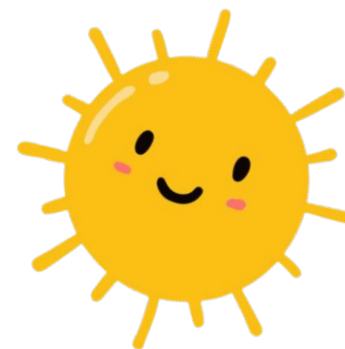


Preschool Summer Activities



Language & Literacy

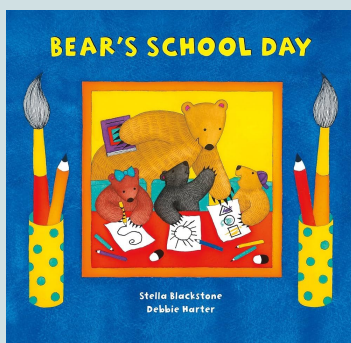
Describing Art

After your child creates a work of art, encourage them to examine their artwork and describe it. You can ask questions, such as, *I see you used lots of red. Can you tell me about your drawing?* or *In your drawing, I see someone walking on the sidewalk. Where is that person going? What will she do when she gets there?*

Offer pencils or crayons for your child to write about their artwork or record their dictation on the bottom or back of the page.

Accepting any marks your child makes encourages them to feel proud of their emerging writing skills

Read Aloud



SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

Young children thrive and feel more secure when they can anticipate the events that take place before and after a school day. Before your child starts kindergarten, talk with him about how he will get to school and the exact location where he will be picked up. When your child is familiar with the schedule and daily routines, he gains a sense of comfort and control.

123 Math

Putting Puzzles Together

Offer your child an empty food box from cereal, crackers, etc. Ask, *How can we use this box to make a puzzle?* Yes, we can cut the front part into puzzle pieces.

Explain that it is safer for an adult to cut through thick paper, but invite your child to draw the cut lines to create the puzzle pieces. Help him keep the number of pieces to ten or fewer.

Once you've cut the puzzle pieces, encourage your child to describe each piece he chooses. *You showed me the part of puzzle with the bunny's ear. Can you look on the puzzle for more of the bunny's body? That might give us a clue about where the piece goes.*

Mighty Minute: High in a Tree

1. **Say the fingerplay and create motions to go along with the words.**
[Five] [fuzzy peaches], hanging in a tree
Let's pick a few for you and pick a few for me.
Along came [Justin], [he] was up to no good,
[He] shook that tree as hard as [he] could
Then ate [three] peaches,
Mmm-mmm good.
2. **Invite your child to join you in the fingerplay as you think of new words together to use in the rhyme.**

Preschool Summer Activities



Modeled Moments

I Remember When...

Talk about times when your child was excited or nervous about going somewhere new or meeting new people. Ask: *How did you feel before you met your preschool teacher? What made you feel more comfortable? What do you think we should do first when we meet someone? What words and facial expressions should we use?*

Why It's Important

Remembering and retelling is one of the most powerful ways to build your child's literacy skills. By remembering the past, you are helping your child build the skill of using the brain to recall images and details. As you talk about those details, you are reinforcing existing vocabulary and adding new words. By putting the details into the form of a story, you are helping your child think about which details are the most important and most interesting. This process is a necessary skill for being a great reader and writer. Besides all of these academic reasons, remembering and retelling builds your child's understanding of who he or she is and an awareness of the many people who are available to provide love and support.

Not Ready Yet

Young children are still developing an understanding of time and place. Start by remembering an event that happened yesterday. See how many details your child can remember. Then, invite your child to think about an event that happened in the more distant past. Your child will gradually learn to bring to mind the details of a memory and enjoy remembering with you!

Need a Challenge

Make up a contest to see who can remember the most unique memories. You, as a family member, probably have the advantage in this game, but your child will still enjoy hearing and remembering so many childhood stories.

Journal/Talk

Ask your child to describe an early memory. Then, write it down and invite your child to draw a picture to illustrate what that memory looks like.

Book Recommendations

"Mango Memories" by Sita Singh

"Everything But the Horse: A Childhood Memory" by Holly Hobbie

Extend the Learning

Look for simple ways for your child to share memories with others. For example, if you are running errands and bump into a friend who asks what you have been up to, invite your child to answer. This gives your child excellent practice in thinking about the most important details to share and how to string them together to tell a story that makes sense.

