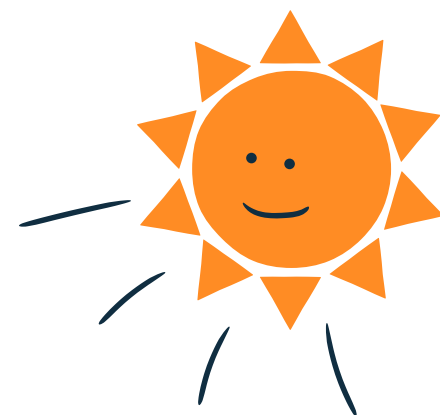


At-Home Summer Guide for Preschoolers and Prekindergarteners (3 and 4 years old)

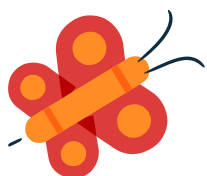
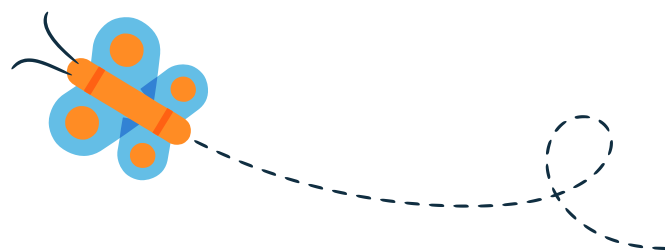
Week of August 24, 2020

As summer comes to a close, children in our preschool classrooms are exploring Shapes and Colors while their prekindergarten friends are reviewing Alphabet Letters. In our centers, these last two weeks of summer are a time for children to review some of the basics before beginning a new year. Our At-Home Summer Guides for these last two weeks are also a review, so join along at home as we revisit some of our favorite activities from the last five months!

We've selected some of our favorites, but we encourage you to go back through the guides and revisit some of the activities your child enjoyed most. When you repeat activities look for ways to add a new twist, like adding an I Spy game to your favorite picture books or including counting in a movement game.



This week's review includes activities from both our preschool and prekindergarten guides. The first few activities use play dough to enhance your child's learning experience. From forming letters to addition and subtraction, these experiences are all about the hands-on learning. Then your child explores shapes and counting through art as they draw animals and flowers.



Learning Adventures

are small-group enrichment programs in our centers designed to give children experiences in cooking, STEM, phonics, and music. One activity in this guide is adapted from these programs for your use at home. It's a great way to dig deeper into areas that may interest your child.

This Week's Theme:

Summer Review

What you'll find in this guide. . .

We've selected some of our favorite activities to revisit in this week's guide. You and your child can choose your own adventures and do the activities in any order you'd like, repeating and revisiting them as often as you want! Click on the icons below to discover more...



LET'S CREATE

Play-dough Letters

Create letter shapes using play dough.



LET'S EXPLORE

Mud-Cake Math: Addition

Make mud cakes using play dough and use birthday candles to practice addition.



LET'S EXPLORE

Mud-Cake Math: Subtraction

Make mud cakes using play dough and use birthday candles to practice subtraction.



LET'S CREATE

Shape Animals

Is it a circle and a triangle, or is it a face and a nose? Trace some shapes and let your imagination take it from there!



LET'S CREATE

How Many Petals?

Your child draws a collection of flowers using a dice to determine how many petals to draw on each one.



GAME TIME

Child's Choice

Let your child choose from a few of our favorite games or select one of their own.



LEARNING ADVENTURES: PHONICS ADVENTURES

Dan Can Read Aloud

What can Dan do for his hens and pigs? Find out in this delightful tale!



VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP

Field Trip Trifecta

Revisit three of our favorite field trips that focus on science and literacy.

