

JUMP START INTO KINDERGARTEN



family activities
to prepare for school

Parents  & Partners

welcome

Dear Parents,

You are your child's first and best teacher. They will learn the most about the world from **you**. This calendar has been created to provide you with an activity to try with your child every day. These activities do not require a lot of time, materials or preparation so you can fit them into your daily routine.

THE ACTIVITIES ARE DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:



communication - the language they understand and the language that they express



gross motor skills - how they move their bodies in physical activities



fine motor skills - how they use their hands



self help skills and independence



social skills



problem solving skills - focus on their auditory attention, visual attention and memory skills

Please supervise your child while doing the activities at all times. They were created for you to do together! Take time to play with your child. Your impact on their overall development will be significant and it will last a lifetime!

Dauphin County Libraries

East Shore Area Library

4501 Ethel Street
Harrisburg, PA 17109
Phone: (717) 652-9380

Elizabethville Area Library

80 North Market Street
Elizabethville, PA 17023
Phone: (717) 362-9825

Johnson Memorial Library

799 East Center Street
Millersburg, PA 17061
Phone: (717) 692-2658

Kline Library

530 South 29th Street
Harrisburg, PA 17104
Phone: (717) 234-3934

Madeline L. Olewine Memorial Library

2410 North Third Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone: (717) 232-7286

McCormick Riverfront Library

101 Walnut Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Phone: (717) 234-4976

Northern Dauphin Library

683 Main Street
Lykens, PA 17048
Phone: (717) 453-9315

William H. & Marion C. Alexander Family Library

200 West Second Street
Hummelstown, PA 17036
Phone: (717) 566-0949



SEPTEMBER 2016



Simple Fork Print Sunflower Craft

Make a pretty sunflower craft with a fork! You could actually make many kinds of flowers using this technique. If you make smaller strokes, you could fit one on a homemade card too!

YOU WILL NEED:

Yellow, orange, brown, and green paint
(paint recipes on pages 28 & 29)

Fork
Paper
Paintbrush or Q-tips

Start by dipping the bottom of your fork into yellow paint and make a circle shape brushing outwards. Put a small amount of orange on the fork after and make a smaller circle inside the sunflower. Use your fingerprints or Q-tips to make brown dots in the center of the flower. Finish it off by painting a green stem and leaf!



Homemade Birdfeeder

YOU WILL NEED:

Toilet paper roll Bird seed
Peanut butter String (optional)

Spread peanut butter on toilet paper roll (adult supervision is suggested). Spread seed on a plate and then roll the peanut butter in the seed. Pat to help it stick. Hang it on a tree branch. The other option is to put a string through the hole and hang it on the branch.



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Notes:					Take a walk together and practice stopping at the corner, waiting for the light to turn green and looking both ways before crossing the street. Talk about rules for outside safety.	7	Put cotton balls into a bowl. Give your child a clothespin and ask her/him to pick up the cotton balls one at a time and transfer them into another bowl using the clothespin.	2	Do a sniff test! Dip cotton balls in different scents. Then put each of the cotton balls in a separate container or plastic sandwich bag. Use perfume, lemon, coffee, onion, your soap, and toothpaste. Can your child tell what each smell represents?	3			
Using the animals you see outside (birds, squirrels, dogs) make up a song about the animals and act out their actions (birds fly, squirrels shake their tails).	4	LABOR DAY	5	Give your child a wet sponge or washcloth to wipe down countertops, tables, etc. Talk about why it is important to keep things in the home clean.	6	Change the words to a favorite song to make it silly. Can your child make a silly change too? Act out silly songs with your child.	7	When at the grocery store look at the apples. Talk about the different sizes, shapes and colors (green yellow and red).	8	Make apple prints! Cut an apple in half. Dip one half in paint (red!) and press onto paper. Let your child make any design he/she wishes.	9	Encourage your child to make a Fall collage. Glue leaves, twigs, acorns and other things you can find outside to a heavy piece of paper.	10
GRANDPARENT'S DAY	11	RED WEEK: Look for things that are red this week.	12	Together look at pictures in books or magazines. Ask your child how she/he thinks the people in these pictures may feel. Focus on facial expressions to help her/him recognize feelings.	13	Count the stairs together as you walk up or down them. Skip a number and ask your child which one you left out. One, Two, Three....Five.	14	Use a muffin pan to sort objects around your home (coins, buttons, shells, rock, pasta, etc.)	15	Play "Body Identification" with your child. Ask him/her to point to body parts like knees, ankle, elbow, earlobe and wrist.	16	Give your child materials to imitate you cooking or cleaning. Talk about what you are doing.	17
Have your child scribble with markers all over a piece of paper towel, filling in as much white space as possible. Place on cookie sheet. Have your child wet the paper towel by brushing water onto it. Colors will bleed. Hang to dry!	18	Go outside and look for leaves around your neighborhood or at a local playground.	19	Play listening games like "Simon Says" but use the child's name or your name. "Mommy says stand still. Sarah says pat your tummy."	20	Participate in your library's story hour.	21	FIRST DAY OF FALL	22	Help your child make a leaf rubbing. Place a leaf upside down under a piece of paper and rub different crayons over the top of the paper.	23	Experiment with magnets. Give your child a magnet and see where he/she can make it stick around the house. Talk about what those objects have in common.	24
Play music and practice walking on your tippy toes, then your heels. Next walk fast, then slow. What other ways can you walk to the music?	25	Visit the library. Look for books about sunflowers.	26	*Paint a sunflower using homemade paint and a fork! <small>(paint recipes on pages 28 & 29)</small>	27	Gather scrap paper or newspaper. Tell your child to tear them into strips, long or short. This work will help build the muscles for writing.	28	Talk about favorites. What is your child's favorite food, color, toy or TV show? What are yours? Talk about things you both like.	29	*Make a homemade bird feeder.	30	Notes:	



SUGGESTED BOOK FOR FOUR & FIVE YEAR OLDS

Count the Monkeys by Mac Barnett and Kevin Cornell





OCTOBER 2016



Salt Dough Monsters

YOU WILL NEED:

2 cups plain flour

1 cup salt

Up to one cup of water
(you may need less)

Paint (paint recipes on pages
28 & 28) or food coloring



Knead the mixture into a dough, adding water slowly, you may need less than 1 cup. If the dough is too sticky, add more flour. You can color salt dough using paint, food coloring. Let your child shape the dough into a monster(s). They can decorate their monster with:

Googly eyes

Buttons

Pipe cleaners

Anything else around the house that your child thinks will make their monsters cool!

Pasta

String

Nuts and bolts

Drying out salt dough: You can leave the salt dough to dry in a warm room for a couple of days or put it in the oven at a low temperature. Heat oven to 150 degrees to avoid any burning for a couple of hours. Thicker models may take longer. Turning your creations over every now and again can speed up the drying process.

Sealing salt dough: You must seal salt dough if you want it to last. Use Mod Podge All-in-one Sealer Glue and Finish to varnish and preserve your salt dough monster(s). Once sealed your child's salt dough creations should last for years.

