

## ENRICHMENT/SKILL BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Here are some activities and ideas that you can use to help your child get ready for Kindergarten. These activities will give your child a “jump start” for subjects that he/she will be introduced to in Kindergarten. These ideas can be utilized at home throughout the year.

### Small/Large Motor Skills

- Help your child cut out all of the flash cards on the lines.
- Draw a straight line on a newspaper or any scratch paper and have your child cut the paper in half.
- Follow your child’s lead. Ask them what they would like to trace and try cutting.
- Encourage your child to color a picture of anything they want in his/her journal. Have them tell you about the drawing.
- Have your child knead clay, squeeze clay and relax their hands a moment.
- Have child roll ball of clay.
- Have your child roll snakes of clay and create their name using the clay snakes or letter of the alphabet.
- After reading a story together, have your child make something that was in the story, a favorite character or object.
- Print your child’s name on a piece of cardboard. Help him/her glue yarn, beans or pasta over the letters. Add other decorations.
- Practice walking, running, jumping, and crawling as you play “Follow the Leader” with your child. Be sure to take turns being the leader.
- Practice bouncing a ball back and forth to each other. How many times can you bounce it?

### Language Arts

- Go to the library and explore the children’s book section with your child. Get a library card and check out a book.
- Take a “walk” through your library book. Have your child describe what he/she believes is happening in the pictures.
- Read a new book from the library together. Stop before the end and ask your child to predict what will happen next.
- Put the lowercase letters in order. Touch each letter and say the name. Sing the alphabet song together, pointing to each letter as you sing.

- Practice the lowercase and uppercase letters daily. When your child is ready, mix them up and see if they can name them.
- Put the uppercase letters in order. Touch each letter and say the name. Sing the alphabet song together, pointing to each letter as you sing.
- Put alphabet cards into a bag. Have your child pull them out one at a time, and help him/her name each one.
- Read the activity book Chicka Chicka Boom Boom together. Look through the book again and see if your child can locate the letters in his/her name.
- Read to your child daily. Make reading a book together a warm and loving experience. Let your child open the book and turn the pages. Discuss and teach your child the parts of a book: front cover, back cover, title, author, illustrator, title page, where we start to read and where we go next when finished with a sentence.
- In your home environment and while traveling, point out and read newspapers, magazines, signs, labels, maps, etc.
- After reading a book together, ask your child what part they liked best. Have him/her draw a picture in his/her journal.
- Read a book together. Invite your child to draw a picture of their favorite character in his/her journal.
- Using the color cards, review the colors with your child. Have him/her point to something that is read when you say "red". Continue this activity with the other colors.
- Help your child think of things that are orange. Encourage him/her to draw a picture of something orange in his/her journal. Continue with the other colors.
- Help your child cut out pictures from magazines and glue them on construction paper. Have your child make up a story using the pictures.
- Have your child dictate a letter to you for his/her teacher. What is he/she looking forward to? Does he/she have any concerns?
- Have your child point to his/her head, arm, leg, nose, mouth, neck, ears, and so on as you say the name of each body part.
- Teach your child a song that you remember from your own childhood. Sing it together and add hand motions.
- Tell your child about your own school experience. Which activities did you enjoy most? Ask your child to imagine that he/she is

already at school. Have him/her draw a picture of himself. What is he/she doing? What does he/she like best?

- Have your child copy his/her name, from the name card printed by the teacher at registration, in his/her journal. Guide them in the proper formation of each letter. Have him/her draw a picture of himself/herself above their name.
- Have your child draw a picture of your home. Help him write his/her full address below the picture.
- Invite your child to draw a picture of his/her family in the journal. Help him write the names of each family member below their picture.
- How will your child get to school each day? Have your child draw a picture showing himself/herself going to school in his/her journal.

### **Math**

- Using the number flash cards, practice identifying numbers 0-10. When your child is ready, practice numbers 11-25.
- Mix up the numbers and name them.
- Lay out of the cards, pictures facing up. Match each picture with another picture that shows that same number of items. Name the objects and count how many.
- Count the number of crayons in the box. Write numbers one through eight in his/her journal using a different color for each number.
- Walk around your home together and count all of the pillows you can find.
- Invite your child to help you to fold laundry. Have him/her count the socks and encourage them to sort them into pairs. How many pairs are there?
- Have your child count all of the spoons in your home. The, count all of the forks. Which are there more of?
- Invite your child to help you with the groceries. Have him/her sort them into groups, such as cans, boxes, and bags before putting them away.
- Walk across the kitchen, counting each step. Measure another room the same way. Which room is smaller?
- Count all of the chairs in your home together. How many chairs are there? Which one is biggest? Which one is the smallest?

- Bake cookies with your child following the instructions together. Count the cookies when they are done.
- Open a small bag of fruit candies and sort them by color. Count all of the candies one color at a time and then eat them.
- Challenge your child to count as high as he/she can.
- Pour a handful of dried pasta or beans into a dish. Guess how many there are, write the guesses in the journal, and then count them.
- Using the shape flash cards, practice identifying the shapes.
- Ask your child to color the circle red, the square green, the triangle yellow, and the rectangle blue.
- Have your child write their name with all the colors – Rainbow Writing.

### **Life Skills**

- Practice good manners together. Say “please” and “thank you” to each other during the day.
- Make sure your child knows how to dress himself/herself. Have him/her practice tying shoes and using zippers and buttons.
- Teach your child his full name, address and phone number.
- Play a game with your child that involves taking turns, such as a board game or a simple card game.
- Invite your child to choose what he/she will wear on the first day of school.
- Visit the school together and walk around. Find your child’s classroom and playground.

### **Other Important Tips:**

- \* Please see that your child is in school daily to establish a pattern of good attendance. Excessive absences can create gaps in learning. Many of the lessons build upon each other and are impossible to make up at home.
- \* Find out what day school starts and mark it on your calendar.
- \* Label the insides of your child's jacket, boots, and mittens and other personal belongings with his or her name.
- \* Adjust your child's napping and sleeping schedule to match the school's schedule so he or she will be well rested and alert.