

Incoming Kindergartener Summer Learning Packet

In this packet, you will find ideas for how to expand your child's learning while you are playing and enjoying your summer! Many of the ideas in this packet will be things you are already doing that you can expand upon. Others might be new things to try with your child. The most important thing about summer learning is to make it fun!

Fine Motor Skills

- *Practice buttoning, snapping, and zipping.
- *Attach clothespins to string or tag board or container lids.
- *Use eyedroppers to pick up colored water and drop onto coffee filters, paper towels, or construction paper.
- *Use kitchen tongs to pick up objects and dinner foods.
- *Pick up cotton balls with tweezers and place in ice trays or egg cartons.
- *Tear paper and create a collage.
- *String cheerios or macaroni noodles.
- *Punch holes around a picture and sew around it with yarn (wrap tape around end of yarn to help ease the sewing task).
- *Let your child use scissors to cut play-dough.
- *Cut pictures from a magazine to create a collage.
- *Legos, Light Brite, Puzzles
- *Screw and unscrew nuts and bolts or jar lids.
- *Trace
- *Put small objects into a bottle.
- *Stack small blocks.
- *Write with small chalk.
- *Make letters out of pipe cleaners, yarn, or clay.
- *Write letters and numbers in shaving cream or sand.
- *Play with play dough (see attached recipe).

Social

- *Give your child household jobs such as setting the silverware and napkins for dinner, bringing up the trash cans, or emptying wastebaskets. Clearly state your expectations and have your child be completely in charge of their job. Three step directions are appropriate for this age.
- *Discuss how to make friends. Practice at the park or the pool.
- *Talk about the importance of sharing. Practice with family members.
- *Take a walk with an adult. Have a conversation about the things you see.
- *Encourage play for longer periods of time and while interacting with other children.
- *Have your child practice ordering their own food, pay salespeople, check out a library book.
- *Role play social situations and discuss various ways to handle certain problems: not sharing a toy, cutting in line, teasing, being shy, etc.

Gross Motor

- *Have your child complete obstacle courses. Add different challenges each time. Be sure to include skipping, hopping, walking backwards, crab walking, balancing on a line, and running!
- *Have your child hold a box and try to catch balls that you throw with the box!
- *Hold a mini Olympics! Swimming, biking, running, and gymnastics make great events!
- *Play catch. Throw balls at a target. Start with a large ball and move to smaller balls.
- *Jump! Have child jump over an object with both feet, then with one foot.
- *Walk within a given path and try to balance! Try to walk heel to toe.
- *Practice skipping. Show your child that skipping is a step-hop with one foot, and a step-hop with the other.
- *Move to music. Discuss how different types of music go along with different types of movement. March or dance to different rhythms and tempos.
- *Practice climbing.
- *Practice kicking a large ball. Kick back and forth or into a target.
- *Practice pumping on the swing. "Out and under. Out and under."
- *Bat a ball.

Literacy

- *Sign up for the Summer Reading program at your local library.
- *Create a writing kit for your child to encourage their desire to write. A pretty box or basket to store it all in will entice them even more! Include in the kit: colored pencils, plain white paper, colored paper, thin markers, envelopes, index cards, dry erase board with markers, notepads, tape, etc.
- *Plan a dinner menu.
- *Draw a picture of your favorite fruit. Label it.
- *Write the alphabet in the sand or with sidewalk chalk.
- *Go to a garage sale. Buy a new book!
- *Discuss the parts of a book – front, back, author, illustrator.
- *Choose a non-fiction book from the library.
- *Make a special card for a family member. Tell them how special they are.
- *Talk about opposites – hard/soft, above/below, back/front, etc.
- *Talk about and compare sizes of objects in your environment.
- *Use directional terms such as right and left.
- *Sing fingerplays, rhymes, songs, nursery rhymes.
- *Trace letters in name and practice writing name.
- *Put finger paint in a ziplock bag and practice writing letters.
- *Letter Memory – Place a handful of magnetic letters on a baking tray. Cover them with a cloth and take one away. Uncover the letters and ask which one is missing.
- *Go on a sound hunt! Give your child a basket and ask him or her to collect items from around the house that begin with that sound.
- *Mystery Sound Bag – Place 3 or 4 objects in a bag that begin with the same sound (for example: ball, bowl, block). Have your child feel them, guess what they are, and then name the letter sound they begin with.
- *Draw a picture on a dry-erase board and ask your child to erase the pictures that rhyme. They may erase “house” and “mouse” for example.

