



**NID-Collection of
E-Learning Ideas**
-spring 2023

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Suggested Websites:

Flipgrid

The students can log on and record a short video about a topic I give them. When they log on to the site, they can see each other. I get to see them as well.

3 Preschool Sites/links to enhance your child's remote learning. [See Attachment A](#)

We have employed [Seesaw](#) with new activities every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We enabled it for students to see each other's work and this is where they can often share STEAM materials that they have worked on.

I also have used [Seesaw](#) to help make topics/things we used to do at school interactive and more age appropriate, as it would be in the classroom. It's been great and my families love it. It's a way for me to assess their learning in their home environment.

I offer weekly activities from [pinterest](#) involving science, math, language arts, as well as outdoor exercise and various scavenger hunt activities. Next week, for our final week we will complete some review items

We use [Marco Polo](#) to 'talk' to each other often

All our students were able to get a log in and password for [IXL](#) which works with language arts and math lessons via an app. They are loving this! Each week, new assignments are given in the preschool level.

I've done a zoom story time where I share my screen and use a book from [getepic.com](#). Kids loved having a virtual read aloud

I also give links for [scholastic](#) weekly reader

I video tape on my phone and use [google Photos app](#). It saves your photos and videos. You create an album and send the link to album to parents. Children can view it on their own.

I've also used [Hoopla](#) from my library

Post a fun '[Kahoot](#)' quiz on your school's facebook page

Create a [closed/private Facebook](#) page to post daily challenges and ask families to share pictures.

We used [Realm](#) for each class (similar to Facebook). Teachers can add links/videos, messages, and parents can post pictures.

Pre-recorded videos:

Pastor makes a chapel video

Videotape story time

I record myself reading stories, singing songs, doing our calendar time and doing science experiments and email them to the parents at least 3 times a week. This week we are going to take a "field trip" to my sisters' farms. We will record the different animals and send it to the families.

Daily religion pre-recorded lesson (approx 10 mins)

Daily Circle Time pre-recorded lesson (approx 10 mins)

Cooking, movement, read aloud and science pre-recorded lessons (approx 5-10 mins)

Each of us teachers also send 2 YouTube, private videos a week. That way students and parents can access them when it is most convenient for their family. I send home video lessons of our CPH One in Christ curriculum and attach additional craft project ideas. Another teacher is skilled with guitar and music and she leads a video dance and sing party. Our third teacher does a read aloud that coordinates with the songs of the week and incorporates a craft project as well.

Tammy Agnello a Preschool Teacher at St. Paul Lutheran School in Aurora IL.

<https://youtu.be/HIBXp4W-Xp4>

We are attempting to keep on track with our letter and number learning by recording teaching videos I created a YouTube page with Jesus Time, stories, crafts, science experiments, and activity suggestions.

We also post Art Time and Jesus Time videos on our Facebook page and do craft supplies porch drops each Friday to go along with those videos.

I am doing stars of the week to promote more social-emotional development. I have them videotape themselves telling and showing 5 things about themselves. Then their peers are making them pictures or dictations on what they miss about that friend. Trying to make social connections.

Videos of group time: song, calendar, read aloud, and Jesus Time. Videos reviewing numbers and letters, showing a science experiment.

Ideas sent electronically:

Remote learning T-F (same as K-8)

Literacy/Math learning mat each week with 19 play-based choices

We have a mixed population of stay-at-home and full time working parents, and about 75 students in three preschool classrooms. Our students are used to seeing all of us teachers and students to some

degree throughout the week prior to our closing. Therefore, when we send things out, all students are getting the exact same email at the same time from the teacher that is heading that activity.

We have sent PDF packets of lesson plan ideas complete with recipe ideas every two weeks that originated from Pocket of Preschool on Teachers Pay Teachers.

Gross/Fine Motor learning materials each week, 19 play-based choices

Daily religion pre-recorded lesson (approx 10 mins)

Daily Circle Time pre-recorded lesson (approx 10 mins)

Cooking, movement, read aloud and science pre-recorded lessons (approx 5-10 mins)

Enrichment exercises for differentiating

I also send out a daily email with Story and music links.

We sent out daily emails from our entire prek. This would give appointment times for group music and exercise. We also purchased caterpillars from Insect Lore and then had a Diary of a Caterpillar. We allowed the children to suggest caterpillar names and then created a survey monkey so they could vote for their favorites.

Zoom/Facetime Ideas:

Host Jesus Time

We do a zoom call once a week with our class and teach a mini lesson that's interactive with the kids.

We end our week with a field trip Friday. We do a zoom field trip somewhere that goes with our theme. If we continue this type of learning in the fall, I think we will make each theme for 2 weeks with a field trip on the Friday at the end of the theme.

We have "visited" our veterinary office, a pig farm, a plant nursery, and will be visiting the grade school with the kindergarten principal

LCC offers virtual Comfort Dog visits.... The flier will be in the May 7 School Newsletter or can be gotten off the LCC website.

Storytime

Daily Pledge and announcements for whole school

We have also offered to have FaceTime type meetings with students that are interested or phone calls.

Science Experiments, Cooking Lesson, Bug Hunt, Art Project, Story Time, Singing Songs together, All Singing Happy birthday to Birthday Students, STEM Projects: Bird House projects, Wind Chimes, Planting Seeds

I post a Jesus Time on Mondays, a FlipGrid activity on Wednesday, and a story/game/activity on Friday.

