

Dear Families,

With summer fast approaching, we have put together a summer packet of activities to help keep your children busy and engaged during their time off from school and to continue to help them prepare for kindergarten. We hope you have a wonderful summer!

Summer Reading Book Ideas

Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes

Diary of a Worm by Doreen Cronin

The Doorbell Rang by Pat Hutchins

Knuffle Bunny by Mo Willems

The Napping House by Audrey Wood

Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss

Actual Size by Steve Jenkins

Sheep in a Jeep by Nancy Shaw

The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson

The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina

Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae

Harold and the Purple Crayon By Crockett Johnson

The Little House By Virginia Lee Burton

Where the Sidewalk Ends By Shel Silverstein

Chalk By Bill Thomson

The Day the Crayons Quit By Drew Daywalt

How Full is Your Bucket By Tom Rath and Mary Reckmeyer

My Mouth is a Volcano By Julia Cook

Be Kind By Pat Zietlow Miller

Summer Bingo!

Try to do something fun each day! Can you cross off each of these things before school starts? If you can, then try making your own Summer Bingo and think of more fun things to do! ☺

Count to 20 out loud.	Say 3 words that rhyme with "cat."	Practice writing your first and last name with a pencil.	Find objects around your house that begin with each letter of the alphabet.	Draw a picture of your home. Label the objects you draw.
Sing the alphabet while jumping on one foot.	Count down from 20 to 1.	Think of 3 words that rhyme with "bug."	Make a pattern with items around your home.	Sing your favorite song.
Draw a picture of your favorite animal.	Think of 3 words that rhyme with "map."	Find an object (lego, pencil, etc) practice putting it above you, below you, to the right, to the left and behind.	Count how many letters are in your full name.	Make a list of things that you'd see at a playground. Label the objects you draw.
Make a grocery list and help your parent at the store.	Read a story outside.	Think of 3 words that rhyme with "hot."	Read a story in a blanket fort.	Read a non-fiction book.
Find 3 items that are shaped like a square.	Practice writing your first and last name with chalk	Draw a picture of your family. Label who is in your picture.	Count out 20 pennies.	Find 3 items that are shaped like a circle.

Practicing Writing Letters or Words

Practice identifying, writing letters, and words with these different media:

Scrabble tiles

A plate of salt

Play dough

Shaving cream

Pretzel sticks

Q tips

Pipe cleaners

Popsicle sticks

Toothpicks

Crayons

Lego blocks

Twigs and sticks

Spaghetti noodles

Finger paint

Whipped cream

Sand

Games to Play!

Lego Tower Dice Game

- o Materials: a large flat Lego board, a die, and 20-30 Legos of the same size (1x1 or 2x2)
- o Roll a die and use the number to determine how many blocks you will use to build your first tower. For instance, if you roll a 6, stack up six Lego blocks to make your first tower.
- o Repeat – roll again and determine how many blocks you will use to build the second tower directly next to the first tower.
- o Repeat until you've created a whole city of towers.

Home Scavenger Hunt Addition Game

- o Decide on an item to find in your house. Use a clipboard and go room by room. Write down how many of that item you see in each room. When you're finished, add up all the numbers to determine how many of that item you have in your house.
- o Item examples: pictures on the wall, clocks, mirrors, pillows, etc.

Fill the Cup Game

- o Materials: a die, a cup, several small items (cotton balls, cheerios, etc.)
- o Roll the die and put that many items into the cup. Keep rolling and filling until the cup is completely full.
- o Variation 1 – use two dice and add the numbers together. Place that many items into the cup. Repeat until the cup is full.
- o Variation 2 – start with a full cup. Estimate how many rolls it will take to empty the cup. Roll one or two dice and remove that many items from the cup. Make a tally mark for each roll that it took and compare to your original guess.

Rhyming Word Match

- o Materials: Rhyming word cards (see attached)
- o Variation 1 – Read the cards and match the words that rhyme
- o Variation 2 – Lay the cards out upside down and turn them over to find the rhyming match (similar to playing a memory game)

Rhyming Word Cards

Cat	Can	Duck	Bake
Hat	Car	Truck	Mouse
Hop	Jar	Cry	House
Pop	Tree	Dry	Sail
Fish	Free	Dog	Mail
Dish	Book	Log	Box
Pan	Look	Make	Fox

Art Activities

- Spray bottle painting: Fill spray bottles with water and food coloring or liquid water color paint. Hang paper up outside and then spray the paper and allow to dry.
- Nature collage: Take your child on a nature walk and give them a bag to collect things they find on their walk. Once home let your child glue all of the items they found.
- Leaf or flower prints: Go outside and collect leaves or flowers. Lay paper on top of the leaves and flowers. Remove the paper from your crayons and using the side of the crayons, rub the crayon over the paper.
- Water drawings: Dip sponge brushes in water and then draw with it on the sidewalk. Your child can watch as it dries in the sun.
- Paint: Make your own paint and then enjoy painting with it.
 - 1 cup of water
 - 1 cup plain flour (all purpose)
 - 1 cup liquid dish soap
 - Food coloring

Mix flour and water until all the lumps are gone. Next mix in the dish soap. Separate the mixture into different cups and then add the food coloring.

- Paint with rocks: Find some rocks outside. Lay paper in an old shoe box and then add the rocks and some paint. Put the lid on the shoes box and shake it up. Open it to see the effect!
- Paint rocks: Collect rocks and paint them. Try painting them to look like bugs and then place them in your flower beds outside.
- Frozen paint: Freeze paint in an ice tray and then paint with it. This is a fun sensory activity.
- Still life drawings: As you are traveling this summer or even if you are staying home, give your child paper and crayons and have them draw the things around them.

Websites and Apps

While you are on the road this summer, check out these apps and websites to help keep your child busy in the car.

Website

- National Geographic Kids (kids.nationalgeographic.com)
- Dr. Seuss (www.seussville.com)
- Starfall (www.starfall.com)
- PBS Kids (www.pbskids.org)
- Vooks (www.vooks.com)

Apps

- Starfall
- ABC Mouse
- Bob Books Reading Magic
- Monkey Preschool Lunchbox

Journal

This summer have your child use a notebook or paper and create a summer journal. They can write and draw pictures about their summer adventures. This is great practice for writing and inventive spelling.

Non-Academic Kindergarten Readiness

As your child is getting ready for kindergarten it is important to emphasize social and emotional and self-care skills which are vital to kindergarten readiness, too! Here's a checklist of some developmental skills you can work on before your child enters kindergarten.

Social and Emotion:

- Take turns in conversations
- Recognize and discuss emotions
- Ask for help when needed
- Speak in an appropriate volume
- Understand others have different feelings than they do
- Match other's faces to feelings
- Keep using the six steps of problem solving they learned at preschool

Self-Care:

- Open food packaging/tupperware
- Slide papers in a folder/fit items in backpack
- Wait in line
- Align a zipper/unbuckle/unbutton
- Put on shoes/ learn to tie
- Tuck in uniform shirt
- Blow nose & dispose of tissue
- Follow 2-3 step directions