Race Car Transformations

Grab a toy car and discover ways to change its position. Can you flip it? Slide it? Turn it? Play a game where one person closes their eyes while the other person changes the car's position. Open your eyes! Can the second player use the words "flip," "slide," or "turn" to describe what happened to the car?

Why It's Important

Your child is learning about geometry and spatial reasoning by using words such as flip, slide, and turn.

Not Ready Yet

Model the flip, slide, and turn at a park. Slide down the slide, flip on the monkey bars, and turn on a tire swing!

Need a Challenge

While playing the game, move the car two ways (such as flip the car and then turn it), and have the child guess which two transitions the car made.

Journal/Talk

Talk about the kind of car you'd like to design and build. What would it look like? Draw a picture of it together.

Book Recommendations

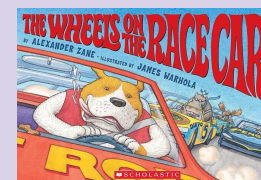
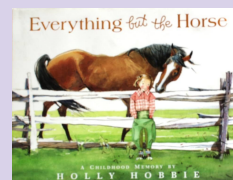
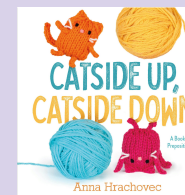
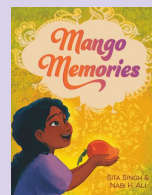
"Catside Up, Catside Down: A Book of Prepositions" by Anna Hrachovec

"The Wheels on the Racecar" by Alexander Zane

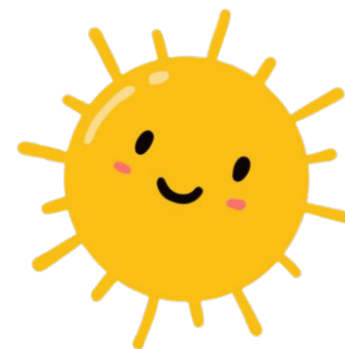
Extend the Learning

Close your eyes while the child flips, turns, or slides the car. Open your eyes and guess which transition the child chose.

Book Recommendations



Preschool Summer Activities



Language & Literacy

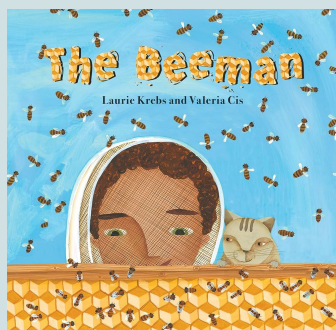
Reading Nonfiction Books

Show your child a nonfiction book. Explain that nonfiction books share facts and describe actual events.

Invite your child to listen as you read a section from the nonfiction book.

When you finish reading the book or part of the book, ask your child to recount any interesting details that she learned. *So, what did this book tell us about how bees communicate? That's right, they do a special dance to talk to other bees. What else did you learn about bees?*

Read Aloud



SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

There may be times when your child will not be interested in an activity you planned. It's important to remember that this is okay! You can simply set up the materials and wait for your child to become interested, or you can put the materials away and ask your child to explore them at a different time. If this behavior occurs often, consider offering your child two or more options so he can choose his activity. For example, you might say:

I have these blocks for you to build with or this game, where we can toss a ball to each other. Which one would you like to choose?

123 Math

Action Patterns

Show your child a simple action pattern, such as clap, stomp, clap, stomp. Invite them to join you as you continue the pattern.

Repeat with a new pattern such as jump, touch your toes, jump, touch your toes.

Invite your child to create an action pattern for you to do together.

Mighty Minute: What Comes Next?

1. **Show your child a simple pattern made of colored blocks or small pieces of colored construction paper**, e.g., red, green; red, green or red, blue, green; red, blue, green.
2. **Invite your child to identify the colors in the pattern. Ask**, "What color comes next in our pattern?"
3. **Ask your child to add the correct color to continue the pattern.**
4. **Create different patterns for your child to add to.**

Preschool Summer Activities



Modeled Moments

Pantry Sort 2

Have intentional conversation as you look for boxes around your home. Use this time to label the shapes of the boxes (rectangular prisms, cubes, cylinders, etc.), and their attributes (vertices, edges). As you look at each box, ask: *What do you notice about this box? How is the box similar to the others? How is it different?*

Why It's Important

Introducing words such as "vertex," "sides," and "faces" will prepare your child for geometry.

