

Kindergarten! ... here I come!



Congratulations, your child will be going to kindergarten! This is an exciting event for children and families. Getting children prepared for that first year in the “big school” may feel like a lot of extra work. After all, the foundation of a child’s success in school and life begins at birth.

But YOU GOT THIS!! As a parent, you know your child better than anyone else...what makes them happy, what they find interesting, their personality and behavior traits, and their developmental skills. Although child development occurs in predictable patterns, all children experience different backgrounds, environments, family dynamics, and other factors that make them unique. This includes *your* child.

School readiness is a lot more than just knowing letters and numbers. Children need to learn complex skills such as taking turns or sharing, how to behave in a new setting, problem-solving opportunities, sticking with a challenging activity, and following simple to complex directions. Many of these skills are not just “taught” but are practiced during other planned or non-planned experiences and can occur in daily routines.

This non-numbered calendar was developed to give adults ideas for activities to do with their child as they take this next year to prepare for kindergarten. A countless number of these activities are simple, no-materials-needed opportunities for your child to build on their current skills.

### **How do children learn?**

- ♥ They acquire knowledge and values through nurturing and responsive relationships with families, caregivers, and teachers.
- ♥ By participating in interactions with peers and adults, children develop communication and problem-solving skills.
- ♥ They learn best when they are safe, healthy and well-nourished.
- ♥ Learning is achieved through play and active exploration of their environment.

### **What can parents/caregivers do to help children learn?**

- ♥ Share your excitement and interest in activities and your joy in learning new things.
- ♥ Model curiosity, persistence, flexibility, positivity, honesty, and empathy.
- ♥ Have frequent conversations and ask open-ended questions (questions that cannot be answered with a yes or a no).
- ♥ Use a variety of words when talking with your child. Model appropriate language and correct grammar.
- ♥ Use daily activities, routines and experiences as teachable moments.

## Questions about the Kindergarten Transition calendar

### **Are these activities related to the South Dakota Kindergarten Content Standards?**

Yes, each activity revolves around the standards that Kindergarten students will learn throughout the school year. These include Math, English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Fine Arts, Health and Physical Education, School Library, Educational Technology, and World Language.

### ***Do we have to do activities every day?***

No, but there are the same number of activities as there are days in the month. Pick and choose depending on what you want to work on with your child. You can skip days or even do activities from other months.

### ***Are these activities related to the goals of the South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines (SDELG)?***

Yes, all activities fall under one or more of the 5 Domains from the SDELG.

- Approaches to Learning
- Social Development and Emotional Development
- Communications, Language and Literacy
- Cognitive Development
- Health and Physical Development

### ***What if I don't have the materials to do the activity?***

Improvise! These are only suggested activities. You can "substitute" anything to work on an activity. Homemade items you already have can teach the same skills as fancy store-bought items.

### ***What if my child has special needs? Can these activities be done with them?***

Certainly! If your child is on an IEP, choose activities that coincide with their goals. Many of these activities can be accommodated to better meet your child's needs. Again, these are just suggested activities and do not all have to be completed to be "ready" for school.

For more information and content of the SD Kindergarten Content Standards, go to [doe.sd.gov](http://doe.sd.gov).

For more information and content of the SD Early Learning Guidelines, go to [SDStepAhead.com](http://SDStepAhead.com)

## Color Code of Activities

 Mathematics: Counting & Cardinality (# in a set), Measurement, simple Adding/Subtracting, Shapes and Positions

 Science: Environmental Impact, Needs and Survival, Push and Pull, Sun and Energy, Weather

 Fine Arts: Dance, Music, Theater Arts, Visual Arts (Creating, Performing, Presenting, and Producing, Responding, Connecting)

 Physical Education: Motor Skills and Movement, Knowledge to Enhance Movement/Performance, Maintaining of Physical Health (includes Nutrition), Responsible Behavior/Respect, Recognize Lifelong Health and Wellness

 English Language Arts: Reading Literature (Comprehension), Informational Text (Print Knowledge), Foundational Skills (Print Concepts, Letters/Words, Fluency), Language (Grammar, Vocabulary,) Writing/Drawing, Speaking and Listening (Comprehension, Presentation)

