

Learning Activities for Summer

Literacy

Make a Writing Kit for your child to practice writing:

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|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Pens | Colored Pencils | Thin Markers |
| Plain White Paper | Colored copy paper | Envelopes |
| Stapler (for making books) | Tape | Dry Erase Board |
| Magna Doodle | Notepads | Index Cards |

Shaving Cream

Put a small amount of shaving cream on the table or on a tray. Spread it out and draw letters and numbers in the shaving cream with your finger. You may want to use a smock, but if it gets on clothes, it fades away after a few minutes. When it is time to clean up, rub the shaving cream until it disappears, then wash the table or tray.

Pipe Cleaner Letters

Use pipe cleaners (a.k.a. chenille stems) to form letters by bending them.

Letter Memory Game

Place 2-4 letter magnets (or cards with the letters written on them) on a tray. Cover them up with a cloth and take one away. Uncover the cloth, and ask your child which one is missing. You can also have your child write the letter on a piece of paper or dry erase board.

Name

Write your child's name on a piece of construction paper in large letters. Glue on yarn, beans or glitter. (ALWAYS, use an uppercase letter for the first letter of a name, but write the rest in lowercase letters.)

Letter Sound Basket

Give your child a basket and ask him or her to collect objects from around the house that begin with a particular letter.

Mystery Sound Bag

Place 3 or 4 objects that begin with a particular letter in a bag. For example, bowl, ball, block, book for the letter B. Have your child pull the items out one at the time and identify the beginning letter.

Erase-the-Rhyme

Draw a picture on a dry erase board and ask your child to erase things that rhyme. For example, draw a house, and ask your child to erase what rhymes with hoof (roof), floor (door), ball (wall), bindow (window). Or, draw a cat, and ask your child to erase what rhymes with pail (tail), tie (eye), dose (nose), south (mouth), lead (head), etc.

Math

Candy Math

Have your child use colored candy, such as Gummi candy, M & M's, Skittles, Runts, jelly beans, etc. Use them for sorting, counting, patterning activities.

Block Game

Use a numbered game die or spinner and some blocks. Take turns rolling the die, and taking the correct number of blocks from the pile. Build a tower with the blocks. After all the blocks are gone, compare the towers to see whose is the tallest.

Number Basketball

Write numbers on pieces of paper and place them on the floor. Place a trash can nearby. Call out a number for your child to find, crumble up and toss into the trash can.

Money Toss

Toss five pennies onto the table or floor. Count how many heads and tails.

Counting Books

Make counting books with stickers. Choose stickers that will appeal to your child (Barbie, Harry Potter, trains, horses, etc.) Staple pieces of paper together and label each page with a number. Have your child stick the correct amount of stickers on each page of the book. You could make the "Spiderman Counting Book" or "Dora the Explorer Counting Book".

Path Games

Path games are great for counting practice because a child rolls the dice or spins a spinner and counts how many spaces to move. You can buy them or make your own path games with stickers.

Card Games

You can use playing cards in several ways:

Have your child match two of the same numbers,

Have your child put the numbers in sequential order,

Play war (Two players take the top card from their own pile, compare them, and the player with the highest number wins that round and collects both cards.)

Number Writing Rhymes:

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Round and round and round we go When we get home We have a zero. | Start at the top And down we run That's the way we make a one. |
| Around and back On the railroad track Two, two, two! | Around a tree Around a tree That's the way we make a three. |
| Down and over And down some more That's the way we make a four. | Down and around With a flag on high That's the way we make a five. |
| Around to a loop Number six rolls a hoop. | Across the sky And down from heaven That's the way we make a seven. |
| Make an "S" and do not wait When we get home We have an eight. | Make a loop And then a line That's the way we make a nine. |

Science

Make a Science Kit:

Prism
Seashells
Rock Collection
Kaleidoscopes
Magnets
Magnifying Glass
Bug Box/ Critter Cage
Binoculars

Nature Walk

Go on a nature walk in your neighborhood or in the woods. Collect small sticks, rocks, leaves, wildflowers. You can use them later to make a nature collage or look at them through a magnifying glass.

Pond Nature Trip

Give your child a "pond study kit": magnifying glass, clear cup (for a water sample), plastic bags (for plant and dirt samples), craft sticks, plastic spoons, etc. Take a trip to a pond and let your child explore. Take a bag of bread crumbs for the ducks.

Magnets

Let your child experiment with various objects and classify them as magnetic or non-magnetic. You can use a paper clip, screw, penny, pen cap, cork, crayon, etc.

Chemical Reaction

Let your child experiment with baking soda and vinegar to make a chemical reaction. Put baking soda in a paper cup and vinegar in another cup. Add amounts of one ingredient to the other and watch what happens.

More Chemistry

You can also set out several ingredients and let your child experiment with the different textures (and reactions) the ingredients make. For solids, you can have cups of flour, baking soda, salt, sand, corn meal. For liquids, you can set out cups of water, oil, liquid soap, bubble bath. Add drops of food coloring for added fun.

Simple Machines: Ramps

Provide your child with blocks and small boards or cardboard to make ramps. Children can experiment with by rolling or sliding different objects down the ramps: blocks, boxes, cars, marbles, droplets of water, rocks.

Fine Motor Skills

Scissors & Play-dough

Let your child use scissors to cut play-dough. This helps build fine motor strength and helps them learn to use scissors.

Magazine Collage

Cut pictures from magazines and glue them onto a piece of construction paper. You can have your child cut out certain things, such as "things that begin with the letter A" or "red things" or "ocean animals", etc. You can also make books by stapling construction paper together and gluing each picture on a page.

Play-Dough Bakery

Use bowls, spoons, cookie cutters, cookie sheets, rolling pins, plates, cups, mini pie pans, muffin tins, and other things with play-dough.

More...

Legos

Puzzles

Light Bright

Art

Make an Art Kit:

Colored Construction Paper

Plain White Paper

Crayons

Markers

Scissors

Glue/Glue Stick

Colored Chalk

Oil Pastels

Water Color Paints

Tempera or Poster Paint

Tape

Collage Materials (beans, pasta, craft foam, cotton)

Popsicle Sticks