Five Little Bats

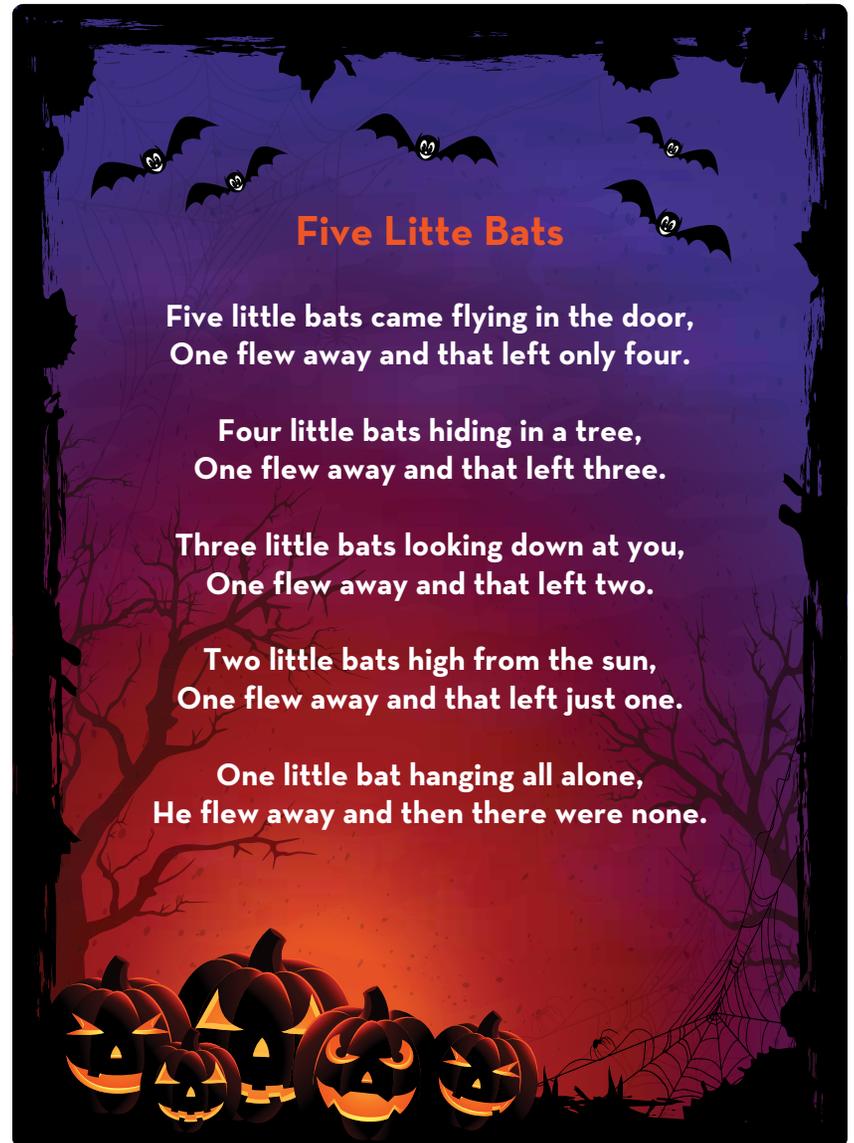
Five little bats came flying in the door,
One flew away and that left only four.

Four little bats hiding in a tree,
One flew away and that left three.

Three little bats looking down at you,
One flew away and that left two.

Two little bats high from the sun,
One flew away and that left just one.

One little bat hanging all alone,
He flew away and then there were none.



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Notes:

During meal times allow your child to practice pouring from a lipped pitcher or serve him/herself from a serving dish using a spoon.

7

Together cut out shapes (circle, triangle, square). Glue them onto a piece of paper with a glue stick.

2

Take a walk around your house or neighborhood and play "I Spy." Look for signs of Fall.

3

Play "Laundry Basketball." Ask your child to find all the solid color clothes and shoot them into the laundry basket.

4

Go for a litter walk. Take a walk outside with your child and pick up any trash that you see.

5

Together spray shaving cream on a table and spread the cream. Have your child draw or write words such as their name. Afterwards use a wet rag together to wipe up and clean your table at the same time!

6

Go to the library and check out books about numbers or counting.

7

*Practice counting and rhyming with "Five Little Bats"

8



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

9

Prepare and practice a Family Escape Plan. Make sure all members of your family know what to do if ever faced with a fire within the home.

Show your child how to dial 9-1-1 and discuss when this should be used and what happens when you call this number.

10

At night, use a flashlight in a dark room to make funny shadows on the wall. You can also try holding up funny objects, and making objects dance. Make up a story also.

11

Make two sets of cards with the same words. Lay out the cards and mix them up. Ask your child to find the pairs. Use words such as my, can, the, in, etc. Say the word each time your child finds a match.

12

Think of rhyming words with your child. Tell your child a word and have him/her tell you a word that rhymes. Make a list of the words.

13

Talk again about an evacuation plan and how you would leave your home if there was a fire. Practice stop, drop and roll.

14

Paint and press pumpkins! (paint recipes on pages 28 & 29) Make orange paint. Together spread paint on paper in a circle. Use a plastic grocery bag to press the paint further onto the paper in a design.

15

When your child takes a bath, place different toys in the water. Talk about whether they sink or float.

16

Pick a letter of the alphabet and help your child write it on a piece of paper. Draw pictures of words that begin with that letter.

17

When putting your child to bed talk about all the things you did that day and what you liked best about your day. Also talk about what you and your child didn't like.

18

Sing the "ABC Song" while washing your hands together. Talk about the importance of using soap and warm water and to scrub, scrub, scrub until the song is done!

19

Before shopping give your child a piece of paper to "write" a list. Ask your child to "read" it as you go through the aisles.

20

Talk about the shapes of large food like pizza, cake or pie before you serve them. What happens when you cut it? What shape are the servings? Triangle? Rectangle? Square?

21

Cut out a pumpkin shape and some face shapes with your child. Then have your child glue the eyes, nose and mouth on to the pumpkin. Hang as a decoration.

22

ORANGE WEEK: Look for things that are orange during the week.

23

Talk about Fall as a season and have your child draw a picture of a tree.

24

Make a lacing card out of an old greeting card. Cut a pumpkin shape and then punch holes around the outside. Use a shoelace or yarn and thread through the holes with your child.

25

Have an "orange" day. Wear something orange. Mix yellow and red food coloring and water to make orange. Eat orange foods like oranges, cheese, or carrots.

26

Have a pumpkin hunt. Cut out 6-7 pumpkin shapes and hide around a room. When found talk about where they were using position words: under, on, on top of, etc.

27

Use different size bowls, spoons, pillows, cups, plates, shoes, etc. Sort them by small, medium and large.

28

*Make Salt Dough Monsters. After your child is finished let it dry. This dough will dry like clay and you will be able to keep their creation!

29

Use your shape picture (from the 2nd) to practice identifying shapes and/or colors.

30

HALLOWEEN
Play dress up!

31

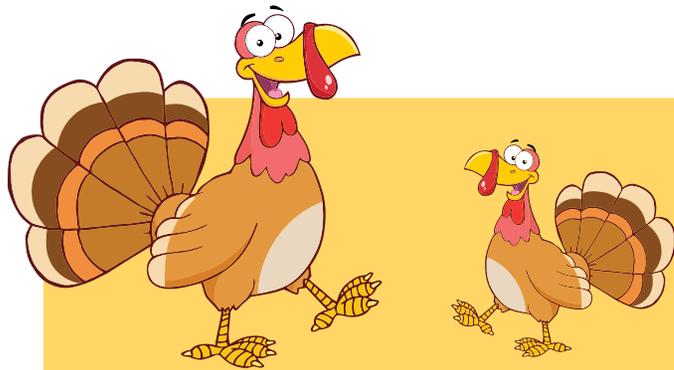


SUGGESTED BOOK FOR FOUR & FIVE YEAR OLDS

Monsters Love School written and illustrated by Mike Austin



NOVEMBER 2016



TURKEY TROT

(to the tune of Hokey Pokey)

You put your right wing in.
You put your right wing out.
You put your right wing in,
and you shake it all about.
You do the turkey trot
and you turn yourself around.
That's what it's all about!

Left wing,
Drumsticks,
Stuffing (Stomach)
Wattle (Head)
Tail Feathers (Bottom)
Turkey Body

Make your own butter!

YOU WILL NEED:

Heavy Cream Small jar with lid Marble

1. Put 1/2 pint cold heavy cream in a jar.
2. Put marble in jar to help mix and to tell you when it is done.
3. Screw lid onto jar.
4. Take turns shaking the jar for 10-20 minutes (while dancing, marching, skipping, etc.).
5. When the marble stops rattling it's done!
6. Drain any excess on top and stir.

