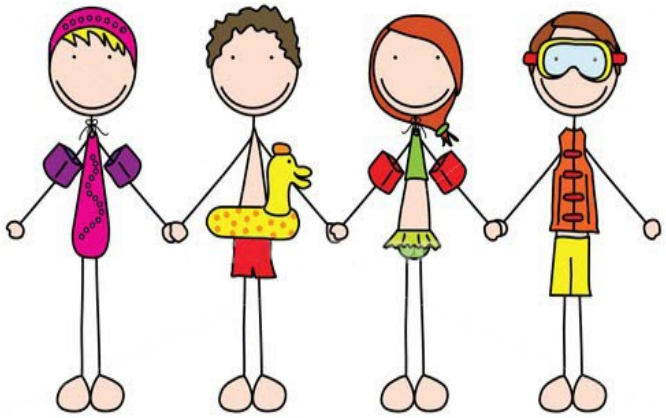
Kindergarten Summer Packet



Learning Activities for the Summer Months

For children transitioning into Kindergarten*

(suggested activities/books for fun, not required)

*You may choose to do ONE activity over the summer or ALL activities! These activities are optional. Do not do too many in one day – keep it light and fun!

Literacy

~Make a writing kit for your child to practice writing:

pencils	colored pencils	thin markers
plain white paper	colored copy paper	envelopes
tape	dry erase board	Magna Doodle
notepads	stapler (for making books)	index cards

~Shaving cream – put a small amount of shaving cream on the table or on a tray. Spread it out and draw letters and numbers in the shaving cream with your finger. You may want to use a smock, but if it gets on clothes, it fades away after a few minutes. When it is time to clean up, rub the shaving cream until it disappears, then wash the table or tray.

~Pipe Cleaner letters – use pipe cleaners (chenille stems) to form letters by bending them.

~Letter Memory Game – place 2-4 letter magnets (or cards with the letters written on them) on a tray. Cover them up with a cloth and take one away. Uncover the tray and ask your child which one is missing. You can also have your child write the letter on a piece of paper or dry erase board.

~Name – write your child's name on a piece of construction paper in large letters. Glue on yarn, beans, or glitter. ALWAYS use an uppercase letter for the first letter of a name, but write the rest in lowercase letters.

~Letter Sound Basket – give your child a basket and ask him/her to collect objects from around the house that begin with a particular letter.

~Mystery Sound Bag – Place 3 or 4 objects that begin with a particular letter in a bag. For example: bowl, ball, block, book for the letter "B". Have your child pull the items out one at a time and identify the beginning letter.

~Erase the Rhyme – draw a picture on a dry erase board and ask your child to erase things that rhyme. For example, draw a picture of a house and a bat. Ask your child to erase what rhymes with mouse.

Math

~Candy Math – have your child use colored candy, such as Gummi candy, M&Ms, Skittles, Runts, jellybeans, etc. Use them for sorting, counting, and/or patterning activities.

~Block Math – use a numbered game die or spinner and some blocks. Take turns rolling the die and taking the correct number of blocks from the pile. Build a tower with the blocks. After all the blocks are gone, compare the towers to see whose is the tallest.

~Number Basketball – write numbers on pieces of paper and place them on the floor. Place a trash can nearby. Call out a number for your child to find, crumble up, and toss into the trash can.

~Money Toss – toss five pennies onto the table or floor. Count how many heads and tails.

~Counting Books – make counting books with stickers. Choose stickers that will appeal to your child (Barbie, cars, horses, etc.). staple pieces of paper together and label each page with a number. Have your child stick the correct number of stickers on each page of the book. You could make the "Barbie Counting Book", etc.

~Path Games – path games (for example, Chutes & Ladders) are great for counting practice because a child rolls the dice or spins a spinner and counts how many spaces to move. You can buy them or make your own path games with stickers.

~Card Games – you can use playing cards in several ways:

- Have your child match two of the same numbers
- Have your child put the numbers in sequential order
- Play war [two players take the top card from their own pile, compare them, and the player with the highest number wins that round and collect both cards]

Science

~Make a Science Kit:

Prism	Seashells	Rock Collection
Kaleidoscopes	Magnets	Magnifying Glass
Bug Box/Critter Cage	Binoculars	Journal (draw pics of observations)

~Nature Walk – go on a nature walk in your neighborhood or in the woods. Collect small sticks, rocks, leaves, wildflowers. You can use them later to make a nature collage or look at them through a magnifying glass.

~Pond Nature Trip – give your child a 'pond study kit': magnifying glass, clear cup (for a water sample), plastic bags (for plant and dirt samples), craft sticks, plastic spoons, etc. Take a trip to a pond and let your child explore. Take a bag of breadcrumbs for the ducks.

