Play & Learn

This section includes a full color version of the “Play & Learn” resource.

This edition is perfect to email to the families of incoming students!
Dear Families,

This resource is **packed full** of meaningful, fun activities that are centered around **play**! These activities are all designed to help children spend the summer getting ready for kindergarten while playing and having fun! Here is what’s included:

- **Monthly Calendars** - Each calendar includes a simple, suggested activity for your child to enjoy that day. These activities are all the “little things” that will ensure your child is ready for kindergarten— and has fun this summer!

- **“Word Games” Section** - This section includes several word games to play with your child this summer. The games focus on phonemic awareness, phonics, following directions and listening skills. They were designed to help prepare children for kindergarten reading activities. These games do not require any materials or prep!

- **“Play & Learn” Activities for Each Subject** - A page of simple, fun learning activities are provided for Math, Science, Reading, Fine Motor/Writing, & Social Skills

- **Online Resources** - Two pages of online resources are included. These pages include links to online learning games, storytelling sites and videos & songs that reinforce basic skills and learning concepts.

- **Learning Resources** - The final section of this packet includes some “extra” learning tools that you may find useful as you and your child prepare for kindergarten. This section includes: alphabet cards, numeral cards, shape cards & 10 frames. These can be used as posters, coloring sheets, flash cards or game pieces. (For example, two sets could be printed to play a game of “Memory”.)

I hope these activities help your and your child focus on having fun together during this special summer before kindergarten! By playing with your child in a meaningful way you are helping to nurture the natural curiosity & enthusiasm that will begin instilling a lifelong love of learning!

© 2017 Sunny and Bright in First Grade
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Find three things in your house that are round.</td>
<td>Practice writing your name.</td>
<td>Read a story with a family member.</td>
<td>Build a tower using blocks. Count how many blocks tall you can make your tower.</td>
<td>Play “Say it Fast” (from the game list) with a family member.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go outside and look for 3 living things.</td>
<td>Practice bouncing a ball. How many times can you bounce it without ≠≠=</td>
<td>Draw a picture of your family.</td>
<td>Find 5 things in your home that are your favorite color.</td>
<td>Tell your family about a time you were brave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Count the toes of everyone in your family. How many toes are there in all?</td>
<td>Think of 3 words that rhyme with play.</td>
<td>Make a list of 10 animals with a family member.</td>
<td>Practice skipping with a friend or family member.</td>
<td>Play “Rhyme Time” (from the game list) with a family member.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play “Simon Says, Says,” (from the game list) with a family member.</td>
<td>Practice your personal information today (full name, parents names birthday, age).</td>
<td>Make a list of 10 things that are fun to do in the summertime.</td>
<td>Play “Steal a Sound” (from the game section) with a family member.</td>
<td>Read a story with a Family member. Tell your family about the characters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Find three triangles in your house.</td>
<td>Play “Say it Fast” (from the game list) with a family member.</td>
<td>Put a stuffed animal over, under, beside, and behind a chair.</td>
<td>Make a list of 10 foods you like to eat.</td>
<td>Practice using scissors to cut straight lines.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