 Behaviors, emotions, friendships, manners, problem-solving, responsibilities, rules, respect/kindness, differences/similarities

 Self-Help Skills (zipping, buttoning, brushing teeth, getting dressed, hand-washing), Family Relationships

 Social Studies: Introduction to America – Geography (maps, globes), History (order of events, answer “why” questions), U.S. Government/American Civics (rules, laws, being respectful), Economics (actions of hard work, potential, independence, Historical Figures)

 Health Education: Health Promotion, Healthy Behaviors, Decision-Making of Healthy Behaviors, Safety



# SEPTEMBER

Read a book to your child EVERY day.



<p><b>Go outside and count cars, people, animals.</b></p>	<p><b>Observe the clouds. Draw what you see.</b></p>	<p><b>Paint with nature items: flower, pinecone, stick...</b></p>	<p><b>Build and play hopscotch outside.</b></p>	<p><b>Draw something you did this summer.</b></p>		<p><b>Talk about friendships and invite a friend over.</b></p>
<p><b>Talk about different emotions.</b></p>		<p><b>Find objects that start with the same letter as your name.</b></p>	<p><b>Help wash the dishes after a meal.</b></p>	<p><b>Set the table for a meal. How many do you need?</b></p>	<p><b>Look for living things outside. Talk about them.</b></p>	<p><b>Pretend Play: School</b></p> 
<p><b>Talk about First Responders. "Heroes don't always wear capes."</b></p>	<p><b>Make paper airplanes. Compare inside and outside throwing.</b></p>	<p><b>Dance to music.</b></p>		<p><b>Take a neighborhood walk and talk about communities.</b></p>	<p><b>Find things in your house beginning with the letter A &amp; B.</b></p>	<p><b>Build shapes with pretzels and mini marshmallows.</b></p>
<p><b>Ride a trike or a bike outside. Talk about safety.</b></p>		<p><b>Practice zipping.</b></p>	<p><b>Ask "I wonder what..." about items in the house.</b></p>	<p><b>Point to and say the #'s around the house.</b></p>	<p><b>What do Teachers do?</b></p> 	<p><b>Talk about opposite words: hot, wet, sad, big...</b></p>
<p><b>Count the items in your fridge. How many of each?</b></p>	<p><b>Play playdough. Use toothpicks, paperclips, dry noodles, straws, etc...</b></p>		<p><b>Practice writing your name.</b></p>	<p><b>Take a walk and talk about pedestrian safety.</b></p> 	<p><b>Play Simon Says.</b></p>	<p><b>Talk about consequences of behaviors. How it affects others.</b></p>



# OCTOBER

Question words such as *Who, What, Why, Where, When, and How* require an answer and can enhance problem-solving and thinking skills as well as build confidence in your child.

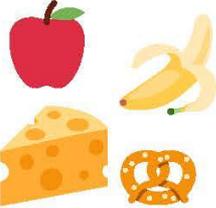
<p><b>Exercise:</b> 10 stretches 10 jumping jacks</p>	<p>Go on a sensory walk: What do you; see, smell, hear, feel?</p>	<p>Practice writing your name.</p>	<p>What do Farmers do? </p>	<p>Talk about manners.</p>	<p>Make a family escape plan in case of a fire.</p>	<p>Measure items in your house using a spoon, paperclip, string.</p>
<p>Make a map of your house or room.</p>	<p>Find things in your house that begin with C &amp; D.</p>	<p>Count windows in your house. </p>	<p>Freeze liquids, predict, observe, and discuss what happens.</p>	<p>Practice buttoning.</p>		<p>Staying safe from fire? Stop-Drop-Roll, stay low to the ground, don't play with fire...</p>
<p>Count coins: How many of each?</p>		<p>Play "what's in the bag?" Objects in bag guessing by touch only. (no peeking)</p>	<p>Practice writing name. Start practicing last name.</p>	<p>Make a photo collage of your family.</p>	<p>Move to music. Fast, slow, spin, to a beat.</p>	<p>What does it mean to be kind? </p>
<p>Pumpkin Play: cut open, observe, touch, smell, roast, and taste...</p>	<p>Run in the grass with bare feet. What does it feel like?</p>	<p>Line up items by size. 1st, 2nd, ...last.</p>	<p> What do Firefighters do?</p>	<p>Practice Emotion Faces: happy, sad, scared, mad...</p>	<p>Trace hand, add stickers of things you like. </p>	<p>Find things in your house that start with the letter E &amp; F.</p>
<p>Play Dress-Up! </p>		<p>Help clean up the house. How does that make others feel?</p>	<p>Talk about parts of a book: cover, title, pages, back, spine...</p>	<p>Water Play:  (Small  container, measuring cups and spoons)</p>	<p>Rake leaves, jump in, play, observe sound, smells, colors.</p>	