Enjoy! Remember to refrigerate your butter!



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		On a cookie sheet sprinkle some flour or cornstarch. With your child practice drawing numbers or letters in the powder. 7	Use a white candle or crayon to draw a magic message on a white piece of paper. Then have your child paint a thin coat of paint and the message will appear! 2	Use stuffed animals or dolls to retell a story you have read together. Use a sock to make a puppet for storytelling. 3	Attend story time or rhyme time at your local library. 4	With a sheet ask your child to hold the corners of one end and then you hold the others. Make the sheet go up and down like a parachute. Give a ball or stuffed animal a ride! 5
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS BROWN WEEK: Look for things that are brown this week. 6	Paint with corn-on-the-cob! Together with your child roll cob into paint (paint recipes on pages 28 & 29) and then roll it onto paper. Talk about the design it makes. Use Fall colors such as yellow, orange, red or brown. 7	Just for fun try coloring or drawing with your opposite hand. Talk about right and left hands and how it feels different. 8	Help your child draw straight, curvy, wavy or zigzag lines across a piece of paper. Give child-safe scissors for him/her to practice cutting. Supervise. 9	Practice deep breathing with your child especially at night or when angry to help them to calm themselves and settle. 10	VETERAN'S DAY Send your child on a scavenger hunt to look for items like a black rock, white sock, brown leaf, blue pillow, etc. 11	With masking tape make the first letter of your child's name on the floor. Walk along or drive along the shape with a toy car. 12
Plan a play date with a friend. Help your child get ready. Talk about the kinds of things they will do together. 13	Encourage your child to read a book to you. Choose a book with mostly pictures and have them tell you what is happening on each page. 14	Color in a coloring book together while listening to music. Color according to the rhythm of the music (fast or slow). 15	Fill a bag with different items from the house and small toys. Have them reach in and grab one item and then have them guess by feeling (not peeking) and ask "What is it?" 16	Play hide and seek with your child. Encourage them to count to ten or more! 17	Play "Freeze". Play some music and dance together. Then turn off the music and "freeze or stop". Turn the music back on and then say "go". 18	*Make your own butter!  19
*Do the Turkey Trot  20	Play an action game with counting in it. Ask your child to jump three times, wiggle their fingers twice, turn six times, blink once, etc. 21	Cut out pictures of food from flyers. Talk about how you need to eat a rainbow of foods everyday. Classify them together into groups: fruits, vegetables, grains, etc. 22	Make "Turkey Prints." Paint the hand brown. Then if you wish paint each finger a different color (for the feathers). Carefully press hand fully onto paper. With a marker, draw legs, beak, eyes, etc. 23	THANKSGIVING Together make a list of things you and your child are thankful for. Post the list so you can refer to it often. 24	With your child recite/sing the days of the week. Make this part of your morning routine. 25	Help your child make simple books by folding several pieces of paper together. Write down simple sentences and your child can add drawing. 26
On paper plates, draw different faces with different emotions (happy, silly, sad, mad, sleepy, etc.) Draw mustaches, eyebrows, eyeglasses, freckles, etc.) 27	Visit your local library for story time. 28	Stack blocks or small boxes. Count as you stack and see how high you can build before they topple! Repeat! 29	Read a favorite book you got together at the library earlier in the week. Leave out certain words as you tell the story and see if they will fill in the blanks. 30	Notes:		



SUGGESTED BOOK FOR FOUR & FIVE YEAR OLDS

A Is For Musk Ox by Erin Cabatingan



DECEMBER 2016



Toilet Paper Roll Tree

YOU WILL NEED:

2 toilet paper rolls

Green and brown paint for the tree
(paint recipes on pages 28 & 29)

Q-Tips

Assorted paint colors

(for the lights if you want your tree to have them)

Glue

Twine or string (optional)

1. Cut the toilet paper rolls in half longwise, so you have 4 equal sized pieces.
2. Leave one piece as is. Holding the pieces horizontal, cut a little off each of the other 3, cutting a little more as you progress through the pieces. The idea is that when you lay them down, they progressively get shorter to the top of the tree.
3. Take the piece you cut off the last piece and use it for your tree stump.
4. Lay all the pieces out to form a tree. Use a hot glue gun to attach them.
5. Paint the tree green and the stem brown and allow to dry.
6. Once dry, take Q-tips and paint lights on the tree with various colors of paint.
7. You may tie a piece of twine or string onto your tree to hang or use for a decoration.



Make Your Own Snow Slime!

YOU WILL NEED:

16 oz. box cornstarch

1 1/2 cups water

Large mixing bowl

Glitter (optional)

Empty the box of cornstarch into a bowl.
Add water. Add glitter (optional). Mix the
goo with your hands.



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Notes:				Place salt in a large container. Have your child practice writing letters and numbers in the "snow."		7	Have your child practice counting to 10 or higher. How high can you go?		2	Help your child make an animal out of play dough (recipe on page 28).		3								
With your child find things around the house that begin with the letter "H." Expand the search to wherever you go for the month!		4	Gym Day! Together practice jumping, hopping on one foot and throwing and catching a ball.		5	Continue teaching your child his/her phone number and address.		6	Visit the library and look for books that talk about Winter.		7	*Make Snow Slime! 		8	Use a thermometer. Explore the temperatures of liquids found in your home: water from sink, milk in refrigerator, water in a puddle outside, etc.).		9	Organize a toy shelf or toy box together. Have your child sort by size, color or shape.		10
Together bake cookies for a family member or neighbor. Let your child tell the special person how the cookies were made or help them write a note to go along with the cookies.		11	Together match plastic containers and lids. Talk about shape and color.		12	Read a favorite Winter book to your child.		13	Have your child practice tying his/her shoes or the shoes of someone else.		14	Help your child practice zipping his/her coat and take an outdoor walk with a family member.		15	Trace your child's handprints or footprints on a piece of paper. Then have your child color in the print with crayons. Trace yours and compare in size!		16	Use a dish brush or sponge as your paint brush! (paint recipes on pages 28 & 29) What else can you use from the house as a paint brush? Have fun and use your imagination!		17
Have your child design a card or gift for someone special. Provide markers, paper, crayons, scissors, etc.		18	Help your child make letters out of play dough (recipe on page 28). Spell out your child's name!		19	*Make a Toilet Paper Roll Tree together 		20	FIRST DAY OF WINTER Make your own snow! Mix baking soda and shaving cream together in a container. Add small toys, scoops, etc. Let your child explore!		21	Mix a combination of crackers, cereals, pretzels, etc. Then ask your child to sort through the snack, matching them and eating them.		22	Talk with your child about family traditions. Talk about how you celebrate occasions. Talk about how your traditions are the same or different from others you know.		23	CHRISTMAS EVE HANUKKAH BEGINS AT SUNDOWN Sing a favorite holiday song together. Talk about why it is your favorite.		24
CHRISTMAS Play a game together as a family.		25	KWANZA BEGINS Help your child trace and cut circles to make a snow man. Glue and then decorate with markers.		26	Write your child's name largely on a piece of paper. Have him/her glue small marshmallows on top of the letters. Talk about each letter.		27	Help your child make his/her favorite sandwich for lunch.		28	Try some stretching exercises together. Touch your toes and reach to the sky. Lie flat on your tummy and stretch your arms to arch your back and look up. Reach to your sides and stretch your legs.		29	Make your own musical instrument. Fill a plastic bottle with uncooked rice or pasta. Seal the lid with glue. Add small colorful objects to make it fun and to play "I Spy" in the bottle!		30	NEW YEAR'S EVE Use your homemade instruments, you made yesterday, to dance and ring in the New Year!		31



SUGGESTED BOOK FOR FOUR & FIVE YEAR OLDS

1-2-3 Peas by Keith Baker



JANUARY 2017

Soda Bottle Snowflakes

YOU WILL NEED:

2 liter soda bottle

Paint, use any color (paint recipes on pages 28 & 29)

Paper plate & paper

1. Pour some paint onto a plate.
2. Take your empty plastic bottle and press the bottom of it into your paint. Press it firmly so the paint adheres well and covers the bottom well.
3. Quickly move the bottom of the bottle to paper and stamp down. Press firmly so the paint transfers nice and boldly.
4. Remove the bottle from the paper. Take your finger and connect the paint dabs together to finish the snowflake design if desired.



