

Summer Learning Fun!

Dear Families,

This year, in 3-K and pre-K classrooms, children engaged in a variety of play-based learning experiences. This ranged from using their bodies, open-ended materials, books, and computers, as well as manipulatives such as blocks and dinosaur figures, to develop a strong foundation in early learning. You can help your child continue to grow the skills they developed this year and encourage their love of learning by doing the activities listed below together. These activities are similar to the activities your children were doing in school. They can be played with a variety of toys or materials and are intended to be active and fun!

- **Counting steps.** Invite your child to guess how many steps they will need to take to get to a specific place, such as a door. After they have made a prediction, invite them to walk to the specified place. Help count the steps as needed. Will the number be the same if someone else walks to the specified place? What can you do to change the number of steps it takes to reach the door? Substitute another location such as a window or tree for the door.
- **Practice measuring.** Measure and cut a piece of string or ribbon as long as your child's arm. Invite them to look for objects that are the same length as this piece of string then compare the string to each object. Were items shorter/longer/or the same size as the length of the string? Consider making a string as long as your own arm and doing this activity with your child, too.
- **Find shapes.** Notice the shape of objects around you. Ask your child to find and count the sides and angles and then name the shape. How many different shapes can you find on a walk around your neighborhood? Create a card (similar to a bingo card) or make a tally mark for each shape that you see.
- **Keep a Summer Journal.** Talk with your child about the activities they do each day. At the end of the day take a few minutes to reflect using open-ended questions such as, what did you like best? Why? Was anything difficult or challenging? Why? How did that make you feel? Jot down your child's thoughts about these activities and invite them to add pictures to the journal as well.
- **Collections.** Invite your child to save various items such as lids from jars/containers, seashells from the beach, pebbles from the park, etc. to create a collection. Explore the materials with your child and use them to create patterns and practice sorting and counting. Label how many is in each collection.
- **Letter Hunt.** Look for letters where you live and in the environment outside. Point them out to your child paying special attention to letters that are especially relevant to them such as the first letter of their name as well as those

of close family and friends. What kind of lines do you see in those letters? Are they straight or curved or both?

- **Play Store.** Gather objects to buy and sell and take on roles of cashier and customer. Discuss what the customer is buying and why, how many items they are buying as well as what the items cost individually and all together.
- **Recycled Materials.** Save reusable materials such as empty cardboard boxes and clean plastic containers to make various creations with your child. Consider making the buildings in your neighborhood, cars, trains or other vehicles your child enjoys.
- **Number Stories.** Have your child draw a picture or create a scene with items in your house or from nature, like a scene of a playground or house. Write a number on a card and have your child tell a story by putting that many items on the scene. Make the story more fun and engaging by creating and adding additional items. For example, "I have five people in my house. Two are asleep and three are eating breakfast."
- **Laundry fun.** Have your child help you match items in your laundry. Talk about things that come in pairs before folding and putting them away.
- **Dance Party.** Play your favorite music and take turns creating a dance pattern. Build on the pattern as you go. For example, start with *step, step, jump, step, step, jump, step, step, jump*. Then add a shake for *step, step, jump, shake, step, step, jump, shake, step, step, jump, shake*.