

Countdown to KINDERGARTEN



2022-2023

Fun activities for the year
leading up to kindergarten



THE ALPHABET

A Building Block to Reading

Before children can begin to string letters together to form words, they need to be able to recognize individual letters and their sounds. It is also important to point out to your child that the same letter can look different depending on whether it is presented in uppercase or lowercase. Fortunately, there are many simple and fun ways to help your child build a strong understanding of the alphabet.

- **Ask your child to find items on the store shelves that begin with the first letter in his name.**
- **Write letters on pieces of paper and put them in a paper bag. Let your child reach into the bag and take them out. Ask her to say the sounds that match the letters.**
- **Search for objects in your home or neighborhood that start with the same first letter as your child's name.**
- **Make magnetic letters available, and encourage your child to play with them on a surface such as a refrigerator or cookie sheet.**
- **Alphabet yoga! Can you make your body look like each letter?**



BOOKS

Eating the Alphabet
CONCEPT JE Ehlert, Lois

Augie to Zebra:
An Alphabet Book
CONCEPT JE Endle, Kate

Back to School
R JONES, CHRISTIANNE

Owls Are Good
at Keeping Secrets
CONCEPT JE O'Leary, Sara

Backpack Awareness

Choose the right style as your children grow and change through the years:

- Avoid the one-shouldered crossbody style. Two straps split the weight of the backpack across the shoulders, alleviating back, neck, and shoulder pain.
- Thicker shoulder pads prevent backpacks from digging into children's shoulders, back, and neck. Make sure it is close to the body and not sagging.
- Distribute the weight in the provided pockets and encourage children to carry the heaviest items in their hands.
- A child's backpack should not exceed 15–20 percent of his or her body weight.



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AUGUST 2022

AUGUST 2022



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Read a story together and then ask what your child thinks will happen after the story ends.	3	4 Ask your child to name 5 words that rhyme with cat.	5	6 While sitting together, print the letters of your child's name on paper and say each letter as you write it.
7	8 Using Saturday's activity, create a name sign for your child's room and decorate it together.	9	10 Create a school prop box with items that can be used to play school.	11	12 Let your child use sidewalk chalk to draw pictures, letters and numbers outside.	13
14 Do finger plays like <i>Itsy-Bitsy Spider</i> or <i>Where Is Thumbkin?</i> together.	15	16 Practice counting from 1 to 10.	17	18 Read a book that describes different feelings and discuss.	19	20 Visit the library today.
21	22 As you are reading a book, run your finger under the printed words.	23	24 Look at a picture dictionary together.	25	26 Have some laundry fun sorting the clean socks into different groups (size, color).	27
28 Practice saying your phone number together.	29	30	31			

DEVELOP LARGE MUSCLES THROUGH PLAY

Running, jumping, dancing, and climbing are some of the fun ways kids can develop their large muscles and improve coordination. Active play also provides opportunities for children to learn concepts and practice getting along with others.

- Let your child “paint” the driveway using a paint roller, paint pan, and water.
- Play an old-fashioned game such as Hopscotch or Duck, Duck, Goose. If you have forgotten how to play, check out a book that explains the rules.
- Do the Hokey Pokey together.
- Pretend to be an animal. There are some great songs on Greg and Steve’s music CD *Kids in Motion* to make pretending even more fun.



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Monitor Screen Time

Controlling a child’s screen time is an ongoing challenge. Some screen time can be educational and support social development. However, it’s important to have rules and set limits, especially if screen time interferes with other activities. Consider these tips:

- Prioritize unplugged, unstructured playtime.
- Create screen-free times during meals.
- Set limits and curfews, such as no screen time an hour before bed.
- Use apps that control the length of time a child can use a device.
- Require devices to be charged outside of the bedroom at night.
- Keep screens out of your child’s bedroom.