Now all you need to do is allow your snowflakes to dry!



Snow Dough

You only need two ingredients to make this amazingly fun dough. Snow Dough is naturally cold but can be made even colder by using refrigerated ingredients.

You can also add scent and sparkle if desired.

YOU WILL NEED:

Corn starch (Freeze overnight to make the snow dough extra cold)

Lotion (Refrigerate overnight to make the snow dough extra cold)

Optional additions - glitter and peppermint extract

Use one 16 oz. box of corn starch. Mix in a few drops of peppermint extract if scent is desired. Then slowly add lotion until the desired consistency is reached. Use roughly 1/2 of a 20 oz. bottle of unscented body lotion.

You can play with the consistency and add more or less lotion. More lotion will give you a more oozy dough and less will give you a more powdery dough.



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</p> <p>Talk about dreams and wishes for the year with your child.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Count to 10 with your child, go higher if you can!</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Practice directional words with your child. On, off, over, under, above, below. Ask your child to act them out. Ex: place stuffed animal over your head.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Start an "Alphabet Book" with your child. Make each page a different letter. Cut out pictures that begin with that letter and glue on the page.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Make a "Sensory Bag." Fill a sandwich bag with paint. Tape top closed. Use finger or Q-tip to draw letters and shapes.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Make a "Water Bottle Snowman." Fill a water bottle with cotton balls. Tie a ribbon or piece of fabric around the middle for scarf. Using markers, draw a face and buttons. Color the lid for a hat.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Read a book together as a family. Talk about what is each person's favorite part.</p>
<p>BLUE WEEK: Look for things that are blue in your house and when you are out and about.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Practice making letters with your body.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>String cereal on a piece of yarn or string to make a necklace.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Give your child two simple directions to follow: Put your pj's on and brush your teeth.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Cut out snowflakes with your child using scissors.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Let your child help make dinner. Talk about what you are doing in while you are doing it.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>*Make Snow Dough with your child. Talk about the difference between hot and cold.</p> 
<p>Sing the "ABC Song" with your child.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY</p> <p>Talk about acts of kindness and do something nice for someone else today.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Let your child practice zipping and buttoning coat.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Write your child's name on a piece of paper leaving spaces between the letters. Cut out the letters and let your child put the name back together.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Let your child pick his/her favorite book to read.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Stack plastic containers or water bottles. How high can you build?</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Roll socks into a ball. Throw "Snowballs" into a container. Practice throwing and catching.</p>
<p>Play a rhyming game. Make up words that rhyme with your child's name.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Before reading a book with your child, look at the picture on the front. Have your child predict what the story is about.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>*Make Soda Bottle Snowflakes!</p> 	<p>24</p> <p>Let your child help with laundry. They can match the socks.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Using toothpicks and mini marshmallows, let your child build something. They could make their own snowflake.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Practice hopping on one foot, then the other. How far can you jump with both feet?</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Play a game with the family.</p>
<p>Using a scarf, play music and let your child dance around the room with the scarf.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Visit the library with your child.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Sing a favorite song together.</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Notes:</p>		



SUGGESTED BOOK FOR FOUR & FIVE YEAR OLDS

Dinosaur vs. School by Bob Shea



FEBRUARY 2017



Celery Heart Stamping

YOU WILL NEED:

Celery stalks
Paint (paint recipes on pages 28 & 29)
Paper
Paper towels

1. Cut off the ends of a few celery stalks.
2. Dab end of stalk on a paper towel to soak up some moisture.
3. Then using a paint brush, brush paint onto the end of the stalk, and stamp away.
4. Apply more paint as needed.

Cinnamon Applesauce Dough Ornaments

YOU WILL NEED:

1 1/2 cups ground cinnamon
1 cup applesauce (store bought works best)
1/3 cup white school glue (Elmer's or other brand)

Mix the ingredients together until a dough forms. Knead for a few minutes. Roll out to 1/8 or 1/4 inch thick. (If sticky, dust your hands and rolling pin with cinnamon, work on waxed paper.) Use cookie cutters or other implements to cut out the shapes you desire. Cut out a hole at the top of each with a drinking straw so you'll be able to thread a ribbon or string (for hanging) when dry. It takes 24 hours for the ornaments to air dry. You should turn them over after 24 hours so they will dry evenly and won't curl. You can outline each shape with puffy paint to make them more special.



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Notes:		DENTAL HEALTH MONTH 7 Help your child brush his/her teeth.		GROUNDHOG DAY 2 Go outside and look for shadows.		Cut out pictures from a magazine that begin with the first letter in your child's name. Glue the pictures onto a piece of paper. 3		Read a book with your child today. 4	
When you walk up or down the steps, count the number of steps you take together. 5		Make a list with your child of his/her favorite things. 6		When you walk up or down the steps, count the number of steps you take together. 7		Practice cutting out hearts with your child. Save hearts for tomorrow. 8		Measure the height of different objects in your house using the hearts from yesterday. 9	
Using candy hearts and chopsticks, try moving hearts from one bowl to the other. 10		*Make Cinnamon Applesauce Hearts. Share with others. 11 		Practice writing name. Say the name of each of the letters in the name. 18		Using a Lego or Duplo block and a piece of yarn, teach your child how to floss. 17		Take time to talk to your child about her/his day. Share your day too. 23	
Place candy hearts in different liquids to see what happens. (Soda, vinegar, water, milk) 12		*Make a homemade valentine with your child. Use celery hearts as your paint brush! 13		VALENTINE'S DAY 14 Make a list with your child about what makes him/her special.		PRESIDENT'S DAY 15 Let your child pick a favorite book to read today.		WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY 16	
Let your child make music using pots, pans, and lids. 19		Sing the "ABC Song" together. 20		Play with playdough today. (recipe on page 28) Practice making shapes. 21		Sing a song with your child today. Replace a name in the song with your child's name. 22		Let your child help prepare dinner with you. Talk about what you are doing with your child. 24	
Play a board game with the family. 26		Visit a library with your child today! 27		Play "I Spy" with your child. How many red things can you see? 28		Notes:			



SUGGESTED BOOK FOR FOUR & FIVE YEAR OLDS

Chu's First Day of School by Neil Gaiman



MARCH 2017

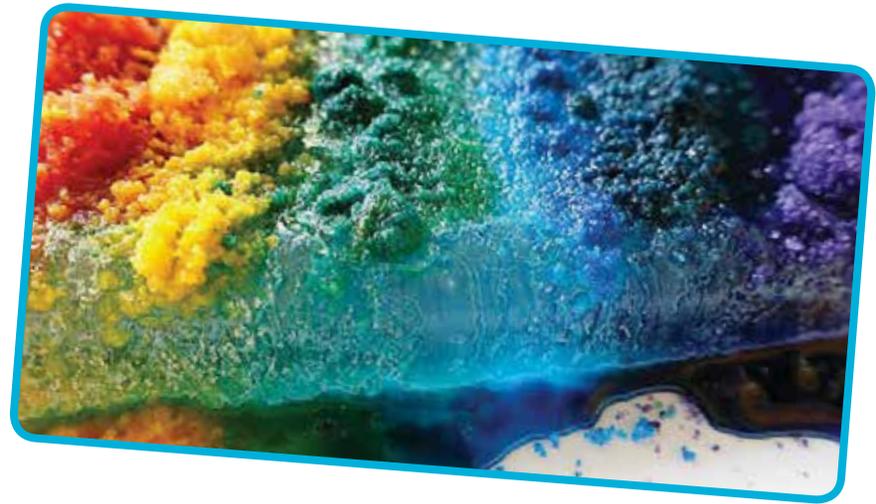
Ice and Salt Experiment

YOU WILL NEED:

Blocks of ice Paintbrush Salt
Food coloring Bowls

Full adult supervision throughout this experiment!