Our classes Zoom twice a week and I have offered individual zooms as well. During our Zooms, we socially meet (which is so important for these littles ones), having show and tell, sharing 'brain break' dance videos from youtube, creating and sharing powerpoint memory games, book readings by me and online readers (Pete the Cat is their favorite), and even going on scavenger hunts around their homes to find things. One of their favorites is 'I spy' when I describe one of our pk friends and they all try to guess who I am talking about. The mute all button is used to control the conversation and let every child have their moment:) We will have a final end of the year 'family' zoom to recognize kids:)

I meet with my 3 preschool kiddos (all invited) from 8:30 am-9:10 am for Calendar and Jesus Time (Religion/Chapel) and again from 10-10:20 to work on letter sounds--I use Jolly Phonics, and a read aloud story based on a unit that we are covering. We also have daily "sound and share" it's like show and tell but the goal is for help the kiddos start to associate things with letter sounds.

We are offering Zoom Story Times 10x per week which include a Chapel with our Pastor and a Show and Tell time. We work on letter sounds, rhyming words, exploring differences of animals in our stories, sequencing, comprehension and predicting skills ... but mostly sharing and connecting ... Zooms last about 20 minutes or so with more talking / sharing time.

Last week we did a virtual field trip to the zoo using the San Diego Zoo's website live cams and prerecorded videos. In between we did our favorite Go Noodle dance for a brain break. We also sang Hello Everybody to find out which animal each child liked the best. I had them bring something to write on and write with to draw/write "I like" and then the animal they liked the best.

Scavenger hunts are great! We did a 30 second hunt challenge where I told them "Go find something in your house that is your favorite color" and put a 30 second timer up. we do scavenger hunts. we use zoom and share the screen with books and games That's all my children want to do during zoom snacktimes.... scavenger hunts. Today they looked for shapes in their homes

We used "Mystery Reader" sessions for some selected class Zoom sessions

I've invited other familiar faces to Zoom meetings such as the Spanish teacher, gym teacher, comfort dogs

ISBE recommends 30 min. minimum and 60 min max. (see [attachment B](#)). I do Zoom two times a week for 30min. Everyday I have a story time video, and Thinking Game (letter sound association) Then I add one more video each day except days that I do a zoom meeting.

I did a bedtime story zoom which was a huge hit. They wore pjs and brought their stuffed animals. Several siblings joined in too. I also did 1:1 zooms with my kids and had great feedback from parents. Several of my kids asked to do it again. That was a great way to connect individually and catch up on things since a group zoom can be overwhelming for some.

We host zoom music and exercise classes for all of our prek students

Two times per week our prek teachers host a Teacher/Parent prayer time.

ZOOM Meeting Ideas for Preschoolers

1. Scavenger Hunts around the students homes to find colors, shapes, or other theme related items
2. Boom Cards <https://wow.boomlearning.com>
3. Free Google slides by Tara West
<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Read-It-GOOGLE-READY-WITH-GOOGLE-SLIDES-Distance-Learning-4444809>
4. Playing Musical Instruments
5. Snack with the Teacher
6. Mad Scientist <https://chicago.madscience.org>
7. Steve Spangler Science Experiments
https://www.stevespanglerscience.com/lab/experiment-library/?utm_source=pmail&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=3162020_500k_letter&obem=PHMPcoqMNPcR_nxCsikFxGPUWwXtdj83P7X12iY-t7l%3D&bc_lcid=t5897572177707008lw5104818489163776li5
8. Bring & Brag (Show & Tell) Activities
<http://teachersmag.com/posts/zoom-based-show-and-tell-activity-for-preschoolers/>
9. Mystery Readers- The readers comes onto Zoom with only a “Question Mark” picture and orally gives clues to who they are. Once the children hear the cues and are guessing who it is (even though they are muted), the Mystery Reader reveals their face and has a short story time with the students.
10. Read a book and have the students use Paper Plate Emotion Masks to show the feelings that they are finding/having in the book’s characters and situations
<https://www.weareteachers.com/social-emotional-activities-early-years/>
11. Use lots of visual cues to catch the preschoolers attention. Great examples can be found at:
<https://pocketofpreschool.com/zoom-ideas-and-tips-for-distance-learning/>
12. Zoom Talent Show- Tell them ahead of time to come prepared to share a talent if possible. They showed their talent and then called on the next student to go. Clap after each talent. It’s fun to see them showing off what they’re good at or see them being silly (some talents were funny), and to see them all enjoying time together. Talents can include
 - Showing pictures they had drawn or painted, just by holding them up to their screen
 - Play a homemade musical instruments
 - Talk about a book they have read
 - Doing splits, some other exerciseIf a someone doesn’t have a talent, others would encourage them and say, “but you’re good at singing, sing us a song!” or “show us how you can stand on one foot”. And not all youth participated, some were called on and said they wanted to pass, and that was totally okay! They would just call on the next person.
13. Zoom Bingo Game: mail out bingo cards ahead of time or use [online printable bingo cards](#) and email them to everyone.
14. Yoga activities. <https://awakeandmindful.com/best-kids-yoga-videos-on-youtube/>
15. Toy Car Activities: <https://www.home-speech-home.com/things-that-go-zoom.html>

Other General Ideas for using Zoom with Preschoolers:

(from <https://happystronghome.com/how-to-engage-preschoolers-on-zoom/>)

Call on participants verbally rather than wait for volunteers. Because of the lag time, it's best if you just call a name and ask them to answer or show you something. With everyone watching everyone else, some kids hang back from volunteering and that creates downtime. Downtime on Zoom is a real attention killer! I usually say, "I'll start with Jackie, and then call out your name when it's your turn to answer." Then I make sure I get through each participant.

Use a numbered clipboard to let kids pick options: I put post it notes numbered 1-9 on a [clipboard](#). Under each number was an activity the kids couldn't see. When it was their turn, the child picked a number and I revealed the activity! This is the equivalent of "picking sticks" in a physical classroom. A clipboard with a stand might be helpful so you don't have to hold it.

Use action – kids hate to sit still! If reciting or answer questions, have kids perform an exercise like bending to touch toes, reaching to pick apples, or another quick motion while saying their answer.

