

Summer

BRAIN BOOST



Play is incredibly important for a child's learning and development. Through play, children naturally explore the world around them, make sense of their experiences and develop crucial skills across various domains including cognitive, social/emotional, physical, mathematics, language arts, and science.

As children play, learning is supported through imagination, creativity, problem-solving, critical thinking, and language and communication skills are tested and enhanced.

In this packet we have included some samples of activities you can do to enhance learning over the summer while outside the classroom. Remember though that learning is also taking place when reading to your child, making arts and crafts, playing games and putting together puzzle, baking together, taking hikes, etc. In other words, by embracing a variety of hands-on, experiential and interactive learning approaches (vs. flash cards and worksheets) you will help your child develop a love for learning that goes beyond rote memorization and fosters a deep understanding about the world around them!

Art

Paint a picture.	Draw with crayons.	Draw in the dirt with a stick.	Draw with sidewalk chalk.	Create 3-D art with empty toilet paper or paper towel tubes. Add ribbons, colored paper, washi tape, etc.
Create with play dough or clay.	Glue two wiggle eyes to paper (or draw them). Then come up with a person or animal to draw.	Draw with light-colored crayons (yellow, light blue, white), then paint over it with watercolor.	Get a pencil and dip the eraser in paint to make polka dot art.	Make a rainbow collage by finding colored pictures in magazines.

Get Moving

Count to 10 while exercising: jumps, squats, kicks, toe touches, etc.	Dance to Go Noodle videos on YouTube.	Move like animals: frog jump, crab walk, elephant walk, monkey swing, turtle crawl.	Dance fast. Dance slow.	Play freeze: dance or run, then stop when a family member says "FREEZE!"
Lay pillows around the floor and do frog jumps over them.	Play "The floor is lava". Move around the room without touching the floor.	Draw a line on the driveway with chalk. Make it zigzag and curve. Walk the line, making sure to stay on.	Dance along with your favorite songs.	Play hopscotch.

Math

Practice counting with pieces of cereal, buttons, Barbie shoes, or Legos, etc.	Name the shapes of your food at each meal and snack time.	Count out 15 Legos. Build something with them.	Draw a short flower and a tall flower. Draw a short tree and a tall tree.	Practice writing some numbers. Use sidewalk chalk, paper, or write in the sand.
Draw 6 green worms and 5 red worms. How many worms in all?	Put your toy under your arm, above your head, beside your knee, around your waist.	Collect some leaves & rocks. Make a pattern: rock, leaf, rock, leaf, rock, leaf, and so on.	Build a tower with 5 blocks and a tower with 8 blocks. Which has more? Continue with other numbers.	Use play dough or cereal pieces or sticks to make shapes.

Literacy

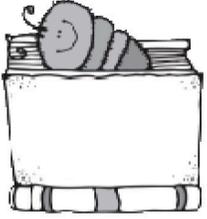
Choose a book and search for the letter "a" on each page. Try other letters.	Practice writing your name and other letters on paper, in the sand, & with sidewalk chalk.	If you were a bird, where would you fly? Draw a picture. Tell someone about your picture.	Say your favorite nursery rhymes.	Find an item in your house that begins with Aa. Try with other letters.
Bingo: Write 10 letters on paper. Call out letters randomly for your child to find & circle or stamp.	Make silly rhyming names for your family & friends, such as "Wentley Bentley" or "Warah Sarah".	Make letters with play dough, sticks, Legos, buttons, or anything you find.	Make a book with folded paper. Draw pictures, write letters. Tell your story to a family member or pet.	Bury letters in the sandbox (or hide around the house) for your child to find and name.