# Practice healthy and independent skills EVERY day.



# NOVEMBER

handwashing, teeth-brushing, dressing themselves, clean-up after self, writing first and last name

<p>Practice writing your first and last name.</p>	<p>Practice catching, throwing, and bouncing a ball outside.</p>	 <p>Make up silly songs.</p>	<p>Talk about what a "national" event is.</p>	<p>Sort and count cereal or small colored foods. Which has the most, least, same.</p>	<p>Sensory Play Coffee Grounds and small toys (cars, animals, characters)</p>	<p>What do doctors and nurses do?</p> 
<p>Bake something together: smell, texture, taste, sight, sound?</p>		<p>Make a healthy snack.</p>	<p>Practice writing the numbers 1 through 10.</p>	<p>Tell your child a story about your childhood.</p>	<p>Find things in your house that start with the letter G &amp; H.</p>	<p>Make an indoor obstacle course. Practice crawling, jumping, balance.</p>
<p>Go on a Math scavenger hunt outside. 1 rock, 2 flowers, 3 leaves, 4...</p>	<p>Retell a familiar story.</p>	<p>"Smelling" party. (coffee grounds, cinnamon, lemon, popcorn, etc.)</p>		<p>Talk about taking turns or waiting your turn.</p>	<p>Look at a map or globe. Point to water, roads, land, mountains</p>	
<p>Make up a story and act it out. Use props.</p>	<p>Observe objects using a magnifying glass.</p>	<p>Help clean the house. (Sweep, mop, vacuum, dust...)</p>	<p>Cut different kinds of paper: newspaper, magazine, thick.</p> 	<p>Make a card for someone you are thankful for.</p>	<p>What does it mean to be thankful?</p>	<p>Go on a Math scavenger hunt inside. 1 shoe, 2 spoons, 3 towels, 4...</p>
<p>Find things in your house that start with the letter I &amp; J.</p>		<p>"Tasting" party. (sour, sweet, salty, crunchy, gooey, cold, spicy, etc)</p>	<p>Have your child try a challenging skill, encourage your child to keep trying.</p>	<p>Count the days, weeks, and months on a calendar.</p>		<p>What does family mean to you?</p>

# DECEMBER



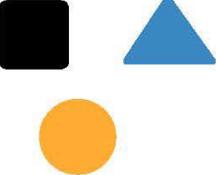
Holidays and National "Days" are great conversation starters. Have discussions about why we celebrate certain days, who does it represent, traditions, families...