Not Ready Yet

Words like "rectangular prism" and "cube" may be too difficult right now for your child. Instead, just talk about the attributes of the shapes. For example, you can count the number of sides and point out that each side is a rectangle.

Need a Challenge

After the activity, ask your child to find other rectangular prisms (boxes) and cubes in your home.

Journal/Talk

Ask your child, "Why do you think the companies that package the food prefer to store the food in cylinders (cans or jars) and rectangular prisms (boxes) rather than cones or pyramids?"

Book Recommendations

"Mouse Shapes" by Ellen Walsh

"3-D Shapes" by Marina Cohen

Extend the Learning

Introduce two additional three-dimensional shapes: sphere and cone. Challenge your child to find items around your home in those shapes. (Examples of spheres: orange, baseball, golf ball, etc. Examples of cones: ice cream cone, birthday hat, etc.)

Predicting Vocabulary

Before reading a new book, look at the pictures and introduce just a few important words that may be unfamiliar to your child.

Why It's Important

Selecting a few key words to introduce while reading a book will help your child retain those new meanings and grow new vocabulary each day.

Not Ready Yet

Point out different items in the book and have your child practice saying the words with you. This will build vocabulary and encourage your child to make new connections while reading.

Need a Challenge

Challenge your child to predict what is going to happen in the story. Use the term "predict" and remind your child that to predict means to say what you think is going to happen.

Journal/Talk

Keep an ongoing list of some new words your child is learning in a journal. Revisit the list on occasion to talk about the words and what they mean. Try to incorporate these words in your family conversations, and don't be surprised when you hear your child use them in conversation too!

Book Recommendations

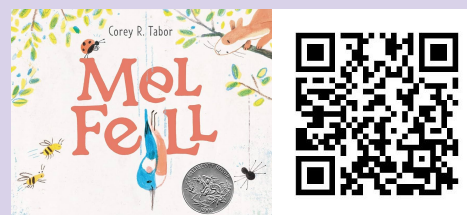
"Mel Fell" by Corey R. Tabor

"The Three Bears" by F. Rojankovsky

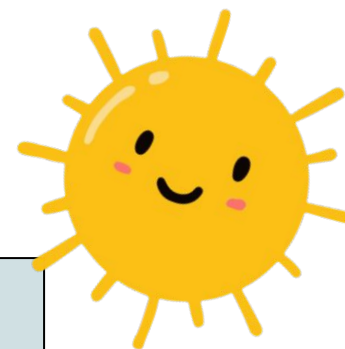
Extend the Learning

Use the book cover as an opportunity to stimulate interest in the book and to allow the child to predict possible events in the story. As you read together, talk about whether or not the predictions were actually accurate.

Book Recommendations



Preschool Summer Activities

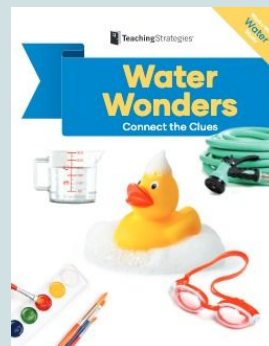


Language & Literacy

Listen to Letter Sounds

1. **Sing the following to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb."**
Listen to my letter sound,
letter sound, letter sound.
Listen to my letter sound.
It sounds like [/p/, /p/, /p/].
What words start with the [/p/] sound,
the [/p/] sound, the [/p/] sound?
What words start with the [/p/] sound?
Let's shout out a few words.
2. **Encourage your child to shout out words that begin with the [/p/] sound, offering support as needed.**

Read Aloud



Mighty Minute: Benny Bear

1. **Write the following rhyme on a sheet of paper and read it aloud.**
Benny Bear always knows
Which way big, brown bears should go.
He's bound to [bounce] right by the bees,
And move between the big birch trees.
How will Benny Bear move next?
2. **Read the rhyme again, and invite your child to notice all the words that start with the /b/ sound. Underline all of the B words on the paper.**
3. **Recite the rhyme again, encouraging your child to bounce as you say the rhyme.**

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

When your child makes comparisons between water play containers, she is developing important math skills. She is learning about the ideas of more and less, bigger and smaller, and even volume.