© 2017 Sunny and Bright in First Grade
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name 3 things that start with the letter P.</td>
<td>Draw a picture of yourself. Add lots of details.</td>
<td>Read a story with a family member. Point to the illustrations (pictures) on each page.</td>
<td>Play &quot;Hide and Seek&quot; today. Practice counting from 1-20.</td>
<td>Find 3 squares in your house.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play “Say it Fast” (from the game list) with a family member.</td>
<td>Read a story with a family member. Talk about how your favorite character feels at the end.</td>
<td>Tell someone in your family what the sky looks like during the day and during the night.</td>
<td>Practice hopping on 1 foot. Try to hop 10 times in a row on each foot.</td>
<td>Go for a walk with a family member. Notice all the sounds that you hear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice washing and drying your hands by yourself today.</td>
<td>Think of 3 words that rhyme with play.</td>
<td>Play “Simon Says, Says” (from the game list) with a family member.</td>
<td>Practice skipping with a friend or family member.</td>
<td>Make a list of 10 animals with a family member.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go outside and practice kicking a ball.</td>
<td>Practice putting on your shoes by yourself (including laces and/or fasteners).</td>
<td>Practice drawing circles neatly.</td>
<td>Point to your elbows, hips, ankles, eyebrows and wrists</td>
<td>Tell a family member 3 things you do during the day and 3 things you do at night.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make a list of &quot;Things You See at the Beach&quot;.</td>
<td>Practice jumping rope today!</td>
<td>Think of 5 words that start with the letter T.</td>
<td>Find 5 rectangles in your house.</td>
<td>Draw 3 large circles and 3 small circles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make a list of 5 things that are healthy.</td>
<td>Write your name neatly. Count how many letters are in your name.</td>
<td>Think of 5 words that rhyme with 'pool'.</td>
<td>Practice using scissors to cut out pictures from a magazine.</td>
<td>Help your parents make dinner tonight! Pay careful attention when pouring and mixing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play “Say it Fast” (from the game list) with a family member.</td>
<td>Practice zippering zippers by yourself today.</td>
<td>Gather a handful of coins. Count how many coins you found.</td>
<td>Read a story with a family member. Then tell what happened at the beginning, middle &amp; end.</td>
<td>Play “Simon Says, Says, Says…” (from the game list) with a family member.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go outside and practice kicking a ball.</td>
<td>Think of 10 words that start with the letter B.</td>
<td>Make a list of 10 kinds of vehicles.</td>
<td>Practice cutting simple shapes (like squares and triangles).</td>
<td>Think of 5 words that rhyme with “sing”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talk with a family member about different ways to ask for help with a problem.</td>
<td>Practice writing your name using your best handwriting.</td>
<td>Work on strengthening your hand muscles today! Play with play dough or puzzles.</td>
<td>Play “Say it Fast” (from the game list) with a family member.</td>
<td>Read a story with a family member. Talk about the problem in the story. How was it solved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go outside and play “catch” with a family member. See how many times you can catch the ball!</td>
<td>Practice buttoning buttons today!</td>
<td>Think of 5 words that start with the letter W.</td>
<td>Think of 5 words that rhyme with “cap”</td>
<td>Make a list of 10 things you will see at school!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Games
This section includes word games & activities
Let’s Play & Learn with Word Games!

These simple, easy to play word games will help your child get ready to read by becoming aware of sounds, how they come together and how to break them apart.

**Simon Says, Says, Says**—This game is a variation of the traditional “Simon Says” game. To play this game ‘Simon’ gives multi-step directions. For example “Simon says: Touch your head. Then, touch your toes.” Your child needs to follow both Simon’s directions in the correct order to stay in the game. All of the directions should be at least 2-step directions.

You can build up to 3 or even 4/5 step directions to make the game more challenging!

The purpose of this game is to help your child practice listening for and processing multi-step directions. This is an incredibly important skill that will help to ensure his/her success in school!

**Say It Fast**—To play this game you say a word in chunks or say the individual sounds that make up a word. You will take a small pause between each sound. Your child will listen to all of the sounds and then will “say it fast!” to make the entire word. For example, you might say: “/c/…/a/…/t/….”. Then, your child would say “Cat!”.

The purpose of this game is for your child to begin blending sounds.

**Steal a Sound**—To play this game you will say a word and have your child repeat it. Then instruct your child to say the same word but to “steal a sound” or to leave a sound (or word part) out. For example, you might say: “Say Birthday.” Your child will say “Birthday”. Then, you would say: “Now, say ‘Birthday’ without saying ‘birth’.” Your child would then say “day”. For a more difficult version you could have your child say ‘birthday’ without saying /b/. (So, your child would say ‘birthday’.) The purpose of this game is for your child to start segmenting words and hearing the individual sounds that make up words. This will be especially important as your child begins “sounding out” words when he/she is learning to write.