Use puppets – surprise kids by having a puppet give answers for you. [Hand puppets](#) (or make some with paper bags!) are visually engaging and the surprise will keep kids focused on the screen to see what you do next!

Use a [mini whiteboard](#) for quick demos. Holding up a piece of paper is flappy and distracting. Instead, get a mini-whiteboard and a very dark dry-erase marker to write out a quick answer. Or if you're artsy, you can draw a picture for kids who get correct answers, etc. No whiteboard? Create your own by laminating a piece of card stock or putting card stock in a page protector, or as a last resort, cover a piece of cardstock with clear packing tape.

- If kids at home can have a little whiteboard too, they can show you their work or draw a picture in response as well!

Form "groups" for responses by playing "If you like..." games:

- If you like dogs, repeat after me...
- If you like to cook, say this with me...
- If you are a fan of soccer, shout your answer...

Use the share screen feature to share images and other visuals. The easiest way is to put the material you need into a Word document, with each item on one page. Then simply scroll through as you need to use it. Alternatively, you can use the whiteboard to doodle, write, type, and "point" to items with a highlighter. This is handy for sharing maps, science illustrations, history pictures and more.

Play a mashup of Red Light/Green Light/Freeze Tag! So if your kids are working on any kind of memory work with you, like math facts, poetry memorization, learning song lyrics, etc, this is a fun game to break up the chanting. Get a red and green piece of construction paper. Hold up green and kids start reciting. Hold up red, they stop. Keep going through the work. It just creates a sense of anticipation for them to watch to see when you'll switch up the papers.

Dress Up! Gather some silly dress up / [photo booth props](#). When your students answer a question correctly or show good engagement, take an item out and put it on. Keep laying the items until you look absolutely absurd. They will love it!

Google Classroom

We provided students with write and wipe folders. That way, any of our class work we put in google classroom (ie name practice sheets) they can slide in folder and re-visit should they need more practice.

All work has also been printed and offered as a 'pick up' in our building, safely distancing of course. Parents are constantly contacted with weekly news and any important updates. I have found that google classroom is fantastic. Kids also send pictures of work they are doing in the google classroom

Interesting Finds



Family or Parent-Child Activities

Building birdhouses
Make and fly a kite
Set up an obstacle course
Do a scavenger hunt
Take everyday activities (like mealtime) and add a little twist. See [attachment C](#).

I have done cooking, science, crafts, math, I prepare parents a week in advance of items needed. I use items that can be found in most homes. I have asked for a list of craft materials they have.

In our daily prek email, we included parent/child activities. 1 per day, sent on Monday as an attachment. [Attachment D](#)

Parent Considerations

Record videos of story time vs. live so parents that are working can choose a time to view that works for them.

Provide materials for projects. Assume that families will have markers, crayons, tape, etc, but not things like construction paper or poster board

We are trying work together with parents to reach all levels and all types of learners. Activities are optional. At the end of each lesson we ask an open ended question or give a task and ask them to post to our Google Classroom site. We have 26 out of 28 families participating.

Offer a variety of times for Zoom meetings. Parents working from home might not be able to connect their child at your preferred time.

One of our teachers started collecting recipes from parents to put in a prek cookbook.

Some parents have asked for enrichment paper packets weekly and we have sparingly supplied families with these materials.

Lastly, I allow the parents to share information between the other parents so that their children could do more one-on-one social Zooms with their friends.

Parents as Teachers See [Attachment E](#)

Physical Packet

Coloring pages

I have made packets of activities every 2 weeks with activities.

We provided students with write and wipe folders, Jesus time booklets, sight word booklets, and science activities are also offered.

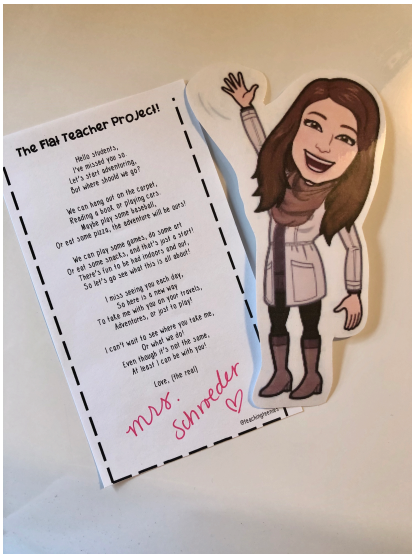
We provided a weekly packet (see [attachment F](#)) by preparing them, and putting them in boxes outside of our schools prek entrance.

Include craft supplies, bubbles, books, and stickers.

Mailings

We have been implementing a weekly theme for our students. Each week they receive a packet in the mail with a few fun activities included in their envelope. Cutting practice, number game, letter recognition, things like this that are themed based.

Send your students a flat teacher. Ask children to share photos of your adventures with you. Our aides helped by mailing two postcards per child during May. Saint Paul hosts a tot open gym each month. We mailed an apple theme tot pack through the mail, and invited them to a weekly music and movement zoom.



<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/The-Flat-Teacher-Project-Poem-5493320>

Survey Questions

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd8lZbdT4J6zVB3yfnjIVFh0UFYwYLgQUnakj__nrt38pDQ9w/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1

Ending the School Year

The week of May 25th, we will join the 'big school' in giving students end of the year gifts, certificates, progress reports, summer packet work, and any additional class materials they may need. (this will all of course be done safely; all teachers will wear masks and it will be in a drive through fashion)

As for end of the year testing, we decided as a staff it would be too difficult and inaccurate should we 'zoom' test each student. We usually commit the final month of school to observing students for spring progress results. This year, we and the parents are working together to write narratives on any items their child may 'GLOW' and need to 'GROW' in. See [Attachment G](#).

Also, this year, we unfortunately were unable to perform our spring program. We are using videos and pictures (we previously took) to put together each class singing their song they would have 'shined' for on the stage.