At-Home Summer Guide for Preschoolers and Prekindergarteners

Week of August 24, 2020

Getting Ready for the Week: Materials to Gather

Play-dough Letters:

- Play dough
- [Play dough ingredients and recipe \(if you don't have play dough\)](#)

Mud-Cake Math: Addition:

- 5 Birthday candles (small twigs, sticks, or craft sticks can be used instead)
- Play dough
- [Play dough ingredients and recipe \(if you don't have play dough\)](#)

Mud-Cake Math: Subtraction:

- Birthday candles (small twigs, sticks, or craft sticks can be used instead)
- Number cards for the numerals 0 through 10
- Play dough
- [Play dough ingredients and recipe \(if you don't have play dough\)](#)

Shape Animals:

- Cardboard or any material that can be traced
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Paper
- Scissors (for adult use)

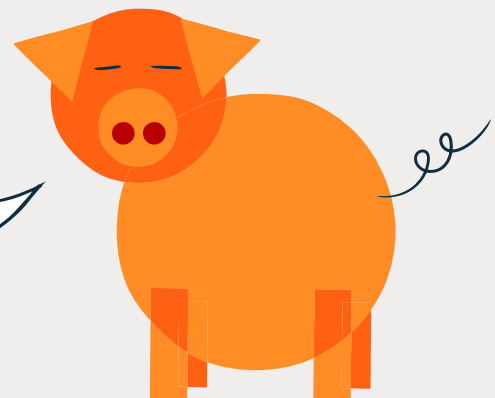
How Many Petals?:

- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Dice
- Paper

Dan Can Read Aloud:

- [Video link](#) to the book *Dan Can* by Lyssa Horvath, illustrated by Krista Martenson
- Scrap paper
- Pencil

Tip: At the beginning of your week, gather materials and place them in a container so you're ready to go!



At-Home Summer Guide for Preschoolers and Prekindergarteners

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Let's Create: Play-dough Letters

Create letter shapes using play dough.



Length of activity:
15 minutes*

* Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult:** Medium



Level of Prep Required: Medium



What you need:

- Play dough
- Play dough ingredients and recipe, below (if you don't have play dough)

Play dough Recipe

Ingredients

- ❑ 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- ❑ 4 teaspoons cream of tartar
- ❑ 2 cups flour
- ❑ 1 cup salt
- ❑ 1 cup hot water
- ❑ Food coloring (optional)

Instructions

- Combine all ingredients and mix well. Store in an airtight container



What your child is learning:

- How to make and name different letter shapes
- How to use different tools and materials to create two- and three-dimensional art
- Fine motor skills while shaping the play dough

About the Activity:

This activity focuses on letter formation using play dough. Use your knowledge of your child's letter knowledge to recommend letters for them to create.

For your preschooler and your prekindergartener:

Invite your child to use the play dough to make letters. Begin by having them make the first letter of their first name, and then encourage them to make other letters they are familiar with. Ask them to name the letters they make. Encourage them to make letters using different techniques, such as rolling out 'snakes' and then forming letters, by building the letters one piece of play dough at a time, or by rolling out the play dough and writing the letters in the dough with their finger.

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Let's Explore: Mud-Cake Math: Addition

Make mud cakes using play dough and use "birthday candles" to practice addition.



Length of activity:
15 minutes*

* Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult:** Medium



Level of Prep Required: Medium



What you need:

- Birthday candles, 5 (small twigs, sticks, or craft sticks can be used instead)
- Play dough
- [Play dough ingredients and recipe](#) (if you don't have play dough)

What your child is learning:

- Beginning addition skills
- How to focus their attention
- How to follow multi-step directions

About the Activity:

Have your child make two "cakes" using the play dough. Ask them to place a combination of birthday candles in each cake, and then count the total number of candles they used. For example, they can place 2 candles in one cake and 1 candle in the other cake, for a total of 3 candles. The total number of candles should not be more than 5.

For Your Preschooler:

After they've placed the selected number of candles in each cake, ask them to count the total number of candles. Reinforce the addition process by stating the math sentence for the problem they are solving, for example, "You had 2 candles, you added 1 more candle, and now you have a total of 3 candles."

For Your Prekindergartener:

After they've placed the selected number of candles in each cake, ask them to count the total number of candles. Reinforce the addition process by stating the math sentence for the problem they are solving, for example, "You had 2 candles, you added 1 more candle, and now you have a total of 3 candles." As your child becomes familiar with the process, invite them to state the math sentence.

At-Home Summer Guide for Preschoolers and Prekindergarteners

Week of August 24, 2020



Let's Explore: Mud-Cake Math: Subtraction

Make mud cakes using play dough and use "birthday candles" to practice subtraction.