1. You need to begin with freezing a block or two of ice. A glass dish or plastic container will work. Fill with water and keep in the freezer overnight. Remove it from the dish/container. Before letting your child play with ice, always run the ice with warm water. This starts the melting process and will prevent fingers from sticking to the ice.
2. Once the block is free, place it on a towel to help keep it in place.
3. Mix your water and food coloring to the colors you would like to use.
4. Once everything is set up pour the salt onto the ice. Get ready to hear the ice cracking as the salt begins to create tiny craters before your very eyes!
5. Take your paintbrush and begin to paint the salt with the food coloring mixture. You will notice that the color sits on the salt vibrantly before soaking down and through the craters in the ice.
6. As it sinks through, the colors on the top of the ice begin to fade. Eventually the colors work their way completely through the ice and create colorful water trails!



Why does this happen?

As we know water becomes frozen at 32 degrees Fahrenheit. That's what we call the freezing point of water. When we add salt it lowers the freezing point which prevents ice from forming. The molecules in salt move much faster than the molecules of water which is why this reaction occurs!

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Notes:		Using your child's name, take turns saying words that rhyme with their name. 7	DR. SEUSS' BIRTHDAY! 2 Read a Dr. Seuss book such as <i>Green Eggs and Ham</i> .	Find items in your house that begin with the letter "P." 3	Encourage your child to paint with different objects from nature such as sticks, leaves or rocks. 4	
Let your child help you shop for groceries. Make a list and let her/him help you find the items at the store. 5	Practice direction words: on, under, over, in, off. 6	Using crayons, markers, paint, etc., draw a picture of an animal and label its color. 7	Count to 10 with your child! Go higher if you can! 8	*Conduct an <i>Ice and Salt Rainbow Experiment</i> . 9 	Talk about where you live. Say your address, include the street, city and state. 10	Play a game where each of you take turns. 11
GREEN WEEK: Look for things that are green in your house and when you are out and about with your child. 12	Introduce your child to a new food this month. Talk about the kind of food and how it keeps you healthy. 13	Cut out pictures from a magazine that are green. 14	Read a book together at bedtime. 15	Hide an object and have your child find it. Give clues to help them in their search. 16	ST. PATRICK'S DAY 17 Color or paint a rainbow with your child. 	Dance to music. Talk about the music. "Is it fast or slow, soft or loud, high or low?" 18
Collect lids of different size from containers. Ask your child order them from smallest to largest. 19	FIRST DAY OF SPRING 20 Take a walk with your child and look for signs of Spring.	Make a collage with unused items such as a bottle lid, popsicle stick, cotton ball, etc. 21	Draw together on different types of paper: foil, newspaper, wrapping paper or sand paper. 22	Visit your library and checkout a book! 23	Practice cutting with safety scissors. She/he can snip scrap paper, play dough or drinking straws. 24	Talk about different ways to get to one place to another: car, bike, airplane, taxi, walking, bus, etc. 25
Sort different size pasta by shape, size or length. After sorting glue them onto a piece of paper. 26	Cut out pictures from a magazine that begin with "C." Glue them to a piece of paper. 27	Talk about loud and quiet sounds. Have your child try whispering for quiet sounds and yelling for loud sounds. Then talk about inside and outside voices and practice! 28	Encourage your child to draw a picture of your family. 29	Have your child practice writing their name. 30	Encourage your child to dress himself/herself. Talk about the color of clothing that was chosen. Talk about appropriate clothing for different weather. 31	Notes:



SUGGESTED BOOK FOR FOUR & FIVE YEAR OLDS

Off To Kindergarten by Tony Johnston





Coffee Filter Butterflies

YOU WILL NEED:

Clothes pins

Paint (paint recipes on pages 28 & 29) or markers

Coffee filters

1. Color the coffee filter with markers or paint. Because the filters are thin, the colors bleed through, so it's best to put some paper underneath.
2. Let them dry. If you used markers and want a watercolor look you can rinse the coffee filters off a bit with water and then let them dry.
3. After they are dried, squish the coffee filter up in the middle so it starts to look like butterfly wings. Then clip the clothes pin where it is squished up.
4. Your child can then color the clothes pin, add a face, or a small antennae!

Paper Plate Ring Toss Game

YOU WILL NEED:

Paper plates

Paint (paint recipes on pages 28 & 29)

Scissors

Long cardboard tube (from plastic wrap, paper towel, etc.)

Sticky tape

1. Cut the center from some paper plates to use as your 'rings'.
2. To make the stand cut slits in the bottom of the cardboard tube and flattened the ends, then tape it to the reverse side of a plate so it will stand up.
3. Color or paint the 'rings'.



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Notes:							7	Make a calendar to track the number of rainy and sunny days. Add them up at months end to compare.					
Ask your child to tell you what happened last night or yesterday.	2	Practice making letters using your body.	3	Leave a container or cup outside to measure the rainfall. Show your child how to use a ruler to measure the rainfall.	4	Using your child's name, take turns saying words that rhyme with their name.	5	Give your child two step simple directions such as "go brush your teeth and then sit on your bed" before bedtime.	6	*Make a Paper Plate Ring Toss . Play the game together once it is all dry!	7	Go for a walk and see if you can spot any caterpillars around. How many did you find?	8
NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK	9	PASSOVER BEGINS	10	*Make Coffee Filter Butterflies . Talk about each color your child is using.	11	Sing the alphabet together.	12	Ask you child to draw a picture and tell you a story about it. Write down his/her words at the bottom.	13	Practice your phone number with your child.	14	Practice hopping/ jumping on one and two feet. See how far you can jump.	15
Before reading a book, look at the picture on the front and predict the story.		Visit your local library and look for books on butterflies.											
EASTER	16	Explore items in your home. Which ones are hard? Soft? Heavy? Light?	17	PASSOVER ENDS	18	Practice writing letters. Trace letters in shaving cream.	19	Find objects that begin with the same letter as your name.	20	Talk about food. Ask "What color is it? How does it taste? How does it smell? What does the child like best?"	21	EARTH DAY	22
Color eggs together with food coloring. Or cut out egg shapes and color with markers/crayons. Name the colors				Practice throwing and catching a ball together.								Talk about recycling with your child. Look at things around the house, what gets recycled and what gets thrown away.	
Have your child help the laundry...they can match socks!	23	WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD	24	Play "I Spy." Call out a letter and see if your child can find something in the house that start's with that letter sound.	25	Take your child to the library!	26	Take a "senses" walk outside together. Ask "What do you hear? What do you see? What can you touch?"	27	ARBOR DAY	28	Give your child a bag to collect rocks outside. Help your child sort them by size, color, shape, etc.	29
Play a family game together!	30	Play "Puddle Jump." Put on your rain gear on a rainy day and practice jumping.								Play store with your child. Use play money to pay for items. Talk about how much things cost.			