<p><b>Practice Snapping on clothing.</b></p>	<p>Talk about Winter science words: Freezing, melting, weather, arctic...</p> 	<p>Learn to say "thank you" in other languages. (Google works great)</p>	<p>Gracias-Spanish Ta-blurrrk-Karen Pilamaya-Dakota/Lakota Danke Schoen-German</p>	<p><b>Practice writing #'s 1-20.</b></p>	<p>Encourage child to use coping skills when angry: using words, deep breaths...</p>	<p>Practice skipping, galloping, and hopping on one leg at a time.</p>
<p>Find shapes in the house. 2D (flat) and 3D (ball, cylinder...</p>		<p>Play Playdough: Holiday Cookie Cutters</p>	<p>Clean your room and other parts of the house.</p>	<p>Find things in your house that start with the letter L &amp; M.</p>	<p>How do we stay safe when at a store, restaurant, school?</p>	<p>Sing Holiday Songs</p> 
<p>What rhymes with: CAT, DOG, MAN, BALL...</p>	<p>Design a holiday picture to match your traditions.</p>	<p>Visit a museum or a cultural center.</p>	<p>Dance to your favorite songs.</p>	<p>Talk about what it means to be kind and loving.</p> 	<p>Sensory Tub: assorted dry beans, assorted sized cups, spoons...</p>	<p>What do the numbers mean? "0"-none, "1"-one thing, "2"...</p>
<p>If there is snow, bring inside in a tub and watch it melt. Talk about why.</p>	<p>Draw emotion faces.</p>		<p>What comes after "#". Pick a number, have child guess which is next #.</p>	<p>Google and talk about Holidays around the world.</p>	<p>Find things in your house that start with the letter N &amp; O.</p>	<p>Talk about healthy ways to express wants, needs, and feelings.</p>
<p>Play playdough. Use small toys to leave different designs.</p>	<p>Find items in your house made of wood, metal, plastic, glass, rubber...</p>	<p>Practice buttoning</p>	<p>Practice writing your full name.</p>		<p>Count to 50. Count to 100</p>	 <p>Visit the Library.</p>



# JANUARY

Children are born ready to learn and are natural scientists using their senses to discover the world around them. Model curiosity, encourage observation, exploration and thinking to help your child build on these skills.

<p><b>Play "Place the Item..."</b> (beside, under, on, in, behind, etc...</p>	<p>Look for signs of Winter. Trees, weather, clothing, roads...</p>		<p>Donate clothes that do not fit any more. What does it feel to "give"?</p>	<p>Talk about the importance of staying safe. Home, school, outside, using the internet...</p>	<p>Talk about "What makes you Happy", "Sad", "Scared", "Mad", "Excited"...</p>	<p>Find things in your house that start with the letter P &amp; Q.</p>
<p>Work on arm muscles using cans for weights.</p> 	<p>Talk about what it means to be responsible or to take responsibility.</p>	<p>Talk about historical figures and what they did.</p>	<p>Play a board game that involves counting.</p>	<p>Learn to say Happy New Year in other languages. (Google)</p>	<p>Use a flashlight to make shadows. How does that work?</p>	<p>Play Dress Up using adult clothes.</p> 
<p>Blow Bubbles inside and catch.</p>	<p>Winter Safety. Dress for outside, avoid playing on ice, stay inside if too cold...</p>	<p>Find things in your house that start with the letter R &amp; S.</p>	<p>Have an indoor snowball fight using balled-up paper or socks.</p> 		<p>Measure things in your house using your hands and feet.</p>	<p>Help do laundry. Put in soap, clothes from washer to dryer, fold.</p>
<p>Make up silly rhyming words. Silly-Dilly-Filly Orange-Gorange</p>		<p>Dance to different music genres. Rock, Pop, Country, Classical...</p>	<p>Play I Spy Math: different size items, numbers, position of item, something with a pattern...</p>	<p>Practice tying shoes.</p>	<p>What do animals need to survive? Where do they live to survive?</p>	<p>What does a Truck Driver do?</p> 
<p>Texture Party: Collect different items with different textures. Describe textures.</p>	<p>Find things in your house that start with the letter T &amp; U.</p>	<p>Google Virtual Tour of Amazon Fulfillment Center.</p>	<p>Talk about respect of others and of property. In school or in community.</p>	<p>Roll sideways and practice summersaults.</p>		<p>What can you draw by making only circles, squares, triangles?</p>

# Things your child can learn while grocery shopping with you...

Make a grocery list and check it off, count items needed, look for letters on labels, notice numbers, learning to help...



