

Kindergarten Summer Suggestions...



Dear Parents,

Below the kindergarten team has provided you with a few ideas that will help to keep your child's skills sharp over the summer. We hope that you will find them helpful and fun!

JOURNAL WRITING

It is important to keep those writing skills intact and practiced over the summer. Provide your child with a brand new journal – they enjoy shopping for just the right one! A new set of markers, pens, or colored pencils is even more exciting.

Several times per week, have your child make an entry in their summer journal. Entries can be about something fun they have done, a friend they have enjoyed, a visit from Grandma, etc. **Always have your child read their writing back to you.** Encourage them to illustrate their work as well. When attempting to write words that are not yet a part of their sight word vocabulary, always ask them to **“write what you hear.”** Most children really enjoy journal writing and like to go back from time to time and re-read their entries.

READ ALOUDS & USE OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Our public libraries offer great reading programs, free of charge, during the summer months. Make sure your child has a library card and make good use of it!

Assist your child in choosing books for a variety of purposes:

INDEPENDENT READING – These are books that your child can read on his/her own without having to interrupt fluency to decode frequently. It is okay for these books to be “easy” to read. The goal here is to practice and maintain fluency. While your child is reading, YOU should be reading too!

READ ALOUDS – These books are too difficult for your child to read independently. Be sure to set aside time to read aloud to your child, even though they are now reading on their own. Hearing you read text that is above their personal reading level allows them to hear and interpret language, experience intonation, and build vocabulary. Always take time

to question before, during and after the story. Read Alouds are great ways to build on comprehension and predicting skills.

FICTION AND NONFICTION – Encourage your child to choose a variety of books – fiction and nonfiction, fairytales, fables, poetry, etc.

SAVE and COUNT MONEY

Allow your child to choose an item (toy, book, movie, etc) that they are willing to save for. Write down how much this item costs. Assist your child in counting the coins they are able to save (coin recognition, adding coins). Keep a running tally of how much is saved and how much more they need (addition/subtraction skills).

Using “math talk”

As often as possible, remember to reinforce those math skills by using math vocabulary and asking questions that require your child to use the problem solving skills he/she has developed this year. Here are a few easy examples:

Telling Time – “Will you please come and get me in 10 minutes?” “We are going to leave in half an hour. What time will that be?” “Look at the clock: What time do you want to eat lunch?”

Fractions/Symmetry – Have your child help you cut the pizza, cake, apple, sandwich, etc into halves, fourths, thirds, etc.

Calendar skills – Help your child keep a current calendar during the summer. Mark special days: trips, play dates, swim meets, vacations, appointments, etc. Ask questions: How many weeks are there in July? What day of the week will Grandma’s birthday fall on this year? How many days are left in the month of June?

Hundreds, Tens, Ones – Continue to save pennies for Haiti! Allow your child to make groups of tens and then, hundreds. Keep a tally of how many you have collected.

Ordinal numbers – At the supermarket, ask your child what number they are in line. Fifth? Tenth? Second? Ask them: “What color shirt is the ninth person in line wearing?”

PLAY OUTDOORS & PLAN FOR RAINY DAYS

If you do nothing else this summer, PLEASE be conscious of the amount of time your child spends watching TV, playing video games, and working on the computer. While I do live in the real world and am not “against” these activities, I firmly believe that children (and adults) need to exercise their minds, as well as, their bodies. Send them outside to play, run, jump, swim, etc. On rainy days, sick days, or simply “too hot” days,

prepare a craft box. Fill it with scraps of material, magazines, crayons, glue, markers, scissors, sequins, beads, ribbon, colored paper, tissue paper, wrapping paper, lunch bags, hole punches, rubber stamps, stickers, stencils, etc. I found that keeping this box put away until a rainy day added to the excitement and kept them from getting bored with the idea.

FIELD TRIPS WITH A TWIST...

Plan trips to:

- Virginia Air and Space Museum
- Norfolk Zoo
- Beach
- First Landing State Park
- Chrysler Museum
- Botanical Gardens
- Virginia Beach Farmer's Market
- Ferry Ride
- Children's Museum
- Virginia Living Museum
- Virginia Marine Science Museum
- Chesapeake Bay
- Pet stores
- Local Nursing Homes

VISIT THESE WEBSITES...

- Yahooligans.yahoo.com
- Pbs.kids.org
- Starfall.com
- A-zteaching.com
- Disney.com
- Bookadventure.com

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!