We typically have our Spring Program and slide show in May. To celebrate our year, each teacher created their own slide show in Power Point and then save it to a flash drive for each child.

Potential E-Learning for the Fall

The NID office gathered a task force to discuss and research ideas for a Reopen Report that will give churches, schools, and early childhood centers. Watch emails from the NID with this report.

When children are allowed to go back to school, we are considering still offering e-learning to families that might not want to send their child to school (we think this might be our half-day students more than full-day). For the e-learning group, we may host some one-hour sessions on our early childhood playground with small numbers of students at one time. We think we'll need a designated staff member to manage e-learning. It is possible that preschools in the area will not offer both. This might be a good marketing opportunity to get more students into our programs.

We are considering adding a portable sink to our prek lobby. This will give children a chance to wash their hands before even entering the classrooms. A lobby sink also gives an image to parents that we really care about our student's wellbeing.

Transitioning children back into school could be emotionally and socially challenging. Consider doing a home visit for each child. This could be a visit on the front porch, or in a family's backyard.

Tell parents what your school/center is doing to provide a safe and healthy environment.

The NID school newsletter from May 7th has a link to this article:

<https://www.npr.org/2020/04/24/842528906/what-it-might-look-like-to-safely-reopen-schools>

Look at the CDC for resources for schools and childcare programs:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fguidance-for-schools.html

CDC checklist for parents & checklist for teachers:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/checklist.html>

The CDC website has 'Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open'. Consider implementing some of these strategies for opening in the fall:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>

For example:

Keep classes with the same group each day. Avoid bringing two groups together for things like gym, music, or outdoor play.

Keep naptime mats/cots spread out as much as possible

Stagger arrival and drop off times. Consider 'curb side' drop off.

Contributors:

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
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| Angela Young Preschool St. Paul Mt. Prospect | | | |

Attachment A:

3 Preschool sites/links to enhance your child's Remote Learning

| Reading/Language Arts | Math | Other |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.getepic.com/ Free for 30 days, or I can give you the Remote Home Learning Code to which will last until June. • https://www.lwtears.com/programs/distance-learning Learning Without Tears (preschool handwriting development program we use) is offering many of their Get Set For School applications for free for 30 days! They have Wet, Dry, Try; tracing and writing activities with verbal directions😊! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.abcya.com/grades/prek/numbers • https://www.abcya.com/games/adventure_man_dash_shapes_colors • https://www.abcya.com/games/adventure_man_dash_shapes_colors • https://www.abcya.com/games/shapes_geometry_game • https://happynumbers.com/?redirect=no . Choose student and enter class number 262 428; choose your child's name and ALL passwords are 2 . This is a great individualized math program that is free. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.abcya.com/games/jelly_collapse Problem solving game. Really anything on abcya.com could be fun for them. • https://pbskids.org/sesame/games/ has some pretty easy games where the directions are given to them. they just trace or follow directions to move forward. • http://www.cookie.com/preschool.html also seems to have a lot of fun and interesting games. Many of them also have age suggestion ranges next to the name. • https://www.abcmouse.com/abt/homepage Free for 30 days. Comprehensive site which offers a variety of activities to enhance their learning. • https://learnwithhomer.com/home/ Free 30 day Trial. |

Attachment B:

| Grade Level | Minimum | Maximum | Recommended Length of Sustained Attention |
|-------------|---|---|---|
| PreK | 20 minutes/day | 60 minutes/day | 3-5 minutes |
| K | 30 minutes/ day | 90 minutes/day | 3-5 minutes |
| 1-2 | 45 minutes/day | 90 minutes/day | 5-10 minutes |
| 3-5 | 60 minutes/day | 120 minutes/day | 10-15 minutes |
| 6-8 | Class: 15 minutes/day Total: 90 minutes/day | Class: 30 minutes/day Total: 180 minutes/day | 1 subject area or class |
| 9-12 | Class: 20 minutes/day Total: 120 minutes/day | Class: 45 minutes/day Total: 270 minutes/day | 1 subject area or class |

MEALTIME IDEAS

Put an X on the square each time you try a new mealtime/snack idea

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Have a TINY meal. Cut everything small and eat with a toothpick. | Have your child look at their meal. Blindfold them and feed them bites. Can they guess what they're eating? | Serve a meal in the sections of a clean egg carton. You can even wash and use JUMBO plastic eggs to hold foods in place | Determine what is the crunchiest item on your plate. |
| Close your eyes and ask your child to eat one thing from their plate. Can you guess what they ate. | Try a new food. Would you give it a thumbs up, or a thumbs down. | Write down a menu of the items that you are serving for a meal. What letter does each item start with? | What color is your food? How many colors can you eat in one meal? Can you eat more than 4? |
| Have snacks for dinner. Bring a tray of snack foods and watch a movie while you eat. | Have a dipping meal. Serve foods that your child likes to dip. How many dips can you have in one meal? | Have dinner in your pajamas. Everyone should get ready for bed before they eat dinner. | Eat outside. Can you have a picnic on your front steps or sidewalk? |
| Take a picture of your plate when it is filled with food. Send the picture to someone that doesn't live in your house. Ask them to send back a picture of their plate. | Eat breakfast for dinner. | Allow your child to plan the dinner menu. Give them two options for the main dish and let them pick. Do this with sides too. | Have a SUPER-DUPER polite dinner. Pretend that you are eating in a fancy restaurant. Dim the lights, play classical music, and be OVER the TOP polite. |
| Research the diet of an animal. Can you eat similar foods? | Have finger foods for dinner, and have everyone eat without utensils. | Set food on the table and cover each item with a dishtowel or napkin. Give clues for each item and have your child guess the meal. | Have a plastic knife or a pumpkin knife? Allow your child to help cut up vegetables or fruit for a salad. |

Let's do a little moving to some music.

