You can also use Pixie to capture images from a web cam of your child making a happy, sad, or angry face. Add text to label each image and create a guide for identifying or labeling feelings.

Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

Students learn about the different roles of people in the community.

Helpers



After going on an errand like the post office or the doctor's, talk to your child about how your family relies on community helpers.

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Social Studies folder> open Helpers activity

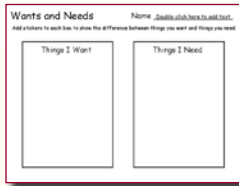
You may have roles and responsibilities in your home. Have your child use Pixie to create a list of rules for what to do after dinner (e.g. clear the table, do dishes, put food away, etc.). Hang the poster in the kitchen for all household members to see.

Social Studies (continued)

Production, Distribution and Consumption

Students learn the basic needs of their family and the difference between wants and needs.

Wants and Needs



Discuss with your child the basic needs of your family. Work with your child in this activity to explore the difference between wants and needs and begin to see that wants are not necessary for people to live.

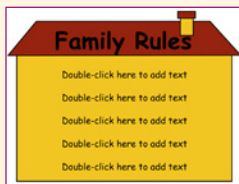
Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Social Studies folder> open Wants and Needs activity

Help your child use Pixie to create a list of jobs that need to get done during the week in the home. Hang the list somewhere for all family members to see. At the end of the week have a discussion with all family members and have your child ask everyone how it was to have a list.

Power, Authority, and Governance

Students learn how rules are necessary and begin to identify rules in and around the school, as well as at home.

Family Rules



Your child is beginning to understand that home and school rules are necessary for order and fairness as well as for safety and health. In this activity they will identify rules in and around the house, and recognize the consequences of not following rules.

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Social Studies folder> open Family Rules activity

Draw a line down the middle of a page in Pixie. Type a family rule at the top. Have your child use the paint tools to draw a picture on one side of what it looks like to follow that rule and what it looks like to break that rule on the other side.

Science, Technology, and Society

Students discover how different people use technology and care for the earth.

With A Computer



Discuss with your child how you use a computer versus how they use a computer. Work with your child to draw a picture and add narration to describe how they use a computer.

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Social Studies folder> open With A Computer activity

Read books with your child that talk about different places and people on the Earth. You're your child to use Pixie to draw a picture about this place and describe how it is different from the place and way you live at home.

Social Studies (continued)

Global Connections

Students learn the world is made up of individuals with different languages and backgrounds.

Numbers – Numeros



Children are constantly curious about the world around them, especially groups of people different than them. In this activity, help your child learn to count to ten in Spanish to gain an understanding of the language.

[Click the Project button](#)> [click New on the left](#)> [in the Activities area](#)> [open Social Studies folder](#)> [open Numbers-Numeros activity](#)

Read books with your child about different cultures and the regions in which they are located. Have them create a postcard for a family member as if they are visiting that location. Help your child type text to describe and support their picture.