SUGGESTED BOOK FOR FOUR & FIVE YEAR OLDS

Mom, It's My First Day of Kindergarten! by Hyewon Yum





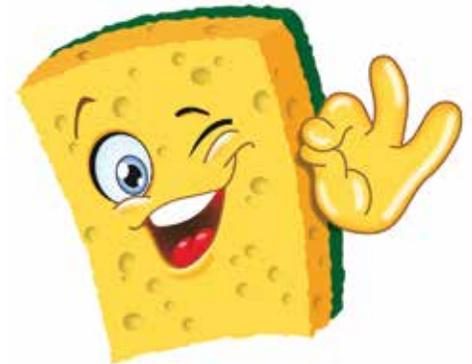
MAY 2017

Hand Washing Song

*(Sung to Fre a Jachues/
Are You Sleeping?)*

Tops and bottoms
Tops and bottoms
In between
In between

All around my hands
All around my hands
Make them clean
Make them clean



Sponge Darts

YOU WILL NEED:

A bucket (or tub) full of water

Sidewalk chalk or sidewalk chalk paint (recipe on page 28)

Sponges

1. Use sidewalk chalk or sidewalk chalk paint to draw or paint a bullseye on the walkway.
2. Explain the object of the game. Explain to your child they are to throw their wet sponges onto the bullseye, with the goal of getting as many sponges as possible on the colored dot in the center of the bullseye.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>Notes:</p>	<p>String noodles or "O" shaped cereal onto a shoe lace or string. Tie ends together to make a necklace your child can wear. 7</p>	<p>TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY 2 Talk to your child about how to care for books. Show how to turn the pages gently. Together find a special place to keep books at your home.</p>	<p>Play a counting game and ask your child to "find 3 pencils, find 5 pennies", etc. 3</p>	<p>Discuss proper dental care with your child including brushing and flossing. 4</p>	<p>Today is the 5th day of the 5th month. Count backwards from 5 to 0. 5</p>	<p>Cut a potato or pepper in half. Use one half and dip in paint. Press paint side onto paper like a stamp to make designs. Talk about the inside of the food. 6</p>
<p>Together find objects that start with the letter "M" in a magazine or around your house. 7</p>	<p>Sort household items by the beginning letter. "Let's put all the things that start with "C": car, candy, can, etc. 8</p>	<p>Have your child use their fingers to count their small items—like sunflower seeds or mini marshmallows. 9</p>	<p>Eat a snack of animal crackers. Sort the crackers into groups by animal and count each group. 10</p>	<p>Show your child a map of your state. Point out where you live. 11</p>	<p>Talk about things that you can do outside in the Spring that you were not able to do in the Winter. 12</p>	<p>*Play Sponge Darts outside with your child. 13</p> 
<p>MOTHER'S DAY 14 Create a memory box. Decorate an old shoe box. Use it as a special place for your child to collect things.</p>	<p>Look for things that are the color yellow this week. 15</p>	<p>Encourage your child to "read" to you by using the pictures to tell a story. 16</p>	<p>Give your child a ball and practice giving directions such as "put the ball under your chin." 17</p>	<p>Library Day! Find two books that talk about flowers. 18</p>	<p>Talk about the steps to planting a seed. How much soil? How much water? How much sun? (Does it like full sun or partial sun?) 19</p>	<p>Help your child plant a seed in a small cup. Place in a sunny place. Water with your child and watch it grow! 20</p>
<p>*Keeping your body clean is part of being healthy. Teach your child how to bathe, dress, brush teeth and wash hands. Make washing hands fun by singing The Hand Washing Song! 21</p>	<p>Have your child find things around the house that are square, circular and rectangular. 22</p>	<p>Sing a favorite song together. 23</p>	<p>Write a word or letter with highlighter and ask your child to trace with a pencil. 24</p>	<p>Discuss with your child where foods come from (ex: eggs come from a chicken). 25</p>	<p>After listening to a story, have your child tell you what happened first, next and last. 26</p>	<p>Visit a playground and climb together. 27</p>
<p>Read a story to your child pointing to each word as you read. 28</p>	<p>MEMORIAL DAY 29 Practice the "ABC Song" with your child.</p>	<p>How many books have you read this month? Help your child count them. 30</p>	<p>Play a "sink or float" game with your child. In a container, sink or wading pool, gather a bunch of different items, and toys and see which ones will sink or float, together. 31</p>	<p>Notes:</p>		



SUGGESTED BOOK FOR FOUR & FIVE YEAR OLDS

Punk Farm by Jarrett J. Krosoczka



JUNE 2017



HINT:
If you've ever made whipping cream, this is similar to that concept.

Bubble Foam

YOU WILL NEED:

Dish soap or bubble bath
Water

Food coloring
Hand mixer

Mix 2 parts water to 1 part dish liquid/bubble bath. A good start is 1/2 cup water plus 1/4 cup bubble bath. For color, add a little food coloring then whip it with a hand mixer on med-high for one minute. Use a big bowl and you'll end up with stiff peak. You can use it in the bathtub or a large container outside. Use your imagination with props: sponges, dish brushes, cups, measuring cups and spoons, toys, etc.



Tie dye art

Create napkin tie dye art. Put a few drops of different food coloring in small containers of water. Fold a paper napkin or coffee filter a few times. Then, dip the ends in the different colors of water. Unfold and let dry. (Focus on creativity.)



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

Notes:				Together write a story about the plant/flower you planted last month. 7		Have your child help fold clothes and count how many he/she folds. 2		Together match plastic containers and lids. 3	
Celebrate something your child has accomplished. 4	Go to the grocery store. Pick out fruits and vegetables and have your child name the colors. 5	Have your child practice counting from 1 to 15. 6	*Make Bubble Foam for some water play. Use it outside on a nice day! 7 	Have your child find things that start with the letter "S." 8	Go outside and repeat a pattern activity like step-step-jump. 9	Read a story to your child pointing to each word as you read. 10			
Play dress up together. 11	Have your child draw a picture of fun things to do in the Summer. 12	Give your child three simple directions to follow (ex: go get your shoes, put them on and wait at the door). 13	FLAG DAY 14 Count the stripes on the American flag.	With your child cut out 2 of each shape such as square, circle, triangle. etc. Play a matching game. 15	Together sing the "ABC Song." See if your child can hop, skip or jump while singing. 16	Arrange a play date with one of your child's friends. 17			
FATHER'S DAY 18 Play a board game or a card game with your child.	Have your child count all the doors and windows in your home. 19	* Make Tie Die Napkins or Coffee Filters . Ask you child what colors they see. Ask, What is their favorite color? 20 	FIRST DAY OF SUMMER 21 Make a picnic lunch with your child and eat it outside.	Together write your child's full name using upper and lower case letters. 22	With your child sort coins into groups by color or size. 23	Make a new recipe/ food together and encourage your child to try it. 24			
Read two books today. Have your child tell you which is his/her favorite and why. 25	Cut up an old greeting card in puzzle-like shapes. Ask your child to fit the pieces back together. 26	Have your child turn the pages as you read them a story. 27	With your child recite/sing the days of the week. 28	Visit your local library. Look for books that talk about the different colors. 29	Visit a playground and help your child with climbing activities. 30	Notes:			



SUGGESTED BOOK FOR FOUR & FIVE YEAR OLDS

The Bus For Us by Suzanne Bloom



JULY 2017



Fourth of July Noisemaker

YOU WILL NEED:

2 paper plates

Red, white and blue paint

(paint recipes on pages 28 & 29)

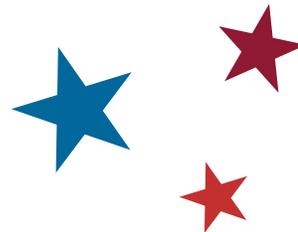
Dried beans

Stapler

Scissors

Paint brushes

Tape



1. Cut out a smile shape from the inner circle of both paper plates.
2. Cut across so you have removed a "D" shape from each plate.
3. Have your child paint both sides of both plates (red, white and blue recommended).
4. When the paint on the plates has dried, tape or staple the bottom edges. You want to make sure to make the tape/staples are close enough together so that no beans will spill out.
5. Fill the large inside pocket with a few tablespoons of dried beans, then tape or staple that pocket closed.
6. Tape the handle closed. Now all that is left to do is play your noisemaker. This is perfect to bring to a 4th of July parade or celebration!

HINT:
If using a stapler,
make sure to put
tape over the staples
on the handle to
protect your
child's skin!

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Notes:

Have your child draw a picture using red, white and blue.

7

Wear something red, something white and something blue today!

2

*Make a 4th of July Noisemaker!