**Rhyme Time**—Rhyming is a very important skill that will help children with reading fluency and mastering spelling patterns. For “Rhyme Time” you can play a rhyming version of “I Spy” with your child. For example, you can say, “I spy something that rhymes with ‘crush’”. Your child would have to figure out that you are looking at a brush. You can also play a rhyming version of the “I am going on a trip” game. The first person says, “I am going on a trip and I am bringing my cat.” The next person then says “I am going on a trip and bringing my cat and a bat” etc.
Simon Says, Says, Says
A Game About Following Multi-Step Directions

This game is a variation of the traditional “Simon Says” game. To play this game ‘Simon’ gives multi-step directions. For example “Simon says: Touch your head. Then, touch your toes.” Your child needs to follow both of Simon’s directions in the correct order to stay in the game. All of the directions should be at least 2-step directions. You can build up to 3 or even 4/5 step directions to make the game more challenging!

This game is lots of fun but it is also great practice for important listening and processing skills that your child will need to be successful in school! Most of the directions that are given in a typical classroom are given orally and are given in multiple steps. It is very common for students to be told to: “Put away your crayons, go get your book bag and come to the carpet”. You would be surprised to find how confusing this can be in a busy classroom! Following multi-step directions is an important skill that needs to be practiced with young children. Playing games is the perfect, fun way to learn this valuable life skill!

Here are some sample direction sequences:
- Touch your nose, touch your toes
- Wiggle your fingers, wiggle your toes
- Shake your hands, wiggle your ears, touch your head
- Touch your belly button, touch your ankles, smile at me
- Shake your hips, touch your head, touch your toes
- Jump 2 times then sit down
- Spin in a circle then jump 2 times
- Reach up high, reach down low, put your hands on your hips
- Touch your knees, touch your chin, smile at me
- Touch your shoulder, reach up high, touch your toes
- Touch your toes, touch your nose, touch your toes
- Jump up high, bend down low, jump up high
- Touch your waist, touch your feet, wiggle your fingers
- Touch your cheeks, touch your hair, touch your ears
- Wiggle your ears, wiggle your nose, jump 2 times
- Turn around, touch your toes, touch your nose
- Say your name, scratch your head, wiggle your fingers
- Hop on one foot, wiggle your nose, sit down
- Bend your knees, touch your elbow, touch your wrist

© 2017 Sunny and Bright in First Grade
Steal a Sound
A Phonemic Awareness Game

To play this game you will say a word and have your child repeat it. Then instruct your child to say the same word but to “steal a sound” or to leave a sound (or part) out. For example, you might say: “Say Birthday.” Your child will say “Birthday”. Then, you would say: “Now, say ‘Birthday’ without saying ‘birth’”. Your child would then say “day”. For a more difficult version you could have your child say ‘birthday’ without saying /b/. (So, your child would say ‘irthday’.)

The purpose of this game is for your child to start segmenting words and hearing the individual sounds that make up words. This will be especially important as your child begins learning how to write. Young children “sound out” words or “break them apart” as they try to write them. Helping your child to develop strong segmenting skills now will make this process much, much easier!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steal the beginning of a compound word</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cupcake</td>
<td>Say: cupcake</td>
<td>Now say cupcake without saying cup.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washcloth</td>
<td>Say: washcloth</td>
<td>Now say washcloth without saying wash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancake</td>
<td>Say: pancake</td>
<td>Now say pancake without saying pan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hopscotch</td>
<td>Say: hopscotch</td>
<td>Now say hopscotch without saying hop.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steal the beginning syllable of a word</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monster</td>
<td>Say: monster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pencil</td>
<td>Say: pencil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Say: teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mommy</td>
<td>Say: mommy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steal the end of a compound word</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekend</td>
<td>Say: weekend</td>
<td>Now say weekend without saying ‘end’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Say: football</td>
<td>Now say football without saying ‘ball’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathtub</td>
<td>Say: bathtub</td>
<td>Now say bathtub without saying ‘tub’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandwich</td>
<td>Say: sandwich</td>
<td>Now say sandwich without saying ‘which’.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steal the ending syllable of a word</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apple</td>
<td>Say: apple</td>
<td>Now say apple without saying ‘ple’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basket</td>
<td>Say basket</td>
<td>Now say basket without saying ‘ket’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Say Friday.</td>
<td>Now say Friday without saying ‘day’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister</td>
<td>Say sister.</td>
<td>Now say sister without saying ‘sis’.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

