

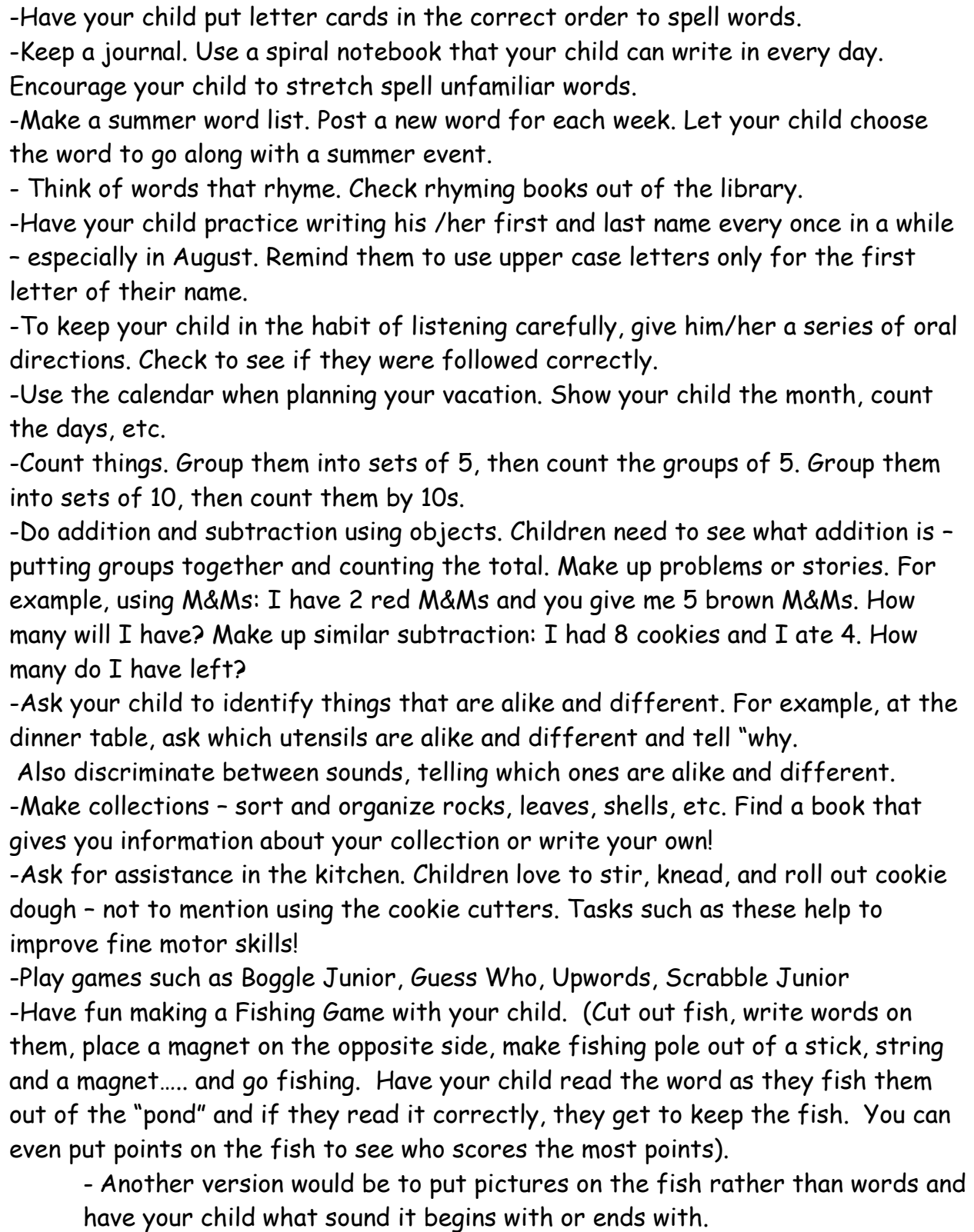
Dear Parents,

We hope that you are all having a nice summer. We are looking forward to getting to know both you and your child better in the coming months. Until then, We would like to provide you with some suggestions of ways to enjoy some time with your young ones this summer. We hope that you will find these activities helpful and enjoyable. We can't wait to hear all about your child's summer experience in the Fall! Happy Vacationing!