BOOKS

How Do You Wokka-Wokka?
JE Bluemle, Elizabeth

Peanut & Fifi Have a Ball
JE de Seve, Randall

Spunky Little Monkey
JE Martin, Bill

I Got the Rhythm
JE Schofield-Morrison,
Connie

SEPTEMBER 2022

SEPTEMBER 2022



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 Work together to make a card to give for Grandparents Day.	2	3 Take a walk and count the squirrels you see.
LIBRARY CLOSED Labor Day Weekend 4	LIBRARY CLOSED Labor Day 5	6 Before reading, look at the book's cover and guess what the story will be about.	7	8 Check out a book about squirrels to find out how they get ready for winter.	9	10 As you read a rhyming book, pause to let your child fill in the next rhyming word.
Grandparents' Day 11	Sing "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes" fast and then slow. Or have him tell you body parts and actions to add to the song: "If you're happy and you know it, point to your toes." 12	13	14 Choose a recipe to make together and make a shopping list for needed items.	15	16 Push the furniture out of the way and have a dance party!	17
18 Use an egg carton to sort beans, buttons, or beads by size.	19	20	21 Help your child learn how to blow her nose, wash her hands, wipe her bottom, and brush her hair independently.	Fall Begins 22	23 Make a fort with pillows and blankets to play in.	24
25 Go to a farm and pick apples. Count how many you picked.	26	27 Count the number of school buses (or trucks, etc.) seen as you are traveling.	28	29 Put masking tape on the floor in the shape of letters. Have your child walk, crawl, or hop along the lines.	30	

MAKE READING FUN!

- Take 20 minutes per day to read to your child. This will help the child understand that text on a page has meaning, develop listening and language skills, and learn new words.
- Make sure your child sees you reading for enjoyment. Your own excitement about books will be contagious!
- Read all types of books. Our Children's Nonfiction Collection is full of interesting books for four- and five-year-olds.
- Read a story together and then act it out using stuffed animals, dolls, or puppets.
- Set up a special reading nook for your child somewhere in your home. Add a comfy chair and a lamp.
- Ask a children's librarian for a book recommendation. Have your child tell you a story about an event they can remember. How did they feel when it happened? Were they sad, excited, disappointed, surprised? Discussing emotions helps children learn and understand their own emotions and the feelings of those they read about, which can help them with reading comprehension.



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BOOKS

Just Read!

JE Degman, Lori

The Magician's Hat

JE Mitchell, Malcolm

Dreamers

JE Morales, Yuyi

The Book Hog

JE Pizzoli, Greg

Gun Safety

Remember these four important steps when teaching your kids about gun safety:

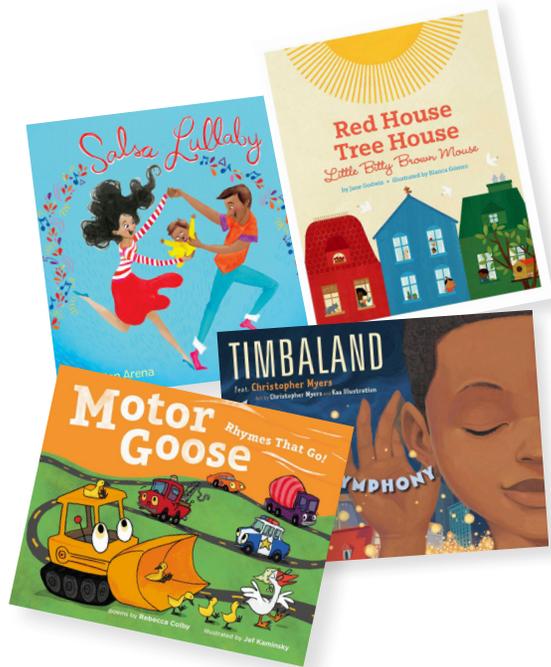
- **Stop.** Encourage children to stop if they encounter a firearm. Stopping will give children time to think and remember all of the safety instructions that are vital to saving a life—including their own.
- **Don't touch.** A firearm that is left alone isn't likely to be fired or otherwise endanger your child or others.
- **Run away.** Encourage your child, as well as anyone else with them, to leave the area of an unattended firearm, ensuring safety for everyone.
- **Tell a grown-up.** Instruct your child to notify you or a trusted adult if he or she encounters an unattended firearm.

OCTOBER 2022

OCTOBER 2022



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						GRAND REOPENING CELEBRATION (MAIN LIBRARY) 1
2 While walking around the neighborhood, look for circles, squares, and rectangles.	3	4	5 Write your child's name on index cards, writing one letter per card. Mix up the cards. Can your child put them in the correct order to spell her name?	6	7 Count the number of seeds in an apple or a pumpkin.	8
9 Recite or sing the days of the week.	10	11 Read a simple fairy tale together and then act it out.	12	13 Check out a shape book to read together.	14	15 Go for a walk outside. Collect leaves and sort them by size or color.
16	17 Count the stairs as you walk up and down.	18	19 Talk with your child about how to take care of books.	20	21 When reading, discuss the feelings of the characters. Ask questions such as, how would you feel if you were that character?	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	Halloween 31	Read a book about animal hibernation, like <i>Time to Sleep</i> by Denise Fleming.		Play a game like Go Fish together.		Start a story. Stop and let him make up the ending.