3



INDEPENDENCE DAY

4

Watch fireworks together. Name all the colors that you see.

Make your grocery list together. Decide what foods you need and write the list down. Look for coupons.

5

Make bean bags together by partially filling a sock with beans or rice and tying a knot in the sock.

6

Use the "bean bags" made yesterday and toss them into a basket or make a tape circle on the floor.

7

"On your mark, get set, GO!" Ask your child to "run to touch the tree, then the house, then the bike". Limit or increase the touch targets depending on how well they remember.

8

Go on a bug hunt outside and see how many different bugs you can find... spiders, butterflies, ladybugs, beetles, ants, etc. Name them and watch them.

9

Visit your library and find books about travel. Talk about the places you would like to visit.

10

Cut out shapes of fish out of paper. Tape a metal paper clip to the fish. Then tape a fridge magnet to a piece of string and attach to a ruler. With your fishing rod catch the fish...fun!

11

With some blocks, make simple towers and then break. Ask your child to stack the same way start with four to five blocks and then add more blocks.

12

Hide a kitchen timer or music box turned on in a room and see if your child can find it by listening.

13

Make a book with your child. It is a story book, so have your child tell you a story and write it in the book. Try to write in it daily and read at bedtime.

14

Visit a local playground. Teach your child how to swing, how to pump their legs to keep going. Show them how to put their feet "out" to touch your hands and then "back" or "bend" when they go back.

15

Sing "If You're Happy and You Know It," clap your hands. Then ask, "What else can we do with our hands?" Sing "If you're happy and you know it stomp our feet." Next ask, "What else can we do with our feet?"

16

Encourage your child to dress himself/herself. Talk about the color of clothing that was chosen. Talk about appropriate clothing for different weather.

17

Give your child a bucket, container or watering can and ask them to water the flowers, trees or grass. Supervise.

18

Place some colored ice cubes in a resealable bag or container. Place in the sun and watch them melt, and the colors swirl together as you play with it.

19

Talk about things that your child likes to do now. Then ask what he or she may like to do in the future, such as next week, next year or when they grow up.

20

On a rainy day inside, sit on the floor with your child. Practice rolling a ball back and forth. Move further away from each other every time you roll the ball.

21

Gather pennies, cereal or small rocks in a clear container. Ask your child to guess how many are inside. Then, together, take them out and count them.

22

Have your child retell a story or event in order (first, middle, last)

23

Use child-safe scissors to cut play dough into shapes.

24

Put an old piece of bread into a plastic sandwich bag. Help your child pour a teaspoon of water into the bag and seal it. How many days does it take for mold to appear?

25

Have a "toy parade." Line up different toys and ask your child to point to the one that is first or second. Point to the one that is last.

26

With long paper strips, have your child practice cutting with single snips. Glue pieces on to a paper after.

27

Have sponges and buckets of water and have fun tossing them to one another on a hot Summer day.

28

Introduce your child to a variety of measuring cups. Talk about what each one measures or is used for and practice using them in the bathtub or sink

29

Have a play date with a friend!.

30

Have your child find things that start with the letter "L."

31



SUGGESTED BOOK FOR FOUR & FIVE YEAR OLDS

Press Here *Hervé Tullet* Translated by Christopher Franceschelli

Parents  & Partners

AUGUST 2017



Paper Plate School Bus

YOU WILL NEED:

1 standard sized white paper plate
Paper for shapes (black suggested)

Yellow paint
Paint brush

Scissors
Glue

Cut your paper plate in half evenly, directly down the middle. Have your child paint the plate on one side until the white is completely covered. Set aside and allow to dry. Cut out the shapes with the paper for gluing. Gently trace them onto the plate where you'd like them to go. Have your child pick up each shape and match it to the appropriate area on the plate, say each shape along with them as they go. Glue each shape onto their respective areas, and you've got yourself a paper plate school bus!



Magic Milk Science Experiment

YOU WILL NEED:

Milk
Dish soap
Liquid food coloring

Q-tips
Shallow container

1. Pour a small amount of milk into a shallow container. Put drops of food coloring all around the milk. Be creative!
2. Dip a Q-tip in the dish soap.
3. Touch the Q-tip to the surface of the milk. Try not to let your child plunge his/her Q-tip into the milk.
4. Watch the magic of the magic milk!



SIMPLE SCIENCE BEHIND MAGIC MILK FOR YOUNG KIDS

There's a terrific chemical reaction going on here between the soap and the milk's fat. Milk is made up of vitamins, minerals, proteins and fats. When the soap is added to the milk it breaks apart the protein and the fats. The soap heads for the fats creating the cool bursting of color. When there is no more movement, all the fat molecules have been found. Are there any more hiding? Try another Q-tip dipped in soap!

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Notes:		Start a kindergarten countdown. Write 30, 29, 28 all the way down to 1 on a piece of paper. Cross out one number a day to show how many days are left until school. 7	Make bubble prints. Add a little food coloring to milk and blow bubbles with a straw. Milk bubbles are heavier than soap bubbles, so be prepared for splashes of colorful milk with paper! 2	Talk to your child about things that make him/her nervous, scared, excited, sad and happy. Tell your child things that make you feel those ways too. 3	*Make a Paper Plate School Bus . Practice matching shapes such as square, circle and triangle. 4	Go outside and play Hopscotch or another game with your child. 5
Dance together to a favorite song. Include scarves and ribbons in the dance too! 6	Go outside, lie on your backs and look at the clouds. Observe the clouds looking for animals, shapes and objects. 7	Make your own cloud art. Mix 3 parts shaving cream and 1 part glue. Use cotton balls and dab in a cloud shape onto paper. 8	Visit the library today and find a book about going to school. Talk about kindergarten. 9	Ask your child to imagine what kindergarten will be like. Ask him/her to draw a picture and tell you about it. 10	Introduce the concept of time. Talk about what happens in the morning (get up, breakfast) in the afternoon (lunch) and in the evening (dinner, story time, bed). 11	Paint in the bathtub. Make "paint" with 1 Tbsp. cornstarch, 1/3 cup dishwashing soap and food coloring. Paint away! 12
Measure your child to see how tall they stand. Log on a growth chart. If you do not have one, start one today! 13	Talk about how your family's schedule may change when school starts. Discuss morning routines and after school routines. 14	Together, pick out the clothes your child will wear the first day of school. Keep them in a special place for that day. 15	Help your child write a note. It could be to remind them to do something (put away their toys) or it could be written to someone else. 16	Have your child count the spoons and forks in your silverware drawer. 17	Talk with your child about his/her feelings as the school year is about to begin. 18	*Do the Magic Milk Experiment with your child. Talk about the colors you see. 19
Create a fort together. Drape sheets and blankets over furniture. Crawl in with your child. Use a flashlight to make shadow puppets. Have fun! 20	Have your child practice skipping, galloping and marching. Play "Follow the Leader" to make it more fun! 21	See how many balls each of you can make out of play dough (recipe on page 28). Make big and small ones. Roll them until they are smooth. 22	Read a book before bedtime to help calm your child from the day's activities. 23	Gather 3 or 4 pictures of your child at different ages. Talk about each one then ask him/her to put them in order by age. 24	When dining out give your child a few choices of meals. Let your child choose what she/he will eat from the choices given. 25	Put different plastic containers in the bathtub for pouring. Encourage your child to pour water back and forth between the two. 26
WHITE WEEK: Have your child find as many things this week as he/she can that are white. Make a list. 27	Use addition and subtraction words like "I have one cracker and you have two crackers. That makes three crackers." 28	Have your child draw a picture of his/her new school. 29	Collect small items and ask your child to tell you which group has more/less. 30	Have your child tell you what his/her favorite part of school has been so far. 31	Notes:	



SUGGESTED BOOK FOR FOUR & FIVE YEAR OLDS

It's Your First Day of School, Annie Claire by Nancy White Carlstrom



recipes

Homemade Paint

YOU WILL NEED:

Heaping 3/4 cup flour Food coloring
1 cup warm water Bowls/containers

In a bowl, mix together the flour with warm water until the mixture is very smooth. The flour mixes in much better with warm water, versus cold. Divide into however many containers you prefer and stir in your desired amount of food coloring. Paint away! You can use this paint as finger paint or with regular brush paint. Feel free to add more water or flour until you reach your desired consistency.