The First Grade Team

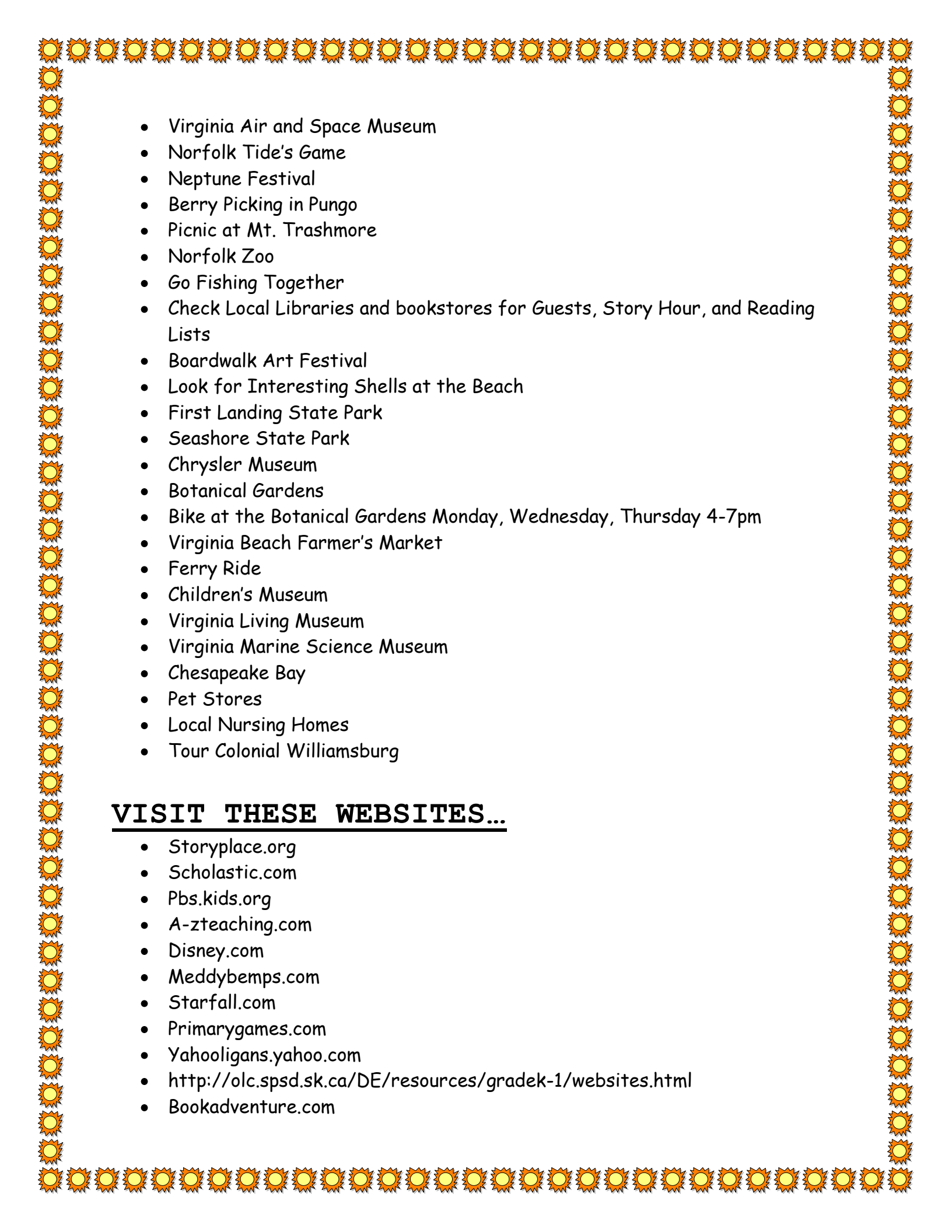
Quick Educational Ideas

- Go to a restaurant and practice rounding to the nearest dollar and then estimating the cost of your bill.
- Collect shells at the shore and sort them. Identify the sorting rule.
- Write words to describe you using the letters in your name
- Write a poem on a paper plate about really yummy food or food that is yucky
 - Find a picture in a magazine and write a story about it
- Read a story with mom/dad, become the illustrator and make your own pictures to go with it
- Divide a paper plate in 1/4's and draw a pizza that has 1/4 pepperoni, 1/4 cheese, 1/4 mushroom, and 1/4 green pepper
- Make a silly sentence using words that begin with the first letter in your name
- Help prepare a dessert or snack. Draw or write the sequence of steps taken to make this item.
- Find symmetry in nature. Draw the object and draw a line of symmetry on it.
- Select a picture book and rewrite the ending
- Find a pattern around your house and take a picture or illustrate it. Can you name the pattern using letters?
- Practice writing and saying your: address, telephone number, and parent's names
 - Helping your child practice listening for initial consonant sounds. Play "what is in the zoo?" Ask your child "What is in the zoo that begins with the letter 'C'?" Then have your child answer with as many 'C' words as he/she can. Vary the activity by using other places such as the grocery store, home, etc.