© 2017 Sunny and Bright in First Grade
Steal a Sound
A Phonemic Awareness Game

To play this game you will say a word and have your child repeat it. Then instruct your child to say the same word but to “steal a sound” or to leave a sound (or part) out. For example, you might say: “Say Birthday.” Your child will say “Birthday”. Then, you would say: “Now, say ‘Birthday’ without saying ‘birth’”. Your child would then say “day”. For a more difficult version you could have your child say ‘birthday’ without saying /b/. (So, your child would say ‘irthday’.)

The purpose of this game is for your child to start segmenting words and hearing the individual sounds that make up words. This will be especially important as your child begins learning how to write. Young children “sound out” words or “break them apart” as they try to write them. Helping your child to develop strong segmenting skills now will make this process much, much easier!

### Steal the beginning sound

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Current sound</th>
<th>Steal sound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cat</td>
<td>Say: cat</td>
<td>Now say cat without the /c/.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wind</td>
<td>Say: wind</td>
<td>Now say wind without saying /w/.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pickle</td>
<td>Say: pickle</td>
<td>Now say pickle without saying /p/.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>help</td>
<td>Say: help</td>
<td>Now say help without saying /h/.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kite</td>
<td>Say: kite</td>
<td>Now say kite without saying /k/.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beach</td>
<td>Say: beach</td>
<td>Now say beach without saying /b/.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ship</td>
<td>Say: ship</td>
<td>Now say ship without saying /sh/.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rest</td>
<td>Say: rest</td>
<td>Now say rest without saying /r/.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pizza</td>
<td>Say: pizza</td>
<td>Now say pizza without saying /p/.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mat</td>
<td>Say: mat</td>
<td>Now say mat without saying /m/.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Steal the ending sound

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Current sound</th>
<th>Steal sound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pole</td>
<td>Say: pole</td>
<td>Now say pole without saying /l/.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>play</td>
<td>Say: play</td>
<td>Now say play without saying /ay/.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bat</td>
<td>Say: bat</td>
<td>Now say bat without saying /t/.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plan</td>
<td>Say: plan</td>
<td>Now say plan without saying /n/.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soup</td>
<td>Say: soup</td>
<td>Now say soup without saying /p/.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>daddy</td>
<td>Say: daddy</td>
<td>Now say daddy without saying /y/.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soccer</td>
<td>Say: soccer</td>
<td>Now say soccer without saying /r/.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sing</td>
<td>Say: sing</td>
<td>Now say sing without saying /ing/.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

© 2017 Sunny and Bright in First Grade
Say It Fast
A Phonemic Awareness Game

To play this game, you will say a word “the slow way” or “in pieces”. You will say the word in “chunks” or “parts”. For example, for the word ‘birthday’ you will say /birth/ /day/ (with a short pause between each part). Then, you will prompt your child to “Say it fast!” and your child will respond with the complete word.

This game is an excellent way to set the stage for fluent reading. As children learn to read they commonly “sound out” unknown words. This game will help your child hear the way that individual sounds come together to form words. Mastering this phonemic awareness skill is incredibly important for emergent readers! (Plus, it is fun!)