Science

<p>Draw what you see in the sky at night. Draw what you see in the sky in the day.</p>	<p>Test objects in water to see if they float or sink. Try: spoon, sponge, toy, leaf, block etc.</p>	<p>Place a wet paper towel in a ziplock with a dry lima bean. Tape it to the window to grow.</p>	<p>Make bubble solution with 1 spoon of dish soap & $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water. Stir. Use dry rigatoni for a bubble blower.</p>	<p>Build a ramp with blocks or a board and test objects to see which will roll.</p>
<p>Pour milk in a pie pan to cover the bottom. Add drops of food color on edges. Dip toothpick in soap & dip it in the milk.</p>	<p>Place different objects in a sock. Feel without looking and guess what it is.</p>	<p>Pour different amounts of water in 6 glasses. Add food color. Tap the glasses with a wooden spoon.</p>	<p>Draw something you can taste, something you can see, smell, hear, touch.</p>	<p>Go on a critter hunt in your yard. See how many types of bugs or animals you can find.</p>

Fine Motor

<p>Put Legos or snap cubes together.</p>	<p>Pick up Cheerios or marshmallows with tweezers. Move them from one bowl to another.</p>	<p>Practice buttoning a shirt and snapping pants.</p>	<p>Pop bubble wrap.</p>	<p>Play with play dough or clay.</p>
<p>Cut out pictures from a magazine or catalog and glue on paper.</p>	<p>Punch holes in paper with a toothpick.</p>	<p>Go on a tweezer trek. See what you can find in your yard that you can pick up with tweezers.</p>	<p>Slice a banana with a spreader or dull knife.</p>	<p>Practice zipping a jacket.</p>

