

Preschool Summer Activities

Dear Parents,

I have put together a summer activities packet for you and your children to enjoy this summer. These ideas are meant to compliment the activities you already do as a family throughout the summer and can help children retain skills they learned throughout the school year. Please choose the activities that work best for you and your family and work them in to your daily schedule. Even 15 minutes per day can really make a difference and prepare them for the upcoming school year. The most important thing is to relax and have fun. Enjoy and have a great Summer!

Summer Journals: Journals are a great way for children to practice their drawing and writing skills while documenting fun family events. All you need to do is get about 10 sheets of plain white paper (for children entering Kindergarten in September invest in story paper that has a blank space up top for pictures and lines for writing) and staple them together and you have yourself a journal. Let your children decorate the cover with something they like to do in the summer and label it, **Summer Journal 2015**. Have your children write their name on the front cover (and on each subsequent page as they write in it throughout the summer to keep them practicing) and your ready to go. All children need are



crayons, markers and pencils but you can add photographs or stickers to pages depending on what your children are writing about that day. Encourage your children to draw the picture first, adding details about the event they are writing about. For example, if your child is writing about collecting seashells on a beach, ask them questions in a way that will get them thinking about what they can add to their pictures. “Where were we looking for the shells (in the sand)?” “What did you hold in your hand to put the

shells in? (a bucket)” These questions can help children think about and reflect on their experiences and help them to communicate those thoughts on paper. Once they are done drawing their pictures, parents can take dictation (children say something about their pictures and parents write it down) or you can have children use “invented spelling” which is having them listen to sounds they hear in words and write them down. Children do not have to spell correctly at this age! It is more important for them to practice letter sounds and write down what they hear. For example, if your child is writing about a camping trip, say the word “camping” slowly, accentuating each sound so they can write what they are hearing. The word “camping” could look like “kmpg” and that is ok. Vowel sounds are difficult and will be mastered later on. Some topics you could give your child for the Summer include: My day at the beach, summer movie, nature hike, seashell scavenger hunt, camping, parades, fireworks, carnivals, picnics.



These are just some ideas. Please have your child write about things that they do and enjoy with you on a regular basis as it will be more meaningful and functional for them. For more ideas go to <http://ohamanda.com/2012/05/24summer-journals-for-little-kids> or look up ideas on pinterest.



Outdoor Water Table: Putting some water in a plastic tub and adding different toys can provide hours of fun this summer. It can also help children to explore various math concepts such as capacity and measuring. Put objects in that sink and float and have them predict what they think will happen to each object. Some materials to include are cups, spoons, water droppers, turkey basters, funnels, strainers, plastic tubing, sponges, etc. Add plastic ocean animals or seashells for more pretend play, sorting and counting opportunities. The possibilities are endless!



FROZEN OCEAN
animal rescue

Frozen Ocean Animal Rescue
{salt, water, & ice play} from
Mama.Papa.Bubba.

Sand Table: Many of the ideas mentioned above can also be used for sand. With sand there are more building opportunities. Adding cups, buckets, small plastic boxes, etc., so children can build will really add to the activity. Also, you can incorporate things like shells and write letters (lower case for children entering Kindergarten) and numbers on them and hide them for a really fun scavenger hunt that will help your child to maintain recognition skills. Count the right number of pearls in each shell.



Digging for
ALPHABET SHELLS

More Inspired Life for you-kidsgen.com



Pearls and Shells Number
Learning

Outdoor Easel Painting: Have children paint outdoors either on an easel (if you have it) or just by taping paper up on a wall. Have children look around their environment and choose something to paint or paint something based on an experience such as a beach trip or a boat ride. Painting on an easel requires children to strengthen their muscles in their arms and hands which can help with overall fine motor control needed for writing.



Cutting With Scissors Activities: I know many parents hate to give their children scissors to cut paper with but these kinds of activities help children develop strength and control with their small muscles as well as perceptual motor skills. Children should always be provided with scissors that are made specifically for children and should always be supervised by an adult when being used. Making thematic collages using pictures in magazines is always fun or having children cut strips of colored paper and glueing them together to make a fish or a rainbow. Again, the possibilities are endless! I found some great 4th of July free cutting printables as well at <http://www.itsybitsyfun.com/4th-of-july-scissor-cutting-practice-sheets.html>.



You can also use scissors to cut play dough (they have plastic scissors just for cutting playdough that comes with most beginner playdough kits).

Puzzles: Have children practice putting together simple jigsaw puzzles. They have 9, 12, and 24+piece puzzles (depending on your child's skill level) for independent practice and large floor puzzles that you can do together as a family. Sometimes your local public library will have some you can check out and take home. Puzzles are also excellent for strengthening perceptual motor skills that will help children with a variety of math and spatial concepts later on.



Discovery Activities: Bring your children on nature walks through the woods, to local ponds, walks on the beach, bird or butterfly watching. Bring binoculars and jars to catch little critters in. These activities for the most part are free and provide your child with a wealth of knowledge and information. After doing activities such as these, read your child a book about it and compare what you saw to what is mentioned in the book. Have them write about them in their journals. These activities help your child gain new experiences and then allow them to reflect, compare and contrast. If you can, take your child to an aquarium (big and small), fishing, canoeing or on a whale watch, etc. These activities are widely available during the summer months in our area.

Read, Read, Read! Probably the most important thing you can do for your child to help them maintain literacy skills is read regularly (at least twice/day) and provide them with access to a wide variety of reading materials where they can explore them independently or with others. Local libraries have a variety of summer reading programs and activities you and your child can participate in. Also, you can make books with your children using pictures from an activity or event your child loved during the summer by printing them out, glueing them on paper and adding words and text describing each picture. If you want, you can even have these pages laminated at your local office store and can hold them together using book clips. These will quickly become your child's favorite books because it will feature them as the star character. Here are some examples of excellent books you can read to your child this summer.