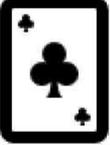
## FEBRUARY

<p>Talk about "push" and "pull". What items need to be pushed? Pulled?</p>	<p>Keep your eyes open for Kindergarten Transition activities from the school.</p>		<p>Practice getting dressed to leave house. Put on own shoes and coat.</p>	<p>Google the Presidents of the United States and talk about facts.</p>	<p>Write I Love You on a card and give it to someone special.</p>	
	<p>Take a virtual tour of Mount Rushmore.</p>	<p>Practice making hearts using markers, crayons, pencils...What utensil is easiest?</p>		<p>Talk about action words (verbs). Act out the verb. Hop, jump, eat, throw...</p>	<p>Push and Pull a laundry basket. Add items to make heavier. Add rope to pull.</p>	<p>Count backwards from 10, from 20, from higher...</p>
<p>Practice printing UPPER CASE letters.</p>		<p>Talk about why you have to push or pull some things harder than others to make them move?</p>	<p>Discuss what to do if you don't understand something? Who and how to ask.</p>	<p>Practice counting by starting at a number other than 1...start with 11 or 15...</p>		<p>Walk like a... cat, bird, monkey, crab, snake...</p>
<p>Push/pull: Straw to blow cotton ball, pull doors, push in drawers, roll a ball, pull a toy....</p>	<p>Find things in your house that start with the letter V &amp; W.</p>	<p>Talk about participating at school, following rules, and listening to the teachers.</p>	<p>Use tongs or tweezers to pick up objects.</p>	<p>Talk about where you live. State, town, neighborhood.</p>	<p>Make a winter collage using "white" items. (cotton ball, glue, Q-Tip, paper...)</p>	<p>Practice adding with objects. 1 spoon plus 1 spoon is? 2 toys plus 2 toys is?</p>
<p>Who is part of your family? (siblings, cousins, pets, others...</p>		<p>Take a Virtual Tour of an Art Gallery.</p>	<p>Teach and practice counting by 5's first up to 20 and increase over time.</p>	<p>Playdough. Use things that can be "pushed" in and "pulled" out.</p>	<p>Read a book: Talk about author, illustrator, reading left-right, top- bottom, page by page.</p>	<p>What are things you can do to keep you healthy?</p>



# MARCH

You are your child's first educator!  
Read, play, talk with, and encourage your child.  
Establish routines and independence for your child.

<p>What happens when I push on something? Pull on something?</p>	<p>Play with a deck of cards by naming, sorting, and putting them in order.</p>		<p>Find things in your house that start with the letters X, Y, &amp; Z.</p>	<p>Encourage child to ask questions during school about unknown things.</p>	<p>Learn as much as you can about the new school or schools in the district.</p>	<p>Who makes sure you are healthy and safe? At home, in school, in community?</p>
<p>Talk about the words in a book. Do they relate to the pictures?</p>	<p>Keep a blown-up balloon off the floor using your hands. Are you pushing or pulling?</p>	<p>What does it mean to be unique?</p>	<p>Talk about yesterday, today, and tomorrow. (past, present, future)</p>	<p>Teach and practice counting by 10's. first up to 50 and increase over time.</p>		<p>Go for a walk to collect nature items. Observe using 5 senses.</p>
<p>Make up a dance and perform outside.</p>	<p>Talk about listening to others and taking turns for expressing ideas and questions.</p>	<p>Does it roll? Make a ramp and use different items to test if they roll.</p>	<p>Sort objects in piles of 10's to make 100. (forks, socks, cereal, pens...)</p>	<p>Talk about plural words. 1 dog, 2 dogs, 1 house, 2 houses, 1 mouse, 2 mice...</p>	<p>Talk about where you live and who are the people in your community.</p>	<p>Focus on self-help skills like blowing nose, washing hands, and cleaning up.</p>
<p>Practice subtracting with objects. 3 spoons minus 1 spoon is? 3 toys minus 2 toys is?</p>	<p>Discuss words in a book. See the spaces, the punctuation, the Capital letters at each first word.</p>	<p>Write numbers on the sidewalk with chalk.</p>		<p>Make sure your child is up-to-date on their immunizations.</p>	<p>Google "59 endearing names for baby animals" (treehugger) Talk about them.</p>	 <p>Use nature items to make a collage.</p>
<p>Point to restaurants, churches, schools, and other buildings in your community.</p>		<p>What do humans and animals need to survive?</p>	<p>Talk about "greater than" and "less than" using objects in piles or lines.</p>	<p>What does a "schedule" mean?</p>	<p>Practice skipping outside.</p>	<p>Learn how to say Please in other languages. (Google)</p>



Research shows that the best thing we can do to get children ready for school is to form and keep positive relationships with them. Conversations can happen anytime. Listen, encourage, and support.