Do you know what the limbo is?

It is kind of like a dance, and kind of like an exercise.

You may have done the Limbo in school.

You need the music.

You can ask Alexa to play the Limbo by Chubby Checker.

You will need a stick, or broom, or a long cardboard tube.

Now, your whole family gets in a line, except for the person holding the stick. When the music starts, you try to get under the stick, and if you can, you get in line again, but this time the stick will be lowered by the stick holder. And everyone tries it again, and then it is lowered again until it is too low to dance under, or the music ends. This dance always makes me laugh, and sometimes I fall down.



Now how about the Chicken Dance?

Alexa will play you chicken dance, too. Just ask.

First, you pinch your fingers open and closed and say, cheep, cheep, cheep.

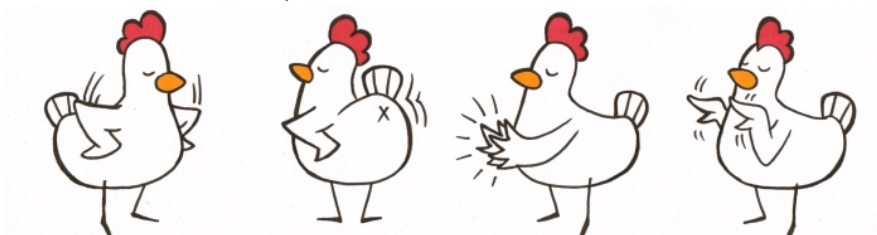
Then, you flap your wings up and down and say, flap, flap, flap. Then you wiggle your hips and arms and say wiggle, wiggle, wiggle.

And finally, you clap your hands and say clap, clap, clap.

Now you march in place and count to 8, and you do this 4 times.

Then back to the beginning.

You repeat the whole process about 3 or 4 times, or until you fall over, too tired to dance!



DANDELION PAINTING

You will need paint, dandelions, a bag, and paper.
On your next outdoor walk, why not see if you can find a field of
dandelions,

Bring along a bag so you can collect them.

Now the secret to dandelion painting, is to try to find dandelions that
have stems long enough to use
as the handle of a brush.

(These are kind of hard to pick but make painting easier.)

When you get home, find a good craft spot.

You will need some paint in a very shallow container, like the lid to a
jar. You will need a lid for each color of paint.

Choose colors that look good together because they may mix as
you paint.

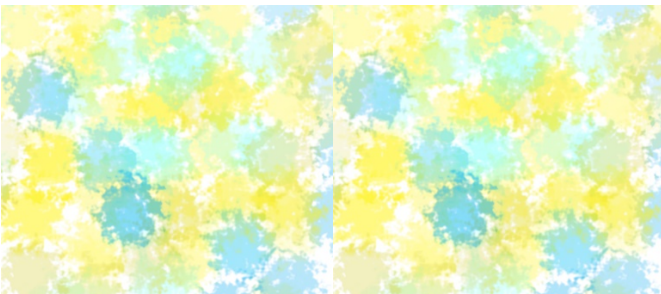
Now, dip the flower end into the paint, and then stamp it on your
paper. Stamp and stamp, changing colors, and changing
dandelions as they wear out.

Sometime the dandelion print looks like little stars, and sometimes like
little blobs of color.

When your painting is complete, let it dry, and then display it.

Don't forget to sign your work.

If you use tissue paper, you can use your creation as wrapping paper
for someone's special gift.



Yours may look something like this.

Let's Hunt

This is a springtime outdoor hunt.
For the hunt you will need to know how old you are, and you will need to count, and you will need a bag of hunting.

IF YOU ARE 3 YEARS OLD

You will need to find 3 sets of 3 things.

3 dandelions

3 sticks

3 rocks

IF YOU ARE 4 YEARS OLD

You will need to find 4 sets of 4 things.

4 dandelions

4 sticks

4 rocks

4 green leaves

IF YOU ARE 5 YEARS OLD

You will need to find 5 sets of 5 things.

5 dandelions

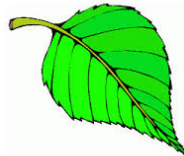
5 sticks

5 rocks

5 green leaves

5 blades of grass

Bonus for your bonus discoveries, find a bug, a purple flower, or a pine cone.



SKYSCRAPER CHALLENGE

Do you know what a Skyscraper is?

A skyscraper is a very tall building, so tall that it looks as if it can scrape the sky. The very first skyscraper was built in Chicago, and then in other big cities as well. This week it is time for the Skyscraper Challenge. That is a family contest where members of your family try to build a very high tower of some kind.

Now this can be dangerous work. Tall structures can tumble, and if they fall on someone, even a very strong someone, that person can get hurt. So when you are a builder of skyscrapers, you must promise to work carefully, and build a very safe building.

Now if you have decided to build safely, you pick your Construction Team. It can be one person, or 2 or 3 per team. Then, try to find blocks, boxes, cardboard tubes and cylinders around your house that you and your team can stack. Please don't choose something heavy for the top. The bottom of the building should have the heavier blocks, and the taller it gets, the lighter the construction material.

You can add things like flags or toy people, even toy furniture to your building. Just make sure it is not wobbly. When your building is complete, measure it. Ask a grownup to help with the measuring.

Write down how many inches your Skyscraper is, take a picture of it, and then build another one. It is nice to let everyone have a turn to be on a Construction Team. And when the skyscraper is complete, make sure all the workers have their picture taken with the building.

You should also name your building, like the Willis Tower, or the Water Tower, or the Morris Building, and write the name on a paper in front of the building. The Construction Team can all sign their names under the building name.

Good Luck, Stay Safe, and Happy Building!



Sidewalk Chalk

Do you have some sidewalk chalk?

Have you used it lately?

If you have been walking around your town, you have probably seen lots of messages written by the kids in your neighborhood.

What have they been writing?