Math

- *Build with cubes and blocks.
- *Compare sizes of family members or toys.
- *Look for colors, shapes, or numbers around you. For example, “Find five orange things in the grocery store.” “Find three circles on the beach.”
- *Help your child find differences in objects. Ask them to look closely and tell how two objects are the same and how they are different: 2 plates of different sizes, a peach and an apple, etc.
- *Help your child compare textures of objects.
- *Bake! Measure ingredients together. Time the baking.
- *Write down numbers 1-10 and have your child sequence them.
- *Review ordinal numbers: Line up objects and have your child find first, second, last, etc.
- *Count as high as you can!
- *Search for numbers in the environment (on a car ride, in the grocery store line, in recipes, etc.)
- *Sort things by shape.
- *Make a countdown chain to count the number of days until a vacation or a special visitor, or school to begin again.
- *Use colored candies to sort, count, and review patterns together.
- *Build a tower with blocks. Roll a dice to find out how many blocks you get to put on your tower each turn. Compare sizes of towers.
- *Number basketball -- Write numbers on paper and spread around floor. Call out a number for your child to find, crumple up, and toss into can.
- *Money Toss – toss change. Count how many land on heads, how many tails.
- *Make counting books with stickers.
- *Play path games in which you and your child roll a dice to take turns moving around board. There are many games out there, but you can also create your own path game with stickers.
- *Card games – You can use cards in a number of ways: matching two numbers, putting numbers in order, playing “War”.
- *Make a lemonade stand. Mix your own lemonade and pour it into cups. Have your child collect and count money.
- *Make a hopscotch board on the sidewalk.

Science

- *Go star gazing! Look for the North Star and constellations. Make up your own pictures in the night sky! Watch the moon and observe its phases.
- *Track the weather. You can keep a weather calendar to describe whether it is hot or cold, clear or stormy each day. Look at a thermometer.
- *Play with liquids. Experiment with measuring, mixing, and pouring liquids.
- *Grow and study vegetables. Plant a family garden and teach your child what the garden needs to grow. Give them ownership in caring for the garden and picking its yield!
- *Study insects! Place something sweet and juicy outside and watch the bug parade begin! Observe bugs with a magnifying glass. Keep one in a bug catcher for a day or two and observe how it behaves.
- *Study shadows. Compare your shadow at different times of day. Notice the sun's positioning each time. Discuss how the position of the sun might affect the shadow. You can use sidewalk chalk to trace the shadows and compare. You can measure them as well!
- *Gather and sort rocks. Begin a rock collection! Sort them into groups – large or small, smooth or jagged, solid or spotted, etc.
- *Go on scavenger hunts! Use any theme or object.
- *Collect trash.
- *Explore ice. Freeze water in different containers. Observe it as it freezes in different stages. Use paint or food coloring for colored ice and have fun watching it melt in a baby pool outside. Freeze plastic toys in ice and explore different ways to free the toys from the ice.
- *Blow bubbles! Set up several containers for experimentation. Have shallow plates, small dishes, large containers and a variety of bubble toys on hand. Try making your own bubble solutions!
- *Go on a nature walk. Keep a nature journal of the things you see. Collect items from your walk.
- *Try geocaching. There are great website on line for beginning geocachers. This is a treasure hunt for kids that is already waiting for you in public parks!
- *Make a science kit! Include: magnifying glass, seashells, prism, kaleidoscopes, magnets, bug box, binoculars, etc.
- *Pond nature trip – Give your child a “pond study kit”: magnifying glass, clear cup For collecting water or dirt samples, craft sticks, plastic spoons, etc.

- *Chemical reaction – Let your child experiment with baking soda and vinegar to make a chemical reaction. Put baking soda in a paper cup and vinegar in another cup. Add amounts of one ingredient to the other and watch what happens.
- *Magnets – Let your child experiment with various objects and classify them as magnetic or nonmagnetic. Suggestions: paper clip, screw, nail, penny, pen cap, cork, spoon, crayon, etc.
- *Chemistry – Set out several ingredients and let your child experiment with the different textures and reactions that the ingredients make. For solids, you can have a cup of flour, baking soda, salt, sand, corn meal. For liquids, you can have water, oil, liquid soap, bubble bath (and food coloring!).
- *Simple machines – Provide your child with blocks and small boards or cardboard to make ramps. Children can experiment with rolling different objects down the ramps: boxes, blocks, cars, marbles, droplets of water, rocks, etc.
- *Sensory! Fill a large plastic container with uncooked beans or rice. Use cooking utensils and sand toys to experiment with them. Explore measuring, pouring, and stirring.
- *Sink or float – a wading pool works well for experimenting with objects that sink and objects that float.
- *Experiment with sand. Can you hold sand? What does sand do when you add water? How much sand will fit into different containers?

Art

- *Create an art kit. Include: colored construction paper, plain white paper of various sizes, crayons, markers, stickers, magazines, scissors, tape, glue stick, oil pastels, water color paints, collage materials such as beans, pasta, cotton, foam, etc; popsicle sticks, whatever else looks like it could become something else!
- *Turn recyclables into art!
- *Learn about a musical instrument.
- *Go to a museum. Discuss what you saw. Draw what you saw. Create your own museum!
- *Make a sand castle.
- *Add textures to paint by adding salt, rice, or sand to it.
- *Try different types of sponges and brushes to paint. Paint with objects: toy cars, celery stalks, q-tips, etc.

Play dough recipe

1 cup white flour

1/2 cup salt

2 tablespoon cream of tartar (find it in the spice section)

1 tablespoon oil

1 cup water

food coloring

Mix ingredients in a saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, for at least 5 minutes. Dough will become difficult to stir and form a "clump". Remove from stove and knead for 5 minutes. Play dough will keep for a long time stored in a covered plastic container or ziplock bag.