**APRIL**

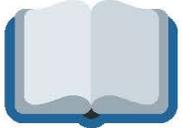
<p>Work together to make a checklist of steps for a night routine.</p>	<p>Where do animals live? Why do they live there? What do they eat there?</p>	<p>Talk about the difference between "needs" and "wants".</p>	<p>Draw something you see and tell about your drawing.</p>	<p>What does a Veterinarian do?</p>		<p>Go on a # walk. Did you find all numbers 0-9?</p>
<p>Take a Virtual Tour of a Zoo. (Google San Diego Zoo live cam).</p>	<p>Practice printing lower case letters.</p>		<p>Visit the new school's website to find policies and other things prior to Kindergarten.</p>	<p>Work together to make a checklist of steps for a morning routine.</p>	<p>Play Hopscotch with numbers 1-20.</p>	<p>Go to the park and play family games. Tag, Red Light-Green Light...</p>
<p>Make Mud Pies. What do you need to make? Where do you get materials?</p>	<p>Discuss the meaning of taking turns or being "patient" for something.</p>	<p>What does sleep do for your health? (learning, memory, mood, heart)</p> 	<p>2D vs 3D Shapes circle on a paper-ball, square--box, triangle--pyramid, rectangle--rug...</p>	<p>Make a map of your yard. With help, label grass, dirt, sidewalk, garden, toys...</p>	<p>Clap the syllables of your name and other objects.</p>	<p>Build an animal habitat in a shoebox. Sticks, pebbles, leaves, grass.</p>
<p>Write as many numbers as you can up to 100.</p>	<p>What makes a shadow outside? Play with your shadow (run, walk, hop)</p>	<p>Draw something and tell a story about it.</p>	<p>What does a dentist do?</p> 	<p>How can we protect the earth? (recycle, do not waste water, replant)</p>	<p>Paint rocks. Keep for yourself or give one to each friend.</p>	
<p>Talk about the weather. What does this mean? How do we know the weather?</p>		<p>What does it mean to measure something? weight, length, size...compare.</p>	<p>What does it mean to "lend a hand". How can you be a helper to others?</p>	<p>Move like different animals.</p>	<p>Talk to other parents about their kindergarten transition experiences.</p>	<p>Work on syllables by clapping. Pick words of objects or people you see.</p>



**Creative Arts activities such as art, pretend play, dance, and music can help foster self-esteem and confidence as they learn how to express themselves.**

**MAY**



<p>What is the weather during the seasons? Winter? Spring? Summer? Fall?</p>	<p>Go on a walk and count flowers. How many pink, yellow, orange...? Make a chart for the most/least.</p>	<p>Make a path of pillows on the floor crawl, walk, hop across.</p>	<p>Talk about the characters in a book. Describe them. (Who, What, Why Q's) </p>	<p>Discussion: Who are people, places and events that are familiar to you?</p>	<p>Talk about being respectful.</p>	<p>Help unload the groceries and put them away.</p>
<p>Take a virtual field trip to the Weather Station. (Google on PBS)</p>	<p>Google weather radar for South Dakota. Talk about what the colors in the map mean.</p>	<p>Make patterns with colored cereal or snack pieces.</p>		<p>Find "sight" words in children's books. (to, did, in)</p>	<p>What are good ways to stay healthy? What bad ways make us unhealthy?</p>	<p>Talk about appreciation. What does this mean?</p>
<p>Do yoga moves outside for 10 minutes.</p>		<p>Take an imagination Trip. Where did you go? Tell about it.</p>	<p>Schedule all medical/dental appointments for your child to be ready for kindergarten.</p>	<p>Cut out objects in magazines of things you NEED and things you WANT. Which has more?</p>	<p>Common weather patterns for SD? Other states? (hurricanes, tornados, wind...)</p>	<p>Practice counting to see how far you can get to.</p>
<p>Find "sight" words in children's books. (for, like, of)</p>	<p>Help set the table for a meal.</p>		<p>Watch the weather report on TV or on your phone? What info do they share? (weather words)</p>	<p>Count the door knobs and drawer handles. (more, less, large, small...)</p>	<p>What do you want to be when you grow up? Do you know someone who is in that position?</p>	<p>Paint with different items: Q-Tip, sponge, feather, old toothbrush...</p>
<p>With help from adult, measure the temperature of ice water, hot water, room-temp water. </p>	<p>Visit the school after hours and get to know the area. Playground, front entrance, parking...</p>	<p>Practice writing your address and phone number.</p>	<p>How do we keep safe in a Tornado? (home, school, community) </p>	<p>Play Simon Says. Use your name instead of Simon. Take turns with family.</p>	<p>Help write a list for shopping.</p>	