Cup-cake
Sand-wich
Brother
Sister
Foot-ball
Sneak-er
Toe-nail
Pony-tail
Teach-er
Pump-kin
Chick-en
Tur-key
Mon-ster
Birth-day
Week-end
App-le
Shoe-lace
Dad-dy
Cray-on

Pur-ple
Flow-er
Sum-mer
Eye-brow
Break-fast
Ear-ring
Butter-fly
Water-melon
After-noon
Tues-day
Milk-shake
Water-fall
Bath-tub
Sweat-shirt
Ba-na-na
Pa-per
Thun-der

© 2017 Sunny and Bright in First Grade
SAY IT FAST
A Phonemic Awareness Game

To play this game, you will say a word “the slow way” or “in pieces”. You will say sound separately. For example, for the word ‘cat’ you will say /c/ /a/ /t/ (with a short pause between each sound). Then, you will prompt your child to “Say it fast!” and your child will respond with the complete word.

Go  No  So  Cat  Hat  Mat  Pat  Me  He  We  Be  Hop  Mop  Top  Cop  Pot  Lot  Hot  Dot
Pan  Man  Ran  Fan  Map  Cap  Tap  Gap  Mad  Had  Sad  Pad  Dog  Fog  Log  Hog  Rat  Fat  Rag
Hat  Ham  Sun  Fun  Cab  Cup  Pup  Can  Hit  Tip  Top  Bag  Beg  Wig  Win  Sat  Pet  Vet

© 2017 Sunny and Bright in First Grade
This section includes fun learning activities divided by subject. Spend the summer playing & learning!
Let’s Play & Learn Math Skills!

These activities will help your child develop the math skills needed for kindergarten while having fun this summer!

- **Hop-Scotch** - Play for counting & numeral recognition
- **Hide & Go Seek** - A fun way to practice counting
- **Sorting Laundry & Sorting Silverware** - Your child will love helping you with household chores while practicing important math sorting skills.
- **Collecting & Sorting Seashells & Rocks** - Have your child make up their own “sorting rules”- He/she can sort by color, shape, size etc.
- **Cooking** - As your “assistant chef” helps you with dinner he/she will be pouring, cutting, measuring and counting. This is teaching your child about counting, measurement, and parts of a whole (setting the stage for fractions)
- **Sand & Water** - Sand and water play give children experiences with the important math concepts of filling, emptying and measuring.
- **Math Songs & Poems** - Make math songs and poems such as “Five Little Monkeys”, “Five Green and Speckled Frogs” and “There were 5 in the Bed” a regular part of your summer. (*See the page of song & nursery rhyme links & poems for ideas.*)
- **Play Pattern Games** - Have your child find, continue & create basic patterns. This can be done with toys (red Lego, red Lego, yellow Lego…), snacks (green grape, red grape, green grape red grape…), sounds (ring, ring, buzz, buzz, ring, ring, buzz, buzz…), movements (jump, stomp, jump, stomp…) and much more!
- **Play Dominos & Dice Games** - Playing with dominos & dice helps your child to learn their “dot patterns” naturally. These “dot patterns” are important numeric representations. When your child is able to look at a “dot pattern” and automatically know what value it represents they are mastering important mathematical concepts!

© 2017 Sunny and Bright in First Grade
Let’s Play & Learn Science Skills!

These activities will help your child develop the science skills needed for kindergarten while having fun this summer!

- **Grow a Garden**— Summer is the perfect time to grow a small garden with your child. Young children are especially fascinated with growing vegetables. Let your little scientist plant some seeds and care for them this summer. You will be surprised at how thrilled he/she will be to eat the veggies that were grown in your garden!

- **Sink & Float**— While your child is in the pool this summer encourage “sink or float” experiments. Your child will love testing out different materials to see what sinks & what floats and learning these physical science concepts. Encourage the curiosity and scientific conversation it inspires… (Don’t jump in with an answer to the “I wonder why…” questions too soon! Let your little scientist come up with some theories and test them out!)