Length of activity:

15 minutes*

* Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

Level of Engagement
Required by Adult: Medium



Level of Prep Required: Medium



What you need:

- 10 Birthday candles (small twigs, sticks, or craft sticks can be used instead)
- Number cards for the numerals 0 through 10
- Play dough
- [Play dough ingredients and recipe \(if you don't have play dough\)](#)

What your child is learning:

- Beginning subtraction skills
- How to focus their attention
- How to follow multi-step directions

About the Activity:

For this activity you will create two piles of number cards, one with higher numbers and one with lower numbers. Have your child make a "cake" using the play dough. Ask your child to select a card from the first pile and place that number of candles on the cake, assisting them in recognizing and naming the number as needed. Then have your child select a card from the second pile, assisting them in recognizing and naming the number as needed. Have them remove that number of candles from the cake and count how many candles are left on the cake.

For Your Preschooler:

You'll use the number cards for 3, 4, and 5 to create the first pile, and the number cards for 0, 1, and 2 to create the second pile. After your child has placed the number of candles from the first card, removed the number of candles from the second card, and counted the number left, reinforce the subtraction process by stating the math sentence for the problem they are solving, for example, "You had 4 candles, you took away 1 candle, and now there are 3 candles left." Continue the process going through different card combinations.

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For Your Prekindergartener:

You'll use the number cards for 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 to create the first pile, and the number cards for 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 to create the second pile. After your child has placed the number of candles from the first card, removed the number of candles from the second card, and counted the number left, reinforce the subtraction process by stating the math sentence for the problem they are solving, for example, "You had 4 candles, you took away 1 candle, and now there are 3 candles left." Continue the process going through different card combinations. As your child becomes familiar with the process, invite them to state the math sentence.



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Week of August 24, 2020



Let's Create: Shape Animals

Is it a circle and a triangle, or is it a face and a nose? Trace some shapes and let your imagination take it from there!



Length of activity:
20 minutes*

* Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult:** Low



Level of Prep Required: Medium



What you need:

- Cardboard or any material that can be traced
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Paper
- Scissors (for adult use)

What your child is learning:

- To identify and name simple shapes
- How to create art that represents animals, people, or things
- To use flexible thinking as they come up with new ways to use shapes in their drawings

About the Activity:

This activity invites your child to use their imaginations to see how they can use shapes to create animals. To prepare, cut circles, squares, rectangles, and triangles in a variety of sizes out of cardboard or another traceable material. To make cutting circles easier, consider tracing around cups or lids before cutting.

For your preschooler or your prekindergartener:

Lay out the shapes you cut out and ask your child to name them. Then have them choose a shape to trace on a sheet of paper. Ask your child to think about how they could use the shape to create a drawing of an animal. Maybe it's an animal's head or body, or maybe it's part of the animal's face like an ear or nose! Encourage your child draw their animal using the shape and adding other shapes to their drawing, either as additional features of their animal, other animals, or objects.



At-Home Summer Guide for Preschoolers and Prekindergarteners

Week of August 24, 2020



Let's Create: How Many Petals?

Your child draws a collection of flowers using a dice to determine how many petals to draw on each flower.



Length of activity:
15 minutes*

* Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

Level of Engagement Required by Adult: Low



Level of Prep Required: Low



What you need:

- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Dice
- Paper

What your child is learning:

- To count using one-to-one correspondence
- A beginning understanding of cardinality; that the last number counted represents the total number of items in a set
- How to create art that represents animals, people, or things

About the Activity:

For this activity, your child will draw flowers using a dice to determine how many petals belong on each flower. As they participate in this activity, they are fine-tuning their counting skills and working on their understanding of cardinality. You can facilitate this learning by encouraging your child to count each item they draw and then share the total number of items. You can model this as needed, for example, "One, two, three, four. You drew four petals on the flower."

For your preschooler or your prekindergartener:

Have your child roll the dice and count the number of dots on the side facing up. Then ask your child to draw a flower with the same number of petals on a sheet of paper. Have your child roll again and draw another flower using a different color. Have them continue until they have filled their paper with flowers. If your child shows interest, invite them to create another drawing using the dice to decide "how many." For example, they could roll the dice to determine how many flowers to draw or how many windows to draw on a house.