BOOKS

Salsa Lullaby
JE Arena, Jen

Red House, Tree House, Little Bitty Brown Mouse
JE Godwin, Jane

Motor Goose: Rhymes That Go!
JE NURSERY RHYMES

Nighttime Symphony
JE Timbaland

SONGS, WORD PLAY, AND RHYMING

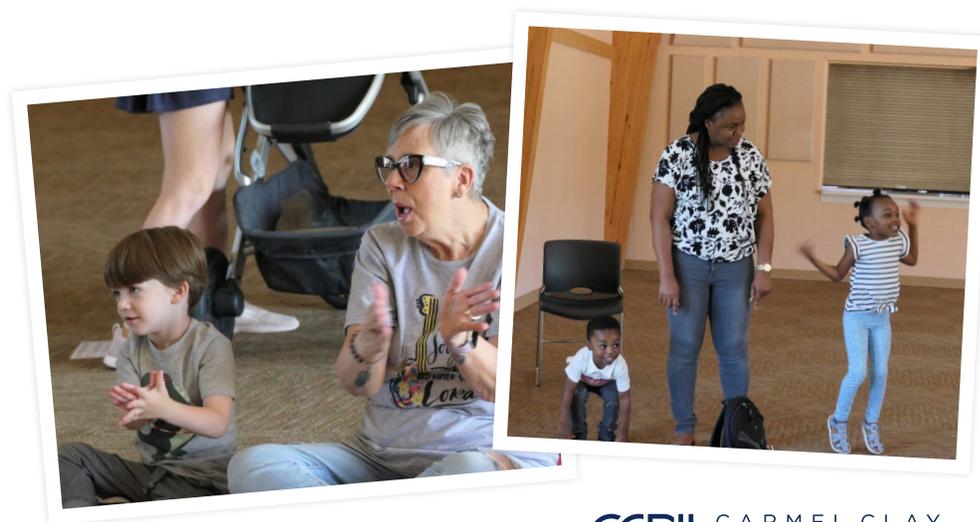
Singing helps children learn new words. Singing slows down language so children can hear the different sounds and the syllables in words. Singing is a fun bonding experience you can share with your child and helps develop listening and memory skills.

- **Talk and play with rhymes. Match rhyming pictures.**
- **Sing the Alphabet Song. Sing it fast, and then sing it slowly.**
- **Sing nursery rhymes.**
- **Read stories that rhyme, like *Silly Sally* by Audrey Wood.**
- **Check out music CDs or downloadable music from the library. Allow your child to listen to music in the car or at home.**
- **Clap out the syllables in words with your child. This will help your child understand how words are broken up into parts.**

Avoiding Poison

As you start cleaning your home in preparation for the holidays and guests, remember that young children are curious and may find everyday cleaning products attractive. Here are some tips to avoid accidental poisoning.

- Keep chemical products in their original bottles or containers. Do not use food containers such as cups, bottles, or jars to store chemical products like cleaning solutions or beauty products.
- Never mix household products together.
- Turn on the fan and open windows when using chemical products such as household cleaners.
- Post the poison control number, **1.800.222.1222**, near every home phone and save it in your cell phone. It is open 24 hours a day.



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NOVEMBER 2022

NOVEMBER 2022



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Make a pile of leaves and jump on them. Talk about how they feel, sound, and smell.	3	4 Add rice or beans to a container to make a shaker. Tap out the syllables in the names of family and friends.	5
6 Daylight Saving Time Ends Put a simple puzzle together.	7	8 Practice saying your phone number together.	9	10 Together, make up a story about turkeys, trumpets, and toast.	11 LIBRARY CLOSED Veterans Day	12 Put flour on a cookie sheet and use fingers to draw shapes and letters.
13	14 Create cards for friends. Talk about what good friends are like, emphasizing positive characteristics such as kindness and inclusiveness.	15	16 While playing together, pretend you are birds, bears, and bouncy balls.	17	18	19
20 Work together to make a Thanksgiving card for someone special.	21	22	23 LIBRARY CLOSING @ 5:00 p.m.	24 LIBRARY CLOSED Thanksgiving At dinner tonight, talk about things you're thankful for.	25 LIBRARY CLOSED	26 Celebrate Saturday by turning on some music. Clap, stomp, and sway to the beat.
27	28 While baking, explain the recipe directions and let your child help.	29	30 Winter is almost here. Sing seasonal songs today.			