- **Make a Weather Chart**— Have your child keep track of the weather this summer. Count up how many afternoon thunderstorms you experience. Keep a temperature graph together. This is a great way to introduce collecting data and making observations about the world around us.

- **Go Fly a Kite!**— Flying kites is a great way to learn about gravity, wind & movement… and it is so much fun!

- **Make a Menu**— Have your child cut out pictures of healthy foods from magazines or newspaper ads. They can be glued onto paper plates or into folded construction paper to make a menu. This is a fun way to talk about nutrition and health.

- **Create Shoebox Habitats**— Your child can create a habitat for toy animals by decorating a shoebox. Create a little farm for toy horses. Create a jungle for toy tigers & a mini-version of your home for a stuffed puppy!

- **Go on a Nature Walk**— Make taking a short walk a part of your daily, summer routine. Talk with your child about what they observe in their surroundings. Help them make observations using their sense of smell, sight, hearing (& maybe even touch & taste depending on your walk!)
Let's Play & Learn
Early Reading Skills!

These activities will help your child develop the pre-reading skills needed for kindergarten while having fun this summer!

• **Story Time** - Making sure your child is read to everyday is the absolute best way to prepare your child for future reading success! Listening to books being read aloud will help your child with vocabulary, reading fluency, phonemic awareness & comprehension skills... so snuggle up and read as much as possible! In addition to bedtime stories look for "Story Time" at your local library and have your child listen to books being read aloud online! (See the included page of links.)

• **Nursery Rhymes, Poems, Finger Plays & Songs** - There is a reason that the same nursery rhymes have been told for hundreds of years... they are so good for children! Nursery rhymes are the perfect way to teach children rhyming, word patterns, rhythm and fluency. Sing and recite poems with your child in the car, during bath time, while cleaning up etc. (See the included page of links.)

• **Put on Puppet Shows** - "Retelling" is a very important kindergarten skill that is difficult for many children. Help your child master this comprehension skill by putting on puppet shows and acting out familiar stories & folk tales. Talk to your child about what happened at the beginning, middle and end of the story & how the characters should sound & look. Then, make him/her explain how they know these things. Your child will love "directing" the puppet show and you will be helping him/her with important comprehension skills!

• **Word Games** - "Word games" help children master important phonemic awareness skills. The best thing about these games is that they can be played anywhere, anytime. Play for a few minutes while in line at an amusement park, while doing the dishes or while driving in the car! It will keep your child occupied and learning during "down time". (See the included page of "word games" for ideas.)

• **Play "What If...?"** - Developing oral language skills is an extremely important part of early reading. Play games where you focus on talking to and listening to your child. You can also work on developing your child's imagination by asking "What if..." questions. It can be so much fun to hear what is going on inside their little brains! Help prompt your child to answer questions using complete sentences and lots of details!
Let’s Play & Develop Fine Motor Skills!

All of the activities listed on this page are fun ways to build up the muscles and coordination your child will need in kindergarten! These fine motor skills will be very important as your child learns to write. Spend some time enjoying these fun activities with your child this summer and building up strength and endurance for kindergarten writing!

• Play dough- Roll, knead, stretch and smash it! Play dough encourages so much creative play while exercising little hand muscles!

• Practice cutting with scissors- Be sure to give your child cutting experiences this summer. He/she can cut shapes, straight lines, curved lines & pictures. Learning to hold the scissors properly and turn the paper while cutting are important skills that are only learned through practice.

• Tear paper- Tearing paper is a great way to exercise hand muscles! Encourage your child’s creativity and have him/her make collages and designs by gluing down small pieces of torn paper.

• Draw & Color- Offer your child a variety of writing tools. Tiny pencils, thick & thin magic markers, colored pencils, & crayons all offer different motor experiences and make writing so much more fun!

• Build with Legos- Legos & toys that “snap” together are great for building hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills.