# JUNE



Motor development involves physical activities and your child's brain is a big part of it. It takes the brain and the body's muscles to allow these skills to develop, connect and build with all other parts of your child's development – language, social-emotional, and behavioral.

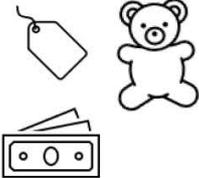
<p>Look for opposite items outside. Big/Little, Long/Short...</p>		<p>Make a healthy snack. Why is healthy important?</p>	<p>Find "sight" words in children's books. (the, a, an)</p>	<p>Let's talk about the sun. How does the sun help? How does it harm/hurt?</p>	<p>Encourage your child to be independent.</p>	<p>Visit and play at the school district's playground.</p>
	<p>What do plants need to survive? What if they don't get what they need?</p>	<p>Build with clay or playdough. Talk about your sculpture.</p>	<p>Take a virtual tour of the Sun. (google)</p>	<p>Talk about big/bigger, small/smaller, long/longer...</p>	<p>Write a word and draw it. Dog, Cat, Box, Hat...</p>	<p>Go to the pool or the beach.</p>
<p>Make a list of your child's strengths and interests to share with the new teacher.</p>	<p>Use paper plates, make emotion faces. Ask "what do you feel when" child holds up that plate.</p>	<p>Practice walking backwards.</p>		<p>How do we protect the plants, animals, and humans from the heat of the sun?</p>	<p>Talk about similarities and differences in people?</p>	<p>Find "sight" words in children's books. (is, and, so)</p>
<p>Make an obstacle course outside.</p>	<p>Cut out people from magazines and make up what they do in the community.</p>	<p>With help, make labels for objects in your house. Bed, floor, chair, table...</p>	<p>Make snacks using shaped food. (watermelon triangles, square crackers, circled cheese...)</p>	<p>Draw a picture of your family.</p>	<p>Talk about going to Kindergarten. What do you think it will be like?</p>	<p>Build a structure out of recycled materials to help protect from the sun.</p>
	<p>Coffee Filter Butterfly (filters, washable markers, water, clothespin, pipe cleaner)</p>	<p>Freeze water in different size containers. Take outside in the sun. Which melts faster?</p>	<p>If your child will be taking the bus, find out if the school offers "practice" bus rides.</p>		<p>Find "sight" words in children's books. (it, was, that)</p>	<p>Why are rules important in a classroom?</p>

## What can I do to be involved in my child's education?



Attend school events, volunteer in the school, participate in parent organizations, have open communication with the school staff, and model a positive view of education in the home.

