



# Saint Paul **BLAST OFF** TO KINDERGARTEN

## July

---

### Get Ready for School

#### **Skills to Practice this Month**

- Talk to your child about different cultures and provide opportunities for your child to learn about other cultures. Talk about the holidays, foods, and traditions of different cultures. Listen to music and explore the instruments used to make music in a variety of cultures.

#### **Activities**

- Set aside one night a week to learn about a new culture. Cook its food, play games and make decorations that represent the culture, and share facts you and your child have learned.
- The library has many, many books with folktales from around the world. Take books home from the library and read them together everyday.
- Learn about a holiday that you might not normally celebrate. Find out who celebrates it, where and how it is celebrated, what foods are eaten; and celebrate the holiday together.
- Do you know a family whose culture is different from your own? Invite them over for dinner or to play and have the children talk about themselves, their families, and their lives. Children will learn about a new culture, discover how much they have in common, and make new friends.

#### **Books for Children** Further listings available at [www.blastofftok.org](http://www.blastofftok.org)

- *World Holidays: A Watts Guide for Children* by Heather Moehn
- *Holiday!: Celebration Days Around the World* by Deborah Chancellor
- *Holiday Cooking Around the World* compiled by Kari A. Cornell
- *Hispanic Holidays* by Faith Winchester
- *Moonbeams, Dumplings, and Dragon Boats: A Treasury of Chinese Holiday Tales, Activities, and Recipes* by Nin Simonds

#### **Books for Parents** Further listings available at [www.blastofftok.org](http://www.blastofftok.org)

- *The Book of New Family Traditions: How to Create Great Rituals for Holidays and Everyday* by Meg Cox

### Get Ready to Read

#### **Skills to Practice this Month**

- Practice reading or talk about pictures in a book to teach new words. Ask “what” questions. Follow your child's answers with another question. Repeat what your child says and discuss it in more detail.

### Be Healthy

#### **Skills to Practice this Month**

- Take your child to the doctor when he is sick. In the months leading up to your child's entrance into kindergarten, it is important that he is well and in good health.

Visit [www.blastofftok.org](http://www.blastofftok.org) for more information.

Blast Off to K is joint project of the Saint Paul Public Libraries, Saint Paul Public Schools, the City of Saint Paul Mayor's Office, and the United Way.