Lots of things, some are words, and some are pictures.

One family on our street wrote the whole alphabet.

It went from A all the way to Z.

Then the sister in the family said, "Stand on the A."

and the little sister stood on the A. Then it was the little sister's turn, and she said, "stand on the D for Daddy." So the big sister ran to the D. They were standing on all the letters for the names of their friends and family.

At another house, the kids were making long lines, all across their front sidewalk.

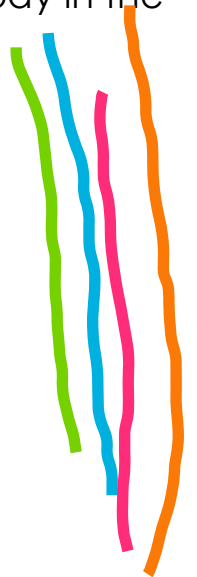
First they drew a long green line, then a blue, and then a pink, and finally orange.

At another house I saw a rainbow, and at a different house everybody in the family drew their name.

One family made a big sign that said,



" THANK YOU FIRE FIGHTERS AND POLICE "



Parent as Teachers: Tips for Parents with Preschoolers

We are so proud of our Saint Paul pre-k parents. You have stepped up to the plate. You have your eye on the ball. You are going for a homerun! In the middle of a chaotic world, you will juggle it all. You will be parent, employee, counselor, teacher, cook, accountant, and the list goes on and on. You didn't sign up for this, yet you will try your best to be EVERYTHING for the people you love.

As teachers, we also want to be EVERYTHING for our students. We chose this profession because we love children. We commit our days to wiping noses, paint spills, cheers over the 'show and tell', holding hands, interpreting stories, and being on the receiving end of numerous hugs. Although we might be your child's first schoolteachers, we all know that YOU are your child's first teacher.

As their first teacher, did you worry about e-learning? Were you consumed by zoom schedules and homework packets? Did you feel the need to create a daily schedule that balanced times for work and play? I certainly hope not. You have been teaching your child for years already. You've got this.

Tips for Parents with Preschoolers

- **Evaluate the resources** that are available. This might be a time when your child has more screen time. That is o.k. You choose what they are watching. If your child sits down with an I-Pad and watches four YouTube videos from our pre-k teachers in a row, that is o.k. Do they love Sesame Street? We do too.
- **Monitor your child's behaviors** from day to day. I'm sure you've had those days where you feel like the walls are caving in. So do children. Unlike you, children don't always know how to manage their emotions. Help them to describe their feelings. Using words like, 'it's o.k. to be mad' (silly, sad, tired, etc.), gives children the words to say when they experience these emotions again. Help them find appropriate ways to manage these emotions. Do they just want to be by themselves for a little bit? Let them. Do they need a little cuddle with a blanket, or stuffed animal? Make that available.
- **Maintain a routine** that is doable. Keep mealtimes fairly consistent, and bedtime routines the same. A daily walk might happen first thing in the morning, or after lunch. At school, children rely on a daily routine to feel comfortable and confident. They like walking into the classroom, knowing what to expect from their teacher. We can throw a little wrench into the works by having a pajama day, or maybe afternoon snack instead of morning snack, but we try for the most part to keep things the same.
- **Have expectations** of what your child needs to do. Choose reasonable expectations and work on having your child follow through and meet them. Remember that you are together all the time (as if you could forget). If you expect too much or too little, this could create some additional tension in your household. An expectation of your child cleaning up every item after they've played with it might be unreasonable. However, asking them to manage one part of the clean-up, 'I'll clean up Legos, you clean up Barbies', will help your child rise to the challenge. You know the phrase, 'Pick your battles'? Do it! Decide what you really want your child to do, and then let some other things go. We all need a little extra wiggle room right now.
- **Give yourself a break** from trying to do it all. If your child is content talking to grandma via facetime, take a break. If you set up a Zoom exercise class with pre-k, we don't mind if you sit on

the couch, or catch up on a little texting. You don't need to be with your child at all times inside your own, safe house. Find what they can handle alone, and let them. If you have a child that won't let you go, set up small amounts of time where they can do something on their own. You can say, "I know that you can do this puzzle on your own. When you are finished, come and find me. I can't wait to see it. I'll be so proud of you". Let your child feel that he has control over his alone time. Ask, 'do you want to play by yourself for 8 minutes or 9 minutes?' Set a timer. Look in your app store for a Visual Timer. This is a great tool to use for children that can't yet tell time.

Tips for Navigating E-Learning

- We are providing families many **options** for e-learning. Your child may enjoy watching our YouTube videos, another family might look forward to zoom exercise. Choose what works for you and your child. We do not expect you to do every, single activity that we are providing for our students.
- Choose your level of **involvement**. If you are working during the day, set your child up to watch some of our YouTube story times. If you know that part of your day will include a walk outside, look at the family activities that Mrs. Morris has written. If there is something that your child enjoys, do it over and over again.
- We would like to **stay connected** to your child while we are apart. Look at the opportunities that are offered for your child to see their teacher. Instead of asking them if they'd like to have a meeting or not, say, "you get to meet with your teacher this week. Do you want to have a snack time or show and tell?"
- It is hard to re-create a play based, hands-on learning environment through a screen. Your **child may be uncomfortable** participating in exercise class, or talking during a zoom chat. If your child wants to sit and just watch, allow them to do that. The more they watch, the more they might want to join in. Even in a classroom setting, some children prefer to watch play before they get involved.
- Set up **guidelines for zoom times**. Choose the location and directions for using your phone, computer, or tablet. You can ask them to stay at a table, or only hold your device if they are sitting down. Prepare them for the zoom time. If your child will have a show and tell with their teacher, help them choose an item to share.
- Some children like the idea of **homework**. Set up a homework time during the day. Again, choose the location. Homework might be an activity that we have provided, it might be a time for puzzles, or maybe a time for writing and coloring. Insert this into your daily routine. The activity might change, but the routine stays the same.
- If you need any **help or support**, don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher. We are here for you! We want you to feel success in implementing our plans for your child.