Decorate Safely

Decorating is a fun way to get in a holiday mood. Follow these safe decorating tips from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Keep potentially poisonous plants—mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry, amaryllis—away from children.
- Avoid placing breakable ornaments or ones with small, detachable parts low where small children can reach them.
- Only use indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outdoors, and choose the right ladder for the task when hanging lights.
- Replace light sets that have broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections.
- Turn off all lights and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Instead of using real candles, use flameless candles near flammable objects.



BOOKS

I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!
JE Beaumont, Karen

The Day the Crayons Quit
JE Daywalt, Drew

Blue Chicken
JE Freedman, Deborah

Niko Draws a Feeling
JE Raczka, Bob

Lines That Wiggle
JE Whitman, Candace

ART

Scribbling and drawing are forms of writing, an important early literacy skill. Scribbling and drawing help children develop the eye-hand coordination and fine motor control they need to hold a pencil.

- **Play with clay or play dough.**
- **Crinkle up newspaper to help strengthen finger muscles.**
- **Finger paint together.**
- **Put sticky foamy shapes on a rolling pin and roll in paint and then on paper.**



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DECEMBER 2022

DECEMBER 2022



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Countdown! Count backwards from 10 and 20.	3
4	5 Make snowflakes. Talk about how each one is different and count them.	6	7 Read a winter story together. Ask, "What was your favorite part?"	8	9 Sing a favorite holiday song together. Clap to the beat of the music.	10
11 Have your child practice writing his first name.	12	13 Read a book about emotions, such as <i>The Feelings Book</i> by Todd Parr. Talk about a time when you were happy, sad, angry, etc.	14	15 WINTER READING PROGRAM BEGINS	16 Follow a recipe to make a simple gingerbread house or cookies together.	17 Play a board game like Candy Land as a family.
18	19 Make thank- you cards.	20	21 Winter Begins	22 Point to the words as you read your child a story today.	23	24 LIBRARY CLOSED Christmas Eve
25 LIBRARY CLOSED Christmas	26 Check out a book about New Year's to read together.	27	28 Using the cards made last week, help your child write a thank-you note to someone special.	29	30 Play I Spy as you run errands today.	31 LIBRARY CLOSED New Year's Eve

Kids and Germs

Kids naturally explore things with their hands and mouths. Germs typically inhabit areas common to kids, including pets, yards, floors, and places such as door handles, grocery stores, playgrounds, and water fountains. Once in contact with germs, it may only be a matter of time before an infection starts.

The best line of defense is to wash those hands! Teach kids to use warm water and soap and to work up a good, soapy lather. Scrub the tops and backs of hands for 20 seconds, and don't forget to scrub in between fingers. Then rinse and dry well.

Hand washing keeps everyone safe from common colds and even more serious infections. Everyone should wash their hands before handling food and after using the bathroom or touching their mouth or nose areas.

WRITING AND READING

Writing and reading go together. Both are ways to represent spoken words and ways to communicate information. As children write, they become aware that the printed letters and words have meaning.

- Trace letters in sand, rice, or flour.
- Write the alphabet on lined paper with a yellow highlighter. Encourage your child to trace the letters with a pencil.
- Encourage your child to write the letters in her name. This is the most meaningful printed word for a child.
- Have your child sign his name on his drawings. Write captions for his drawings.
- Create a grocery list together. Decide what to make for dinner.



BOOKS

Chicken Story Time

JE Asher, Sandy

It Came in the Mail

JE Clanton, Ben

Give Me Back My Book

JE Foster, Travis

Perfect Square

JE Hall, Michael

Little Red Writing

JE Holub, Joan



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JANUARY 2023

JANUARY 2023



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>LIBRARY CLOSED</p> <p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Play I Spy by describing things in your home.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Talk about words that are made up of 2 words (snowman, snowplow, snowfall, snowball).</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>With your child, cut out pictures of food and paste them on sheets of paper to make a menu. Have your child "read" the menu.</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Help your child write a letter to a grandparent or friend.</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Encourage your child to use a picture book to tell a story in his own words.</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Fill a baking sheet with rice or salt. Help your child trace the letters of her name with her fingers.</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Check out books to explore a topic your child is interested in together.</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>LIBRARY CLOSED</p> <p>16</p> <p>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Count how many books are in your child's room.</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Clap and stomp to songs and nursery rhymes together.</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>Chinese New Year</p> <p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Using play dough, help your child mold the letters of his first name.</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Visit the library together to check out magazines of interest to your child.</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Choose a letter of the day. Look for that letter where ever you go.</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>WINTER READING PROGRAM ENDS</p> <p>31</p>				