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- Have your child put letter cards in the correct order to spell words.
 - Keep a journal. Use a spiral notebook that your child can write in every day. Encourage your child to stretch spell unfamiliar words.
 - Make a summer word list. Post a new word for each week. Let your child choose the word to go along with a summer event.
 - Think of words that rhyme. Check rhyming books out of the library.
 - Have your child practice writing his /her first and last name every once in a while
 - especially in August. Remind them to use upper case letters only for the first letter of their name.
 - To keep your child in the habit of listening carefully, give him/her a series of oral directions. Check to see if they were followed correctly.
 - Use the calendar when planning your vacation. Show your child the month, count the days, etc.
 - Count things. Group them into sets of 5, then count the groups of 5. Group them into sets of 10, then count them by 10s.
 - Do addition and subtraction using objects. Children need to see what addition is - putting groups together and counting the total. Make up problems or stories. For example, using M&Ms: I have 2 red M&Ms and you give me 5 brown M&Ms. How many will I have? Make up similar subtraction: I had 8 cookies and I ate 4. How many do I have left?
 - Ask your child to identify things that are alike and different. For example, at the dinner table, ask which utensils are alike and different and tell "why. Also discriminate between sounds, telling which ones are alike and different.
 - Make collections - sort and organize rocks, leaves, shells, etc. Find a book that gives you information about your collection or write your own!
 - Ask for assistance in the kitchen. Children love to stir, knead, and roll out cookie dough - not to mention using the cookie cutters. Tasks such as these help to improve fine motor skills!
 - Play games such as Boggle Junior, Guess Who, Upwords, Scrabble Junior
 - Have fun making a Fishing Game with your child. (Cut out fish, write words on them, place a magnet on the opposite side, make fishing pole out of a stick, string and a magnet.... and go fishing. Have your child read the word as they fish them out of the "pond" and if they read it correctly, they get to keep the fish. You can even put points on the fish to see who scores the most points).
 - Another version would be to put pictures on the fish rather than words and have your child what sound it begins with or ends with.

Fun and Simple Field Trips...

Plan trips to:

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- Virginia Air and Space Museum
 - Norfolk Tide's Game
 - Neptune Festival
 - Berry Picking in Pungo
 - Picnic at Mt. Trashmore
 - Norfolk Zoo
 - Go Fishing Together
 - Check Local Libraries and bookstores for Guests, Story Hour, and Reading Lists
 - Boardwalk Art Festival
 - Look for Interesting Shells at the Beach
 - First Landing State Park
 - Seashore State Park
 - Chrysler Museum
 - Botanical Gardens
 - Bike at the Botanical Gardens Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 4-7pm
 - Virginia Beach Farmer's Market
 - Ferry Ride
 - Children's Museum
 - Virginia Living Museum
 - Virginia Marine Science Museum
 - Chesapeake Bay
 - Pet Stores
 - Local Nursing Homes
 - Tour Colonial Williamsburg

VISIT THESE WEBSITES...

- Storyplace.org
- Scholastic.com
- Pbs.kids.org
- A-zteaching.com
- Disney.com
- Meddybemps.com
- Starfall.com
- Primarygames.com
- Yahooligans.yahoo.com
- http://olc.spsd.sk.ca/DE/resources/gradek-1/websites.html
- Bookadventure.com

- <http://www.eduplace.com/edugames.html>
- <http://www.earobics.com/gamegoo/gooneyhome.html>
- <http://www.funbrain.com/>
- <http://www.lethsd.ab.ca/mmh/games/top100.htm>

OTHER "STUFF" TO DO...

- Purchase a disposable camera. Let your child take pictures - then write about them.
- Play board games
- Have a picnic
- Collect bugs and observe them
- Lowe's and Michael's have great kids workshops
- Send postcards to friends/relatives
- Learn to cook/bake
- Sleep outside in a tent
- LEARN TO SWIM (Did you know that this used to be a requirement for college graduation?)
- Stargaze
- Learn about and research a new culture - choose a country you know very little about.
- Start a "collection" - shells, coins, beach glass, postcards, stamps, etc.
- Plant and tend a small garden



Have a safe, fun, and relaxing summer!