Besides us, do you know who has your back? God does. Pray that God gives you the wisdom to make decisions, the strength to endure the rough patches, the patience to manage your household, and the joy of celebrating your child's growth and development.

From Romans 12:12

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Teddy Bear Homework

Dear Families,

In chapel last week, we sang the song, 'Whose in the Middle of the Storm'. Our answer to the question is 'God Is'. At this time, we know that God is in the middle of this storm. He is watching over us, and protecting us. He will never leave us.

Please enjoy these activities with your children. Let them know that their teachers miss them and can't wait to get back to school.

We'd love for you to say this echo prayer with your children. An echo prayer is when you say one line, and your child echoes it.

Dear God
Please be with,
Our family and friends.
Keep us safe
While we're at home.
Help us to have fun days,
Knowing that you are always with us.

In your name we pray, Amen.

Teddy Bear Homework

1. Use the colored teddy bears in the envelope. Hide them around your house. If you have a clipboard, or a piece of cardboard with a clothespin, attached the COLOR HUNT page to it. As your child finds the bears, have them cross off one color at a time. Children will be able to make some sort of mark. It may be an 'x', it could be a checkmark, it could be a scribble.
2. Take the colored teddy bears and write an action on each one. Put all teddy bears facing down in a pile. Children can take turns with you to pick a teddy bear, and do that action. You might have them say, 'pick up 3 toys', 'jump up and down 10 times', 'find something in our house that is orange'. You can even write actions that might help them get ready for bed like, 'brush your teeth', 'put on your pajamas'.
3. Open up the packages of gummy bears and sort the bears by color. Count how many of each color you have. Which color has the most bears? Which color has the least bears? Do you have any colors that are tied? Before eating the bears, try the next activity.
4. Use the gummy bears to create a tower. Who in your family can stack the most bears before they fall down? Ask your child to predict/guess who will have the largest stack.
5. Have your child lay out 5 different colored gummy bears. Close your eyes. Ask your child to eat one of the gummy bears. Can you guess what color is missing? Now, it is your child's turn to close their eyes. You eat one bear. Can they guess which one is missing?
6. Find a teddy bear in your house. Use the 'Teddy Bear Chart' to record information about the bear. Read each question and answers. Again, allow your child to mark the appropriate answer with a circle, checkmark, 'x', or scribble.
7. Make a bear cave or den for your child to hibernate. Allow your child to wear the bear mask and crawl right into their cave.

8. While your child is wearing the bear mask, play hide and seek. While you are hunting for them, have them growl like a bear to give you a clue of where they might be.
9. Have your child snack like a bear. Bears will eat seeds, nuts, berries, meat, fish, eggs, and honey.
10. Use the bear stationary to write a note or letter to someone. Your child can decorate the bear, and then dictate what they'd like the letter to say. Mail the letter to someone special (maybe their teacher??). As that special someone to write back soon.



GOING ON A BEAR HUNT

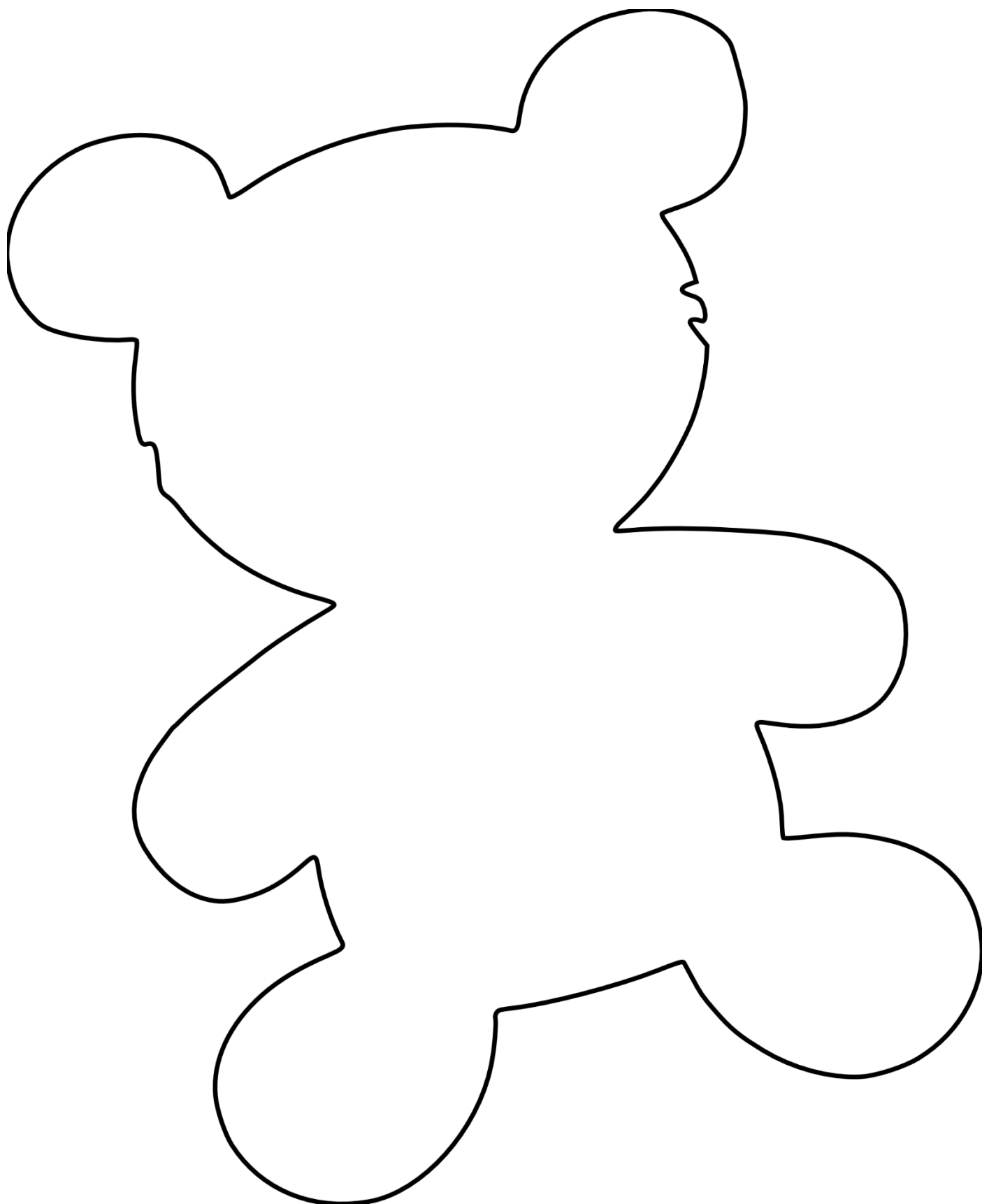
Can you find 12 bears around your house?
Each time you find one, cross of the color with an 'x', a check, or a scribble.