# JULY

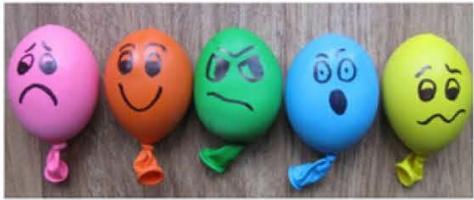
<p><b>Make a "number" caterpillar using paint or ink.</b></p>		<p>Talk about the American flag and make a flag.</p>	<p><b>Flowers/Trees</b> How do they grow? Spread? Who helps them spread?</p>	<p>With help, write or draw your favorite things.</p>	<p>Go on a March with your flags you made.</p>	
<p>Find "sight" words in children's books. (I, you, we)</p>	<p>Read a book creating voices for the different characters.</p>	<p>When the supply list comes out, have your child help pick out what he/she needs.</p>	<p>Count everything you have from your school supplies. Talk about more, less, same.</p>	<p>What do Police Officers do?</p> 	<p>What are healthy foods. Do you have these in your house?</p>	<p>Play with potting soil. Use spoons and bury small objects.</p>
<p>Plant some seeds using the potting soil and paper cup.</p>	<p>Start practicing a "school" routine.</p>		<p>Cut letters out of a magazine. What words can you form?</p>	<p>Practice buttoning, zipping, snapping, tying.</p>		<p>Run through the sprinkler!</p>
<p>Take a virtual tour of the Badlands and the Black Hills.</p>	<p>Make a sign for your bedroom door. "Welcome", "Sleeping", "Busy"...</p>	<p>What are living &amp; non-living things? Are there more living or non-living things in your home?</p>		<p>Pretend Play: Toy Store (make price tags, fake money, etc...)</p>	<p>Attend Kindergarten Events (Open House, Round Up...)</p>	<p>Draw a picture of your family.</p>
<p>Trace Shadows of your toys or other objects outside.</p>		<p>Exercise: 10 sit ups 10 jog-in-place 10 toe-touches</p>	<p>Bottle Bowling. Label empty (pop) bottles with numbers 1-10, set up, thrown soft ball. Count "pins".</p>	<p>Let's talk about the earth. What is it made of? (Land and Water)</p>		<p>Find "sight" words in children's books. (said, will, look)</p>



**"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."**

**AUGUST**

**~~Benjamin Franklin**

<p><b>Emotion balloons.</b> (fill with rice/flour) Child can "squeeze" emotion they are feeling.</p>		<p>What would land look like without people? Dirt, rocks, plants, mountains, grass, roads, etc...</p>	<p><b>Practice writing A-Z.</b> Can you do capital and lower case?</p>	<p>Who are some imaginary characters? How are you alike or different?</p>	<p>Use your arm muscles and lift cans or filled boxes.</p>	
<p>Look at your child's website with your child. Point out familiar people, places...</p>	<p><b>Make up a silly poem.</b></p>	<p><b>Count as high as you can count. What did you get to?</b></p>	<p><b>Label everything your child will bring to school.</b></p>	<p>Use masking tape or string, make a straight line on the floor. Balance, jump, tip-toe...</p>	 <p>What does a volcano do? Create a volcano outside. (Vinegar, baking soda, cup, food coloring)</p>	
<p><b>Make a counting line with objects outside.</b></p>		<p>Go on an "earth" walk. What do you see that is part of the earth? (trees, grass, flowers, etc...)</p>	<p><b>Draw a picture for your new teacher. Write your name on it.</b></p>	<p><b>Practice getting ready in the morning for school.</b></p>	<p>Look at people in books/magazines. How are they same/different? (It's ok to be different). <b>Practice saying yes please, no thank you and "may I". How will these help in your new school?</b></p>	
<p>Play "What's in the Bag?" Brown bags with different objects for guessing using only hands.</p>	<p>What do people who work at a restaurant do? (cooks, waiters, greeters...)</p>	<p><b>Find a place outside to watch the clouds. Draw what you see.</b></p>		<p><b>Pool noodle patterns.</b> Cut different colored noodle rings. Make patterns.</p>	<p><b>Talk about staying safe during drop off and pick up from school.</b></p>	<p>Thanks for being such an amazing "teacher" for your child!!!</p>
<p><b>ENJOY</b></p>	<p><b>THE REST</b></p>	<p><b>OF YOUR</b></p>	<p><b>SUMMER!</b></p>	<p><b>HAVE</b></p>	<p><b>A GREAT</b></p>	<p><b>SCHOOL YEAR!!!</b></p>