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT (TALKING)

Children learn about language by listening to parents and caregivers talk and by joining in conversation. Talking to your child about many different events, ideas, and stories helps them develop the general knowledge they need to understand the content of what they will read in books when they are older.

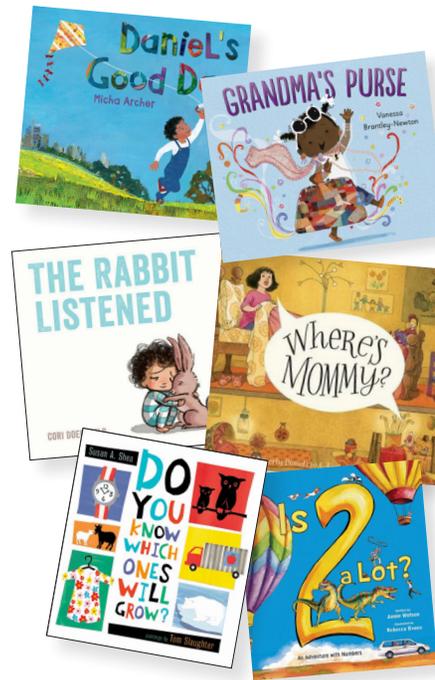
- When you read with your child, ask questions about what will happen next. This helps your child develop language and vocabulary skills.
- Play games like “I Spy” (one person describes what is seen and the other person has to guess what it is). This game requires descriptive vocabulary, visual, and listening skills.
- Introduce new words to your child. Good readers have a large vocabulary.

911 Emergency

Having a child who knows the difference between an emergency and a non-emergency and how to call 911 could make all the difference in the world. Most areas now have enhanced 911, which enables a trace on where the call originated. If unavailable, children should know:

- How to use a cell phone or call from a landline
- Where they are calling from (address, name of the building, or nearby landmarks)
- What type of emergency it is
- Who needs help
- If someone is awake and/or breathing.

They may be frightened, but it is important to teach your child to be calm, speak slowly and clearly to the operator, and to stay on the line until told to hang up. If old enough to understand, the operator may also give first aid instructions until EMS personnel arrive on the scene.



BOOKS

Daniel's Good Day

JE Archer, Micha

Grandma's Purse

JE Brantley-Newton, Vanessa

The Rabbit Listened

JE Doerrfeld, Cori

Parent/Teacher 155.41

Doerrfeld, Cori

Where's Mommy?

JE Donofrio, Beverly

Do You Know Which Ones Will Grow?

JE Shea, Susan A.

Is 2 a Lot?

JE Watson, Annie



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FEBRUARY 2023

FEBRUARY 2023



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 See how many foods you can think of that begin with the letter P.	2	3 At bedtime, ask, "What was the best and worst part of your day?"	4
5 Play with blocks today. Count them, stack them, and make color patterns.	6	7 Play "I love you more than..."	8	9 Help your child make a Valentine's Day card for someone special.	10	11
12	13	Valentine's Day 14	15 Scavenger Hunt! Look around the house for everything red.	16	17 Read a story to your child and then let her retell it to you by "reading" the pictures.	18
19 Help your child practice holding a pencil and writing his name, but keep it fun!	20	21 Ask your child to draw a picture of his favorite book character.	22	23 Ask, "How many words can you think of that start with the same letter as your first name?"	24	25
26	27 Play some loud, lively music that allows for stomping, jumping, marching, and moving.	28				

PLAYING

Playing is a child's work. It is through play and exploration that children learn the most about the world around them. It helps children practice putting their thoughts into words, which develops language skills.

- Put sturdy books in the toy box so your child can find them while looking for toys to play with.
- Play fun games: Put 3–5 items on a tray and ask your child to look at the objects. Then cover them. Ask what was there.
- Play school. Encourage your child to play the role of the teacher. This will help erase fears about starting school, while also providing an opportunity for learning.
- Bowling fun: Make a bowling alley for your child using empty plastic 2-liter bottles and a small ball.