HINT:

This paint does not store well, so just make enough for what you'll use that day.

Edible Playdough

YOU WILL NEED:

Baby rice cereal
Vegetable oil
Cornstarch
Unsweetened applesauce
(you can substitute water if you don't have applesauce)
Food coloring (optional)

In a bowl combine 1 cup of baby rice cereal and 1 cup of cornstarch. Mix well. Add 1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce (for reference those little lunch sized applesauces happen to be 4 oz. = 1/2 cup) and 3 Tbsps. vegetable oil and any food coloring (if desired). Mix well. Kneading by hand is pretty effective, though you could also use a mixer. The dough should be kneaded (or mixed) until it is smooth and pliable. If it is at all sticky, slowly add more rice cereal taking care to knead it completely in before deciding you need more. If the dough is dry and cracking, run your hands under the faucet and knead the dough with your now wet hands.



HINT: The dough will keep for several days in the refrigerator. Store in a sealed container or bag and please check for mold or a yucky smell before using it each time (how long it takes to spoil will depend on how clean your kiddos hands are and how warm it is where you live, etc.). You will find that the dough is stiffer when it first comes out of the refrigerator, if you knead it to warm it up, it will soon be back to its normal pliable self! If necessary, wet your hands with some water and knead that in.

Homemade Bubbles

YOU WILL NEED:
4 cups warm water
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup
Dawn dish soap

Whisk the sugar into the warm water until the sugar dissolves. Add the dish soap and whisk to combine. Blow bubbles with your new bubble solution!



recipes

Salt and Flour Paint

YOU WILL NEED:
1/2 cup flour
1/2 cup salt
1/2 cup water
Food coloring



Blend 1/2 cup of flour with 1/2 cup of salt. Add 1/2 cup of water and mix until smooth. Divide it up into 3 sandwich bags and add a few drops of liquid watercolor or food coloring to each bag. Squish them up until the "paint" is well blended. Add more water if you'd like a thinner paint.

IDEA:

Cut a corner off the baggie and squeeze the paint mixture onto paper.



Sidewalk Chalk Paint

YOU WILL NEED:
Cornstarch Food coloring
Water Plastic cups or bowls

Mix the cornstarch and food coloring inside the house. Use a different color in each container for a variety of colors. Carry the cups or bowls outside. Add the water with a small cup (to control plashing). Make sure you use a good ratio of cornstarch to water. You'll want it to be a thicker paste not too watery so the color will show up. Use paintbrushes to apply paint to sidewalks and driveways.



GETTING Ready FOR KINDERGARTEN!

Contact your local school district to find out the dates for kindergarten registration. You will need the following items to register your child for public school:

- Birth certificate
- Social Security card
- Current immunization record
- Health history form completed by parent/guardian
- Physical and dental exam performed by a health care professional
- Proof of residency such as a driver's license or a rental or mortgage agreement

Check with your local school district to see if additional information is required for registration.



DAUPHIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Central Dauphin School District

600 Rutherford Rd.
Harrisburg, PA 17109
717-545-4703
www.cdschools.org

Derry Township School District

30 East Granada Ave., PO Box 898
Hershey, PA 17033
717-534-2501
www.hershey.k12.pa.us

Halifax Area School District

3940 Peters Mountain Rd.
Halifax, PA 17032
717-896-3416
www.hasd.us

Harrisburg City School District

1601 State St.
Harrisburg, PA 17103
717-703-4000
www.hbgasd.k12.pa.us

Lower Dauphin School District

291 E. Main St.
Hummelstown, PA 17036
717-566-5300
www.ldsd.org

Middletown Area School District

55 W. Water St.
Middletown, PA 17057
717-948-3300
www.raiderweb.org

Millersburg Area School District

799 Center St.
Millersburg, PA 17061
717-692-210
www.mlbgasd.k12.pa.us

Steelton-Highspire School District

250 Reynders St.
Steelton, PA 17113
717-704-3800
www.shsd.k12.pa.u

Susquehanna Township School District

3550 Elmerton Ave.
Harrisburg, PA 17110
717.657.5100
www.hannasd.org

Upper Dauphin Area School District

5668 State Route 209
Lykens, PA 17048
717-362-8134
www.udasd.org



resources

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

1227 Berryhill Street, Harrisburg
717-234-3268
www.bgccp.org

Promotes and enhances the development of boys and girls in a safe and positive environment

CAPITAL AREA HEAD START

3700 Vartan Way, Harrisburg
717-541-9620
www.keystonehumanservices.org

Provides education and other services to low income children and their families

CENTRAL PA FOOD BANK

717-564-1700
www.centralpafoodbank.org

CHILDLINE

800-852-2102
State child abuse registry

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (CHIP)

800-986-KIDS
www.chipcoverspakids.com
A state-funded health insurance for uninsured children and teens

COMMUNITY CHECK-UP CENTER

38C Hall Manor, Harrisburg
717-233-1700
www.communitycheckupcenter.org
Provides medical services to uninsured and underinsured individuals

CONTACT HELPLINE

800-932-4616
www.contacthelpline.org
Emergency counseling and referral agency for social services

DAUPHIN COUNTY INFANT/TODDLER EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

For referrals call 717-441-7034
Or visit CMU, 1100 S. Cameron Street, Harrisburg 17104 and ask for Early Intervention.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

800-799-SAFE

HAMILTON HEALTH CENTER

110 S. 17th Street, Harrisburg
717-230-3909
www.hamiltonhealthcenter.com
Provides adult and children primary medical care and dental services, women's obstetric and gynecological services, laboratory and radiology services, HIV testing and treatment services, as well as HIV and substance abuse prevention services for women with children and case management services for pregnant women with children.

JOSHUA GROUP

1442 Market Street, Harrisburg
717-236-4464
www.joshuagroup.org
Youth mentoring organization

LIHEAP

Pennsylvania Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Hotline
866-857-7095

MEN MATTER FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE

717-909-1278
A program that helps fathers with parenting skills

MIDPENN LEGAL SERVICES

213-A N. Front St., Harrisburg
800-932-0356
Offers assistance in filing a protection from abuse (PFA) petition

PARENTWORKS OF PRESSLEY RIDGE

50 Utley Drive, Suite 200, Camp Hill
717-774-3673
www.pressleyridge.org
Resource center for parents and young children; parent education and child-abuse prevention

THE SALVATION ARMY HARRISBURG AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

1122 Green St, Harrisburg, PA 17102
(717) 233-6755
Provides after school programs in the Harrisburg School District

SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE

800-273-TALK



Jump Start into Kindergarten 2016-2017 is made possible in-part by the Pennsylvania's Office of Child Development and Early Learning (or OCDEL) Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant. Parents & Partners is a collaborative of many community organizations committed to early learning and school readiness.



Parents & Partners
a special initiative of
The Foundation for Enhancing Communities
200 N. 3rd Street • 8th Floor • Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-236-5040 • Fax: 717-231-4463
www.tfec.org

FINANCIAL PARTNERS

Ms. Marilynn Abrams

Ms. Jenny and Ms. Janice R. Black

Greater Harrisburg Foundation,
a regional foundation of TFEC

The Hershey Company

Henry & Beatrice Miller Fund

Ms. Linda Miller &

Mr. Rob Adelberg

Ms. Kristen Olewine Milke

PNC Foundation

Conrad M. and Gail Siegel

DESIGN & PRINT BY



717.795.8830 | wavelinedirect.com

Home of



800.257.8830 | childcorepublishing.com