• Painting- Children love to paint! Get creative with the tools you offer your child. Children love to paint with paintbrushes, Q-tips, feathers, or finger paint. These are all excellent ways to increase your child’s fine motor strength.

• Make jewelry- String beads, pasta or cut up straws onto string or yarn to make a necklaces or bracelets. This is an excellent fine motor activity that will increase hand-eye coordination and concentration.

• Stickers- Everyone loves stickers! Give your child a sheet of stickers and have him/her peel the stickers off the “sticker page” and make sticker art. This is another great activity for concentration, coordination, and dexterity.

• Shaving cream- Put a small amount of shaving cream onto a table or tray and have your child draw or write in it. (This is much less messy than it sounds- if you use a small amount of shaving cream- and kids LOVE it!)

• Piggy Banks/Penny Jars- Let your child be the “family banker” this summer. Have him/her put spare change into a piggy bank or penny jar that has a small opening.

• Nuts & bolts- Allow your child to twist large metal nuts & bolts together. (You can purchase these for less than $1 at a hardware store. It is always a favorite activity!)
Let’s Play & Develop Social Skills!

Playing is one of the very best ways for children to develop social skills. This summer as your child prepares for kindergarten keep the important “play centered” social skills listed below in mind.

- Taking Turns
- Following Rules
- Good Sportsmanship
- Good Manners
- Asking for Help
- Demonstrating Confidence & Independence
- Respecting Personal Space
- Demonstrating Empathy & Kindness
- Paying Attention

All of these important skills are learned and practiced when your child plays board games, plays organized games (such as ‘Hide and Go Seek’), engages in pretend play with a friend or sibling and when he/she participates in summer sports such as baseball or swimming lessons. Be on the look-out for ways to reinforce these skills and talk to your child about their importance.
Let’s Play & Learn Online!

These activities will help your child develop the skills needed for kindergarten while having fun this summer!

Suggested Websites and Internet Links:

http://starfall.com - This is a great site perfect for kindergarteners! This website is perfect for helping children learn letters, sounds, nursery rhymes, basic reading skills, simple math & much more!

http://www.storylineonline.net - Storyline Online is one of my favorite story telling websites. This site has actors reading classic books to your child. There are lots of choices available and it is a favorite with students of all ages.

http://www.justbooksreadaloud.com - This is another site with lots of great read alouds!

http://pbskids.org - You can never go wrong with PBS Kids! This site is always a “go to” for great games and videos. There is always new content being added so it never gets “old”.

https://www.youtube.com/user/havefunsteaching - Have Fun Teaching is probably my favorite YouTube channel! They have so many fun songs and videos for children. My favorite is the alphabet song! My students also love the counting songs, sight word songs and science songs.

© 2017 Sunny and Bright in First Grade
Let’s Play & Learn with Nursery Rhymes, Poems & Songs

Suggested Websites and Internet Links:

5 Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed (Video & Song links)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUEi_a5w2oU
5 Green & Speckled Frogs
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziGG_L9Cl2o
5 Little Ducks
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2OpkQuQiig
10 in the Bed
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwutR8axato
Shapes Song
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yL_eQJL-28K0
Secret Agent Shapes
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7aStgksCuY
3D Shapes That I Know
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ca-Uc556-Q
Alligator Chomp (Patterning Song)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyL_NhTnD04I
Color Robot
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdxBWRuhEIM
The Alphabet Song (Have Fun Teaching)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36TBDpTRVNE

Nursery Rhymes (Videos & Songs)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_OOlQYrPg
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wgw08s0a8p8
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=raMEQzGYY3w
https://www.youtube.com/user/checkaate

© 2017 Sunny and Bright in First Grade
PLAY & LEARN

This section includes resources to use as you play & learn this summer!

These resources can be used as flash cards, posters, coloring sheets, or you can print 2 of each and play “Memory”... Just remember to have FUN!