BOOKS

Unplugged
JE Antony, Steve

Box
JE Flyte, Min

Who Has Wiggle-Waggle Toes?
JE Shiefman, Vicky

How to Two
Concept JE Soman, David

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Adjusting to Daylight Saving Time

Springing ahead with Daylight Saving Time can make anyone groggy. Here's how you can help little ones adjust easier.

- **Take baby steps.** Gradually adjust the bedtime schedule either in the spring or fall.
- **Control the lighting.** Dim the lights in your house, close the shades, and turn off electronics 30 minutes to an hour prior to bed. This will help the body's internal circadian clock to adjust properly.
- **Stick with a routine.** Young children are dependent upon schedules—especially sleep schedules.
- **There's an app for that.** Use apps that control the length of time a child can use a device. Schedule devices to be shut off when it is time to start getting ready for bed.
- **Be patient.** Change is hard, especially on youngsters. It is normal for children to throw temper tantrums to show their displeasure or voice frustration when their schedule has been upset.
- **Keep them active.** Active play during the day helps children sleep better at night—and parents, too!

MARCH 2023

MARCH 2023



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 Start a word book. Write down favorite words and have him draw a picture for each word.	2	3 Sing a song! Check out a children's music CD and sing along.	4
5	6 At dinner tonight, ask your child to talk about his day.	7	8	9 Check out a rhyming book and read it, pointing out the rhyming words.	10	11 Rhyming contest! Start with simple words like bed and cat and see how many words you can rhyme.
12 Daylight Saving Time Begins Talk about the clock face & practice counting from 1-12.	13	14 Point out the letters at the beginning of words today. Talk about letters and their shapes.	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day Wear green today.	18
19 As you read a favorite story, stop and point out a word. Talk about what it means.	20 Spring Begins!	21	22	23 Make a simple grocery list with your child. At the store, match your list items with food labels.	24	25 Let your child read her word book today.
26 Think Green: Point out things today that start with the letter G.	27	28 As you read a story, have your child point out words or letters he recognizes.	29	30	31 Look for and name the different shapes of signs when you are in the car.	

Controlling Allergies

The weather, pollen, dust and dust mites, mold/mildew, foods, and pet dander are today's most common allergy triggers. Finding the causes of sneezing and wheezing in your child can be a challenge.

Here are steps you and your physician can take to identify the culprit:

- **Find the allergy trigger.** Record your child's surroundings, mood, foods eaten, time of year and how the symptoms made you feel.
- **Change your environment.** Keep pets out of certain areas, restrict your child's diet, stay indoors more often, or run the air conditioner to prevent allergies.
- **Ask about corticosteroid sprays.** These low-dose nasal prescriptions may be helpful in relieving symptoms with very few side effects.
- **Get the latest treatments.** Make sure your child's physician is well versed on the latest treatments for his or her symptoms.
- **Be persistent.** Ask for a referral to an ear, nose, throat specialist or an allergist if your family doctor is not able to properly diagnose.

WRITE ON!

Writing doesn't always have to be writing. It can be tracing in sand, playing with clay or play dough, or scribbling and drawing. Scribbling and drawing help children develop eye-hand coordination and fine motor control needed to hold a pencil. Writing is an important way to represent spoken words and communicate information.

- Make crayons and pencils available along with paper, and allow your child to practice making letters, drawing pictures, and making words.
- Give your child string and large beads, and let him practice stringing the beads. This will help your child to develop fine motor skills needed for writing.
- Write letters, cards, and notes to family members, and encourage your child to sign her name to cards that you give to loved ones.
- Allow your child to help with the grocery list by drawing pictures of a few items and/or checking items off the list as you purchase them.