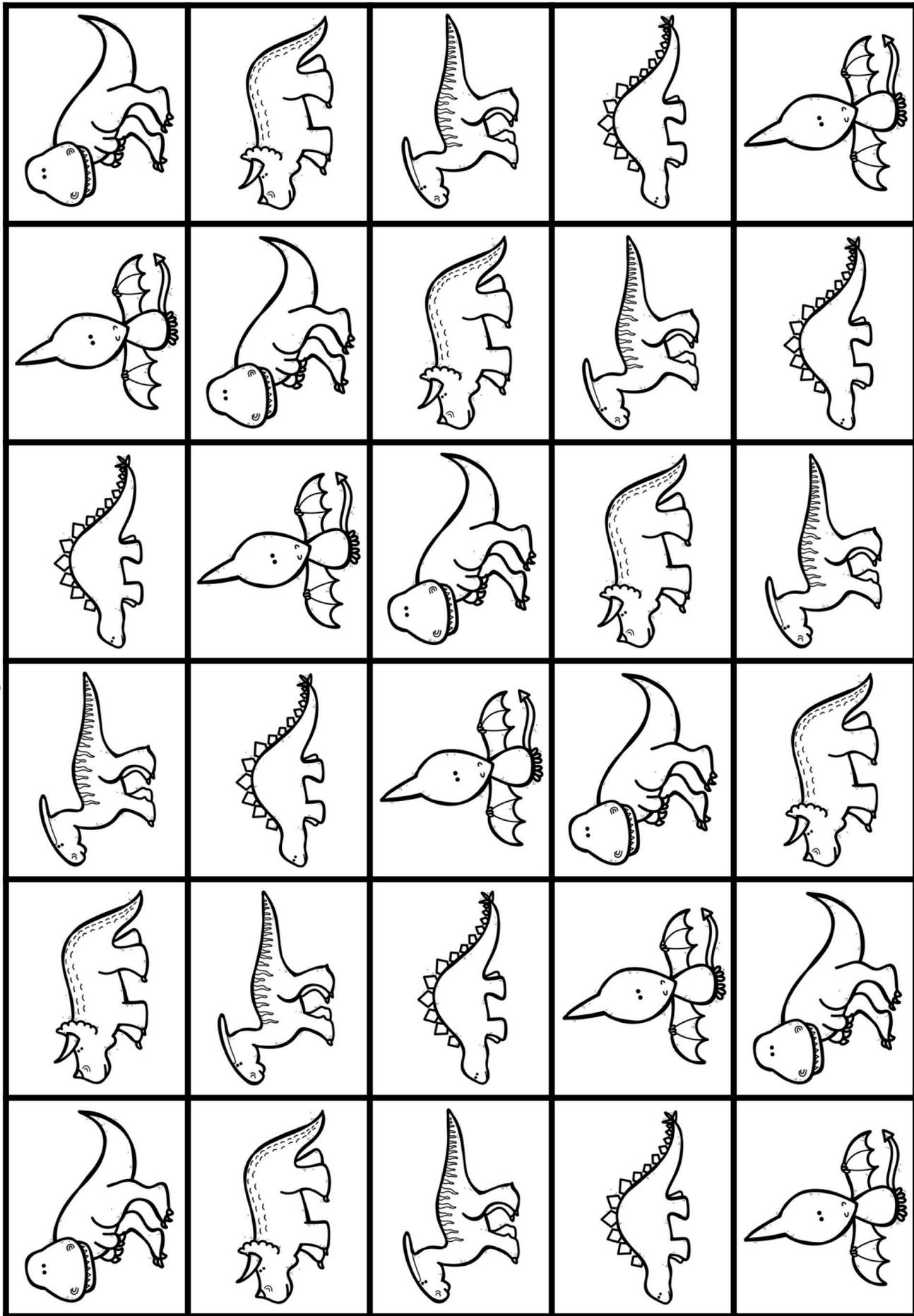


Summer Book Bingo

After reading these books to your child, have your child color the square or place a sticker over the square. Keep going until you fill the chart!

<p>READ BOOKS BY MO WILLEMS.</p>	<p>Relax & read a book outside.</p>	<p>check out a book from the public library.</p>	<p>Read a fairy tale.</p>	<p>Read a children's magazine.</p>
<p>Read a non-fiction book.</p>	<p>Read a book by Jan Brett and pick an activity from janbrett.com.</p>	<p>Read or recite nursery rhymes.</p>	<p>Tell a family member all about a book you like. Who are the characters? What do they do? What do they say?</p>	<p>Go to storylineonline.net to have a book read to you.</p>
<p>Read books by Laura Numeroff.</p>	<p>Read a poem from a poetry book for children.</p>	<p>Make your own book and read it to a family member or friend.</p>	<p>READ A BOOK ABOUT ANIMALS.</p>	<p>Read books by Eric Carle.</p>
<p>READ A BOOK ABOUT THE BEACH OR OCEAN</p>	<p>READ A BOOK TO LEARN ABOUT A TOPIC THAT INTERESTS YOU.</p>	<p>Listen to an audio book.</p>	<p>Draw or paint a picture about a book you have read.</p>	<p>Read a counting book.</p>

Dinosaur Grid Game: Roll dice (one or two dice) and count how many spaces to color or place a bingo chip on. If dice are not available, tell a number for your child to count. Continue rolling dice and counting until the grid is full.



Learning Activities for Summer

Literacy

Make a Writing Kit for your child to practice writing:

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.

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

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.)

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.

Here Comes Summer



How many things can you do this summer?
Check them off as you do them!

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Read a book | <input type="checkbox"/> Walk a dog |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plant a garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Blow bubbles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Play hide & seek | <input type="checkbox"/> Visit the library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write a story | <input type="checkbox"/> Paint with water outside |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go on a picnic | <input type="checkbox"/> Make lemonade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eat a popsicle | <input type="checkbox"/> Dance to music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go swimming | <input type="checkbox"/> Play card games |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make play-dough | <input type="checkbox"/> Go look at the stars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ride a bike | <input type="checkbox"/> Make a healthy snack |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visit to the zoo | <input type="checkbox"/> Sing some songs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Play hopscotch | <input type="checkbox"/> Have a picnic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visit to the zoo | <input type="checkbox"/> Make a paper airplane |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Play in a sprinkler | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to the park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Play board games | <input type="checkbox"/> Draw with sidewalk chalk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make cookies | <input type="checkbox"/> Watch a movie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watch fireworks | <input type="checkbox"/> Play marbles |