123 Math

Ice Cubes

Explain that scientists observe or watch carefully to make discoveries. Tell your child that they will practice observing ice cubes.

Place one ice cube on a paper towel and ask your child to describe what they see. *What can you tell me about the ice? What does it feel like? What will happen if we leave this ice on the table? What will happen if we put it back in the freezer?*

Write your child's comments on paper.

Ask your child how the ice can be measured as it melts. You might say, *Every few minutes, we can measure the size of the water spot on the paper towel or Let's put the ice cube in a measuring cup and measure the amount of water as it melts or What if we set a timer to see how long it takes the ice cube to melt?*

Put ice cubes in warmer parts of your home, like on a sunny windowsill, to see if they melt faster or slower than the ice on the table. Help your child to record the measurements and explain that they are collecting data or facts!

Preschool Summer Activities



Modeled Moments

Paint Your Name

Write your child's name on a piece of construction paper. Then have your child "paint" the letters using their pointer finger and water. This activity is an easy way to use water for fine-motor play. Encourage your child to try out new ways to draw with the water. Ask: *How much water will you need to make that letter? What do you think will happen if we put the paper out in the sun after it's wet?*

Why It's Important

The muscles in your child's hands and fingers are still growing. They have not developed enough strength or coordination to write legibly with a pencil or cut accurately with scissors yet. These are both considered fine motor skills. As your child practices controlling the muscle groups in the hand needed for tracing, those fine motor skills will improve.

Not Ready Yet

Have your child use a large marker or highlighter to trace the letters. Help your child by guiding the marker along the lines of the letters.

Need a Challenge

Give your child a sheet of stickers to peel and stick on the letters. You may need to help get each sticker started, but make sure to leave the peeling and sticking part to your child.

Journal/Talk

Spell out your child's name, pointing to each letter and naming it. Have your child repeat the names of the letters with you. You can even turn it into a little song that you and your child can sing using the BINGO tune. Here's an example, "There is a boy who can spell his name, and Evan is his name-o. E-V-A-N, E-V-A-N, E-V-A-N and Evan is his name-o."

Book Recommendations

"Bathe The Cat" by Alice B. McGinty
"Jane Foster's ABC" by Little Bee Books

Extend the Learning

Using playdough, teach your child to roll and shape letters. Focus on giving your child lots of time to work with the playdough. It's okay if the letters don't turn out perfectly!

Shaving Cream Shapes

Spread some shaving cream on a flat surface. Invite your child to use a finger to draw a house. Begin by making a square with four equal sides. Add a triangle for the roof. *What shapes should you add for the doors and windows?*

Why It's Important

Creating shapes allows your child to apply knowledge about their attributes, such as how many sides a triangle has.

Not Ready Yet

Help create each shape, drawing the shape in the shaving cream with your hand over the child's finger.

Need a Challenge

Give the child directions such as: "Connect a square with a triangle. Place a rectangle inside the square. Add a circle outside of the square." Comparing pictures will be fun as the position of each shape will be interpreted differently for each child.

Journal/Talk

Ask your child, "If you were going to build a house made out of shapes, what shapes do you think you would use the most?"

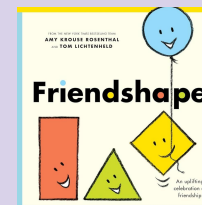
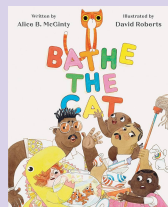
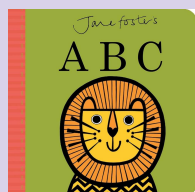
Book Recommendations

"Friendshape" by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
"Color Zoo" by Lois Ehlert

Extend the Learning

Allow the child to experiment with creating a shape picture! You can give a few simple rules such as: "Your picture needs to include two squares, three circles, two rectangles, four triangles, etc."