BOOKS

The Thank You Letter
JE Cabrera, Jane

Can I Be Your Dog?
JE Cummings, Troy
YHBA JE Cummings, Troy

Little Plane Learns to Write
JE Savage, Stephen

A Quieter Story
JE Woodruff, Liza



APRIL 2023



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 Read a Froggy book by Jonathan London. Look for the word Froggy. Point it out and say it together.
2	3 Draw a spring picture and identify the beginning letter of each object in the picture.	4	5 Cut out pictures from old magazines. Describe each picture using as many words as you can.	6	7 Read <i>Chrysanthemum</i> by Kevin Henkes. Talk about different flower names.	8
9 Practice self-control. Play Red Light, Green Light together.	10	11 Help your child practice saying her phone number and birthday today.	12	13 Make up a story about what happens when it rains.	14	15 Allow your child to use sidewalk chalk to practice writing her name and the numbers 1-10.
Easter Sunday LIBRARY CLOSED	17	18	19 Visit the park. Push your child on the swing and take turns saying words that rhyme with cat.	20	21 At bedtime, let your child read to one of his favorite stuffed animals.	22
23	24	25 Choose a favorite story. Find props or costumes and act it out together.	26	27 Place several small objects in a paper bag. Take out an item and make up a story about it.	28	29
30						

FINE MOTOR SKILLS

Get Those Fingers Moving!

Developing fine motor skills is a critical step in preparing children for writing. Children starting kindergarten typically can hold a pencil between their thumb and forefinger, manipulate clay, and build a 10-cube tower.

Develop fine motor skills by offering your child opportunities to:

- Color, cut, and paste simple shapes or pictures.
- Put simple puzzles together.
- String large beads onto string or build Lego or block structures.
- Practice tracing simple shapes and writing letters and numbers.



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BOOKS

Dancing Feet

JE Craig, Lindsey

Nature Play at Home

Parent/Teacher 796.08 Striniste

Clap, Clap!

JE Matoso, Madalena

Paletero Man

JE Diaz, Lucky

Storm Safety

If a storm is coming or has begun, stay indoors. Lightning can travel through wires and pipes, so keep away from windows, wiring, and plumbing. Stay indoors for 30 minutes or more after you hear the last thunder.

If you are outside when a storm comes, go indoors. You are safest in an enclosed building.

If you can't get indoors:

- Get into a hardtop car, not an open vehicle. Close the windows.
- Avoid trees, tall objects, and anything metal, such as flagpoles, metal bleachers, golf clubs, tall light poles, etc.
- Avoid rivers, lakes, and swimming pools. If you are boating, head to shore.
- Avoid wide-open areas, including sports fields.

MAY 2023

MAY 2023



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Make a native necklace by pinching holes in leaves and lacing them onto string.	3	4 At the grocery store, walk through the produce area pointing out the names of specific fruits and vegetables.	5	6 Visit the library's website to have reading fun with TumbleBooks or BookFlix today.
7	8 Make a Mother's Day card for someone special.	9	10 Keep a calendar in your child's room. Write special events on it.	11	12 Sing the ABC song together. Look for letters everywhere.	13
Mother's Day 14	15	16 Check out a book to read at bedtime tonight.	17	18 Practice buttoning or zipping a jacket.	19	20 Let your child use seeds, beans, and glue to make art.
21 Keep paper, crayons, and pencils handy. Encourage your child to write & draw.	22	23	24 Check out an alphabet book. Point out the letters and say them together.	25	26 Roll play dough into "snakes." Use the snakes to form letters, numbers, and shapes.	27
LIBRARY CLOSED 28 Memorial Day Weekend	LIBRARY CLOSED 29 Memorial Day	30 Help your child practice saying her phone number, first name, and last name.	31			

NUMBERS, SHAPES, AND PATTERNS

Building Blocks to Early Literacy

Recognizing numbers, shapes, and patterns is a common math readiness expectation for young children. These skills also support early literacy development.

- Read counting and shape books together and look for numbers and shapes in your community.
- Play Simon Says using numbers (ex. take 2 steps or jump 3 times).
- Use toothpicks or string to make basic shapes (square, rectangle, triangle, circle).
- Look for patterns in clothing and everyday household objects.
- Use household objects to begin patterns for your child to copy (fork, spoon, fork, spoon...).



BOOKS

Stack the Cats
Concept JE Ghahremani, Susie

Pitter Pattern
JE Hesselberth, Joyce

Sam Sorts
JE Jocelyn, Marthe

*One Fox: A Counting
Book Thriller*
Concept JE Read, Kate

Round Is a Mooncake
Concept JE Thong, Roseanne

Sun Protection

Exposure to sunlight directly impacts future risk of melanoma. Beat the sun with these tips:

- **Apply sunscreen often.** Sunscreens with an SPF of 15 or more can reduce the intensity of UVRs that cause sunburn. Apply liberally 15 to 30 minutes before sun exposure so it can fully absorb into the skin.
- **Cover up.** Dress in protective clothing and hats, and keep babies younger than six months out of direct sunlight.
- **Plan activities early in the morning.** Try to avoid peak-sun hours (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) as much as possible.
- **Beware of the shade.** Shade can provide relief from the heat but does not prevent sunburn.