~Magnets – let your child experiment with various objects and classify them as magnetic or non-magnetic. You can use a paper clip, screw, penny, pen cap, cork, crayon, 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.

~More Chemistry – you can also set out several ingredients and let your child experiment with different textures (and reactions) the ingredients make. For solids, you can have cups of flour, baking soda, salt, sand, corn meal. For liquids, you can set out cups of water, oil, liquid soap, bubble bath. Add drops of food coloring for added fun.

~Simple Machines: Ramps – provide your child with blocks and small boards or cardboard to make ramps. Children can experiment by rolling or sliding different objects down the ramps: blocks, boxes, cars, marbles, droplets of water, rocks.

Fine Motor Skills

~Scissors & Play-dough – let your child use scissors to cut Play-dough. This helps build fine motor strength and helps them learn to use scissors.

~Magazine Collage – have your child cut pictures from magazines and glue them onto a piece of construction paper. You can have your child cut out certain things, such as 'things that begin with the letter A' or 'RED things', or 'ocean animals', etc. you can also make books by stapling construction paper together and gluing each picture on a page.

~Play-dough Bakery – use bowls, spoons, cookie cutters, cookie sheets, rolling pins, plates, cups, mini pie pans, muffin tins, and other things with Play-dough.

~More – Legos, Puzzles, Light Bright

Art

~Make an Art Kit:

Colored construction paper	plain white paper	crayons
Markers	scissors	glue/glue sticks
Colored chalk	oil pastels	watercolor paints
Tempera or poster paint	tape	popsicle sticks

collage materials (pasta, beans, craft foam, cotton, buttons, etc)

Suggested Booklist

Mo Willems:	Pigeon books, Knuffle Bunny books
Eric Litwin:	Pete the Cat books
Jan Brett:	The Hat, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Hedgie's Surprise, The Umbrella
Don Freeman:	Corduroy
Eric Carle:	The Very Clumsy Click Beetle, Does a Kangaroo Have a Mother, too? A House for Hermit Crab, Mister Seahorse
David Shannon:	David books
Tomie de Paola:	Bill and Pete books
Jan Thomas:	The Doghouse, Rhyming Dust Bunnies
Mercer Mayer:	Little Critter books, There's an Alligator Under My Bed
Jez Alborough:	It's the Bear, Duck in the Truck, Captain Duck, Cuddly Duddly

Suggested Websites

www.starfall.com
www.literacycenter.net
www.janbrett.com
www.prekinders.com

If you'd like some more fun activities to do with your up-and-coming kindergartener over the summer, I have some fun suggestions. **Here are some ideas for ways to help prepare your child for the school year, while still letting him/her enjoy the summer**:

- Go on a listening walk with your child. What does he hear?
- Ask your child to find five rocks. Have her touch each one as she counts them. How do they feel? Are they different colors? Which one's biggest?
- Show your child how to draw a star. Let him practice drawing as many as possible.
- Find a book about summer and read it to your child. Ask questions such as "who", "what", "when", "where", and "how."
- Count the number of windows in your home together.
- Let your child help wash the car.
- Help your child think of words that rhyme with cat, dog, or dad.
- Challenge your child to hop on one foot three times. Alternate feet.
- Encourage your child to write on the sidewalk or driveway with chalk.
- Have your child count all the buttons on her clothes.
- Create something with play-doh.
- Sing "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" with your child.
- Go on a color hunt– find objects that are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple.
- Ask your child to act out a nursery rhyme after reading it together from a book.
- Take your child to the public library and let him choose a book. Talk about where the front of the book is, where the title is, and where to find the author's name.
- Let your child cut up old magazines and make collages.
- Have your child draw a picture of something she likes to do in the summertime. Encourage her to describe/explain it.
- See if your child can find an insect. Examine it closely together. What do you see?
- Draw three different shapes on a paper and ask your child to cut them out.
- Have a "puzzle day." Encourage your child to work to complete a puzzle independently.
- Challenge your child to count how many steps it takes to walk across the living room or yard.
- Have your child tell you a story. As they tell it, write it down, then read it to them after.
- Have your child put ice cubes in the hot sun. What happens?
- Ask your child to help you write the grocery list. Let him draw pictures or help write some letters. Describe the items you're adding. What color are they? Are they sweet? Is it crunchy? Does it feel cold?
- Go on a nature hike together.
- Relax in the shade with your child and read a book together. Help him to retell the story when you finish.
- Cut up several drinking straws and let your child string them.
- Play hopscotch together.
- Ask your child to pretend to be a caterpillar. See if she can tell you four foods she would eat.
- Have your child draw a picture of something he would like to do in kindergarten. Talk about all the fun opportunities he will have in the upcoming year!