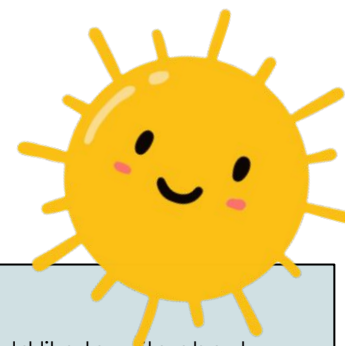
Book Recommendations



Preschool Summer Activities



Language & Literacy



Bookmaking

Provide your child with materials such as paper and crayons or markers. Explain that they will create a book. Ask your child what they would like to write about. Ask your child to draw an illustration for their book. If appropriate, invite your child to write the words of their story or support them by writing down their story as they share it. *I see that you have drawn a picture of your friends at school. What would you like me to write about them?* When finished, invite your child to illustrate a book cover onto card stock or a piece of cardboard. *Tristan, have you thought about a name for your book? We can write the title on the front with your name.* Assist in helping your child assemble the book by stapling or folding the ends of the pages together. Keep the finished book in an area where you and your child can read it together.

Read Aloud



SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

Provide opportunities for your child to observe others solving problems and working together. For example, if your inclined plane is not steady, model using different materials or setting it up in a new way to help make it more stable. Ask your child to contribute ideas for how to solve the problem.

123 Math

Tallying

With your child, gather paper and pencils or crayons. Explain that tallying is a way to count and keep track of information. Talk about how to tally to keep track of scores in games. *When you and your brother play balloon toss, you can keep track of your scores with tally marks.*

Invite your child to practice making and counting tally marks. Show them how to make tally marks that represent the number five. *Now when you look at this group, you'll know that four straight lines with a line across them means five.*

Mighty Minute: Kittens & Mittens

1. **Read the poem "Three Little Kittens."**
Three little kittens lost [six] mittens,
And they began to cry,
"Oh, mother dear, we sadly fear,
Our mittens we have lost."
"You lost [six] mittens, you silly kittens!
Then you shall have no pie."
"Meow, meow, meow, meow."
"[Six] mittens you must find."
2. **After reading the poem, count how many mittens the kittens lost using real mittens or mittens drawn on index cards.** "The kittens lost six mittens! Let's count six mittens together."
3. **Repeat the poem using a different number for your child to count.**

Preschool Summer Activities



Modeled Moments

Ramp Car Racing

Inclined planes are easy to make! You can use anything with a flat surface to make one. Talk with your child about how we use inclined planes to make jobs easier to do. Ask: *What else do we use inclined planes for? How would we move things if we didn't have inclined planes to help us?*

Why It's Important

Creating ramps is a natural way to practice engineering skills. Is the ramp stable? What happens when you make changes? Do the cars go as far as your child predicts? Thinking about these kinds of questions encourages children to investigate the world around them.

Not Ready Yet

Help your children use their legs as a ramp. Do their cars go further when they raise or lower their legs?

Need a Challenge

Let your child use other items in your home to build more ramps. Cookie sheets, boxes, blocks, and cushions make great ramp materials. Encourage children to experiment with height, angles, and rolling various objects down their ramps.

Journal/Talk

Draw a picture of a ramp you could build together. What does it look like? What is it made from?

Book Recommendations

"Boxitects" by Kim Smith

"Iggy Peck, Architect" by Andrea Beaty

Extend the Learning

Encourage your child to use found objects in the home to build more complicated structures like mazes and buildings. Use your phone to investigate building a "Rube Goldberg Simple Machine" together.

Words on the Page

As you read with your child, point to important parts of books such as the title, spaces between words, and where the words begin and end.

Why It's Important

Children become readers by acting like readers as they watch and copy the adult readers in their lives.

Not Ready Yet

Young children begin to build their basic concepts about print as they watch how adults handle books. For this reason, it is important to give your child lots of experiences enjoying books with you.

Need a Challenge

Encourage your child to chime in and chorally read part of the book with you, particularly the parts that rhyme. Your child can echo or repeat what you read, and there may be a split second behind you in pronouncing the words.

Journal/Talk

On a piece of paper or in your journal, write a short message to your child without leaving any spaces between the words. For example, "IloveyousomuchandIamsoglادتobeyourDad." See if your child can recognize any of the words. Don't be alarmed if it is impossible! That is the point! Rewrite your message leaving spaces between the words and then see if your child can find some familiar words. Those little spaces between words help the reader better understand the message the author wrote!

Book Recommendations

"The Little Blue Bridge" by Brenda Maier

"The Three Billy Goats Gruff" by Janet Stevens

Extend the Learning

Read several versions of the same folktale written by different authors. Look at some of the important parts of the book such as the title, author, spaces between words, etc. How are the books the same and how are they different?

Book Recommendations

