

At Home Activities!

Parents have asked about what types of activities can be done at home that go along with what the children are learning in the classroom. We are putting together a series of activities to assist in "AT HOME ACTIVITIES".

FINE MOTOR/WRITING

- Shaving Cream or Cool Whip writing— (*names, numerals, shapes, etc*).
- Tracing letters/numerals/shapes or simply drawing with any shortened writing tool: crayons or pencils 3-4 inches in length
- Play dough, sculpting clay, rolling cookie dough
- Sorting and folding laundry—matching socks is a favorite!
- Keys into locks to turn and open
- Squirt bottle for spraying plants or anything else that can be watered
- Sewing with large plastic needles
- Lacing cards or shapes
- Stringing large wooden or plastic beads onto shoelaces or yarn
- Pushing pop-beads into long trains or necklaces
- Cutting with safety scissors: cut old magazines, newspaper, comics, old wallpaper scrapes, flyers, etc. into small mountains of little bits. Younger children should be encouraged to tear paper into small pieces if scissors are frustrating.
- Puzzles, simple to more challenging & advanced: work on rotating and flipping pieces to make them fit. Advanced puzzles can be done as a long-term family project.

LANGUAGE & READING READINESS

- The most important thing to remember when raising a successful reader is to surround them with books, books, books!
 - Books to read alone (*ABC, 1-2-3, old favorites that your child can "read" alone*)
 - Books on tape, which are great for the car!
 - Read-aloud books for quiet times and at bedtime. We recommend classics by well-known children's authors (*which are an enjoyable read for both you and your child*), over 'fad' books such as *Sponge Bob, Dora the Explorer, Barney, Blue's Clues*, etc, which are based on children's television shows and not written for read-aloud formats.

The teachers in the Primary and Kindergarten levels order from the Scholastic Book Clubs each month, which feature a selection of classics, books with tapes/CD's and activity books.

Let us know if you would like to receive an order form each month.

- In addition, times spent with the following activities carry the recognition ability to other spheres:
 - Alphabet Puzzles
 - Practice identifying the letters (*using capitals*) in your child's name and the names of other family members
 - Brainstorm for words each week according to the letter on which we are focused, (*i.e. "T" is for train, "M" is for mom, etc.*)
- Ask your child to look for specific brands of cereal, soups, pastas, etc. when grocery shopping by using letter or I-Spy clues.

Recommended Children's Authors

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| ▪ Tomie DePaola | ▪ Don Freeman | ▪ Nancy Tafuri |
| ▪ Jan Brett | ▪ Norman Bridwell | ▪ Nancy Carlson |
| ▪ Dr. Suess | ▪ Bernard Most | ▪ Mem Fox |
| ▪ Arnold Lobel | ▪ Eric Carle | ▪ Jonathan London |
| ▪ Leo Lionni | ▪ Vera B. Williams | ▪ Robert Kraus |
| ▪ James Marshall | ▪ Kevin Henkes | ▪ H. A. Rey |
| ▪ Maurice Sendak | ▪ Jack Prelutsky | ▪ Jan and Stan
Berenstain |
| ▪ Russell Hoban | ▪ Patricia Polacco | ▪ Margarent Wise
Brown |
| ▪ Virginia Burton | ▪ Judith Viorst | |
| ▪ David Kirk | ▪ Cynthia Rylant | |
| ▪ Ludwig Bemelman | ▪ Laura Numeroff | |
| ▪ Robert McCloskey | ▪ Eric Hill | |