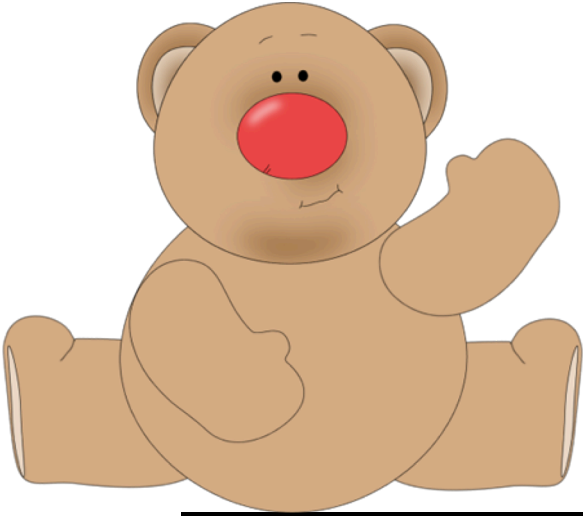


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My Teddy Bear

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>My teddy bear's name is:</p> | <p>My teddy bear is</p> <div></div> <p>years old.</p> |
| <p>My teddy bear has</p> <p>L-O-O-O-N-G Fur <div></div></p> <p>Short fur <div></div></p> | <p>My teddy bear wears</p> <p>Nothing <div></div></p> <p>Clothes <div></div></p>  |
| <p>My teddy bear is a</p> <p>Girl <div></div></p> <p>Boy <div></div></p> | <p>My teddy bear can do a trick. My bear can:</p> |
| <p>My teddy bear</p> <p>Hibernates </p> <p>Stays awake all year </p> | <p>This is the best thing about my teddy bear:</p> |



GLOW AND GROW QUESTIONNAIRE



Thank you for all you have done with your preschooler this spring! Although we have not been in the classroom for some time, teachers will use our observations of students from August to March as well as anything we have observed through virtual means. We will provide our comments and are also looking for your thoughts on how your child has done at home. Your child can either *GLOW*- is doing very well in an area or needs to *GROW*- my child could still use some practice in this area. Below, we have included suggested topics for you to think about in each area of your child's development. You do not have to test your child and answer the questions, but rather, give us an overall idea of how your child is doing. They may be doing something wonderful in your house that is not on our question sheet- let us know in the *GLOW* section. Also include, if you would like, any activities or ideas for your child to continue to *GROW* during the summer in preparation for Kindergarten.



= We *GLOW* when we reach our set skills and learning goals.



= We *GROW* when we continue to practice the strategies that help us get better.

Social-Emotional Development

Does your child listen attentively, and follow simple directions (Get your coat and hat and put them on)?

Does your child handle materials carefully, show respect for property of others and have good clean up skills?

Does your child work well with others?

Fine Motor Skills

Does your child hold a crayon/pencil correctly and in a consistent hand (L or R)? Can they cut along a given line?

Is your child able to manage their own needs: eating (using utensils, etc.), dressing (zip, button, etc.), toileting?

Gross Motor Skills

Does your child seem balanced and capable when walking, running, climbing, and jumping?

Can your child go up and down stairs using alternating feet for each step and only stepping on each step once?

Language Arts/Reading Readiness

Can your child recognize their own name in print and write it with capital and lowercase letters? Can they identify uppercase and lowercase letters? Do they work from left to right on the paper?

Can they tell you the sound that each letter makes?

Does your child communicate needs clearly using sentences, adequate vocabulary, and speak clearly? Can they retell a familiar story? Are they able to make simple rhymes: cat/hat, dog/log?

Does your child know the front and back of book and where to find the title of book?

Math/Science Readiness

Can your child name most shapes and colors? Can they sort like items (dolls in this pile...)? Can they tell you if sets of items have more or less than another set (I have more crayons than books)? Can they tell the biggest from the smallest?

Does your child understand the concept of zero (zero means there are no items), can they recognize the numbers 0-10? How high can they accurately count (1-?)

Can your child recognize and produce a simple AB pattern (red, blue, red, _____ [blue])? ABB pattern (cat, dog, dog, cat, dog, ____ [dog])? ABC pattern (circle, square, triangle, circle, square, _____[triangle])?

Understands left from right and the directional concepts: top/bottom, first/last, over/under, behind/in front of? And simple opposites (up/down, hot/cold)?

Do they know the days of the week and months of the year?

Name: Insert Name Here

Insert Comments Here



Insert Comments Here



Insert Comments Here



Insert Comments Here