JUNE 2023



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				SUMMER READING PROGRAM BEGINS 1	2	3 Ask who, what, when, and where questions as you are reading your child a story today.
4	5 Read a repetitious story like <i>I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly</i> . Say the repeated parts together.	6	7 Sort plant seeds or dried beans into a muffin tin.	8	9 Check out a wordless picture book. Have your child use the pictures to tell you the story.	10
11 Use shaving cream to practice writing the numbers 1-10 & to draw circles, squares, & triangles.	12	13 Help your child practice saying her phone number and first and last name.	14	15 Have your child find the letter "D" as many times as he can today.	16	17 Make a Father's Day card for someone special.
Father's Day 18	19 Practice counting groups of things using items like spoons or towels.	20	Summer Begins 21 Work together to complete a simple large-piece puzzle.	22	23 Look for patterns everywhere today.	24
25 Let your child use a hole punch to make "lines" on pieces of paper. Then, using scissors, have her cut along those lines.	26	27 Use crayons or blocks to create a simple color pattern like blue, green, blue, green...	28	29 Check out a counting book. Read it together.	30	

LOOK OUT KINDERGARTEN, HERE I COME!

Children have mixed emotions about starting kindergarten. To ease their anxiety (and yours!), try the following activities to lay the groundwork for a great first day.

- Read stories together about starting kindergarten and discuss.
- Attend your school's Back to School event. Meet the teacher. Walk around finding important places like the office, lunchroom, playground, and your child's classroom.
- Purchase school supplies early and let your child role-play using them.
- Begin to practice going to bed earlier and getting up and getting ready for school.
- Help your child feel confident and independent. Encourage her to dress, put on shoes, wash hands, and take care of basic needs on her own.
- Review numbers important to your child, such as his birthday, phone number, and address.



BOOKS

Our Favorite Day of the Year

JE Ali, A.E.

King of Kindergarten

JE Barnes, Derrick

I'm Telling You, Dex, Kindergarten Rocks!

JE Davis, Katie

Kindergarten Countdown

JE Hays, Anna Jane

Clover Kitty Goes to Kittygarten

JE Salas, Laura

ABC Ready for School

Parent/Teacher 372.21 Delaney, Celeste

Fireworks Safety

A professionally organized fireworks show is the safest way to enjoy July 4th, but if you prefer to light up the sky yourself, follow these tips:

- Keep a bucket of water nearby.
- Use a clear, flat area away from houses, spectators and flammable materials.
- Wear closed-toed shoes.
- The person igniting the fireworks should wear safety glasses.
- Remember, sparklers can burn hotter than 1,000° F.
- Hold sparklers at arm's length, and don't run with or wave sparklers.
- Stand six feet away from others while using sparklers.
- Don't hold a child while holding a sparkler or lighting other fireworks.



CCPPL CARMEL CLAY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

JULY 2023

JULY 2023



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 Read books about going to kindergarten today and throughout the month.
2	3	4 LIBRARY CLOSED Independence Day Happy 4th of July! Talk about the reason for the holiday.	5 Make silly puppets using paper bags or old socks and act out a familiar story.	6	7 Talk about going to school. Keep school supplies handy and play school with your child.	8
9 Have your child use Scrabble or magnetic letters to spell his name and other familiar words.	10	11 Encourage your child to sign her artwork as a fun way to practice writing her name.	12	13 Together, clap the syllables (beats) to your child's name. Try the names of other family members, too.	14	15 Have fun with jump rope rhymes today. If you need ideas, check out a book featuring these rhymes.
16	17 Practice opening lunch items such as, yogurt pouches, juice boxes, string cheese, applesauce, etc.	18	19 Practice self-control. While you blow bubbles, have your child alternate between popping them all and watching them float to the ground.	20	21 When reading together, stop before the end and ask, "What do you think is going to happen?"	22
23	24	25 Help your child put together a small scrapbook from a recent trip. Talk about the trip.	26	27 Practice following directions and taking turns. Play games like Concentration & Simon Says together.	28	29 Sing and act out songs such as <i>Itsy Bitsy Spider</i> and <i>Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star</i> today.
30 Mail your child a letter telling him how special he is.	31 SUMMER READING PROGRAM ENDS					