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Week of August 24, 2020



Phonics Adventures: *Dan Can Read Aloud*

What can Dan do for his hens and pigs? Find out in this delightful tale!



Length of activity:
15–20 minutes*

* Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

Level of Engagement Required by Adult: High



Level of Prep Required: Low



What you need:

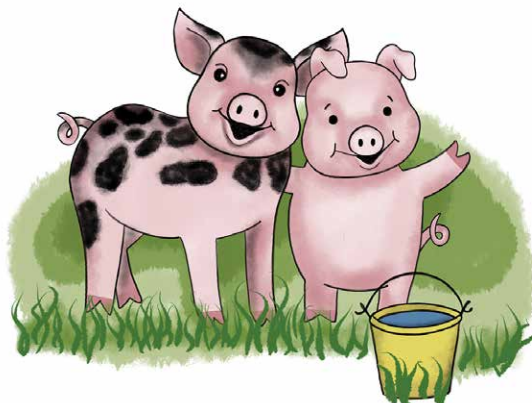
- [Video link](#) to the book *Dan Can* by Lyssa Horvath, illustrated by Krista Martenson
- Scrap paper
- Pencil

What your child is learning:

- To say the /a/, /e/, /i/, /o/, and /u/ sounds and hear them in words
- About the word families *it*, *ig*, *an*, *en*, *ot*, *op*, and *un* and how each word family looks and sounds at the end of consonant/vowel/consonant words
- How to build words using a word family
- How to begin to read words

About the Activity:

Watch the [read-aloud video](#) with your child, then follow the directions on the next page depending on your child's age.



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For Your Preschooler:

With your child watching, write uppercase and lowercase letters *A, E, I, O,* and *U* on a piece of paper (your child can do this, if they already know how). Talk about the sound each letter makes, like the sound at the beginning of each of the words *apple, egg, igloo, otter,* and *umbrella*. "Let's touch our throats while we say each sound. The vibration you feel is your vocal cords working to make the sound!"

Watch the video again, pausing it on each page of the book and helping your child find words with letters *a, e, i, o,* and *u* and the /a/, /e/, /i/, /o/, and /u/ sounds in them. See how many different words your child can find that have each sound in them.

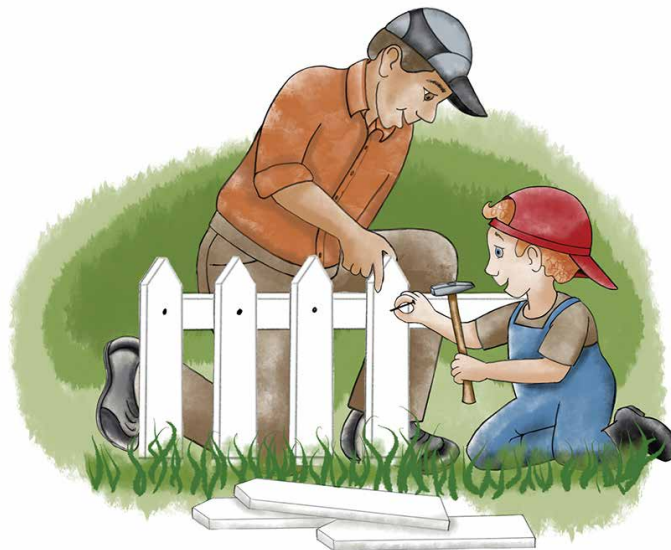
If your child is ready, you can mute the audio while you play the video and take turns reading every other page.

For Your Prekindergartener:

With your child watching, write the word *it* on paper. Explain that when the letters *i* and *t* are put together in this way, they make the /it/ sound. The /it/ sound is made up of two smaller sounds, /i/ and /t/. Show your child how to blend the two sounds together by sweeping your finger under the letters from left to right and saying /iit/. Do the same thing with the sounds /ig/, /an/, /en/, /ot/, /op/, and /un/.

Explain that *it, ig, an, en, ot, op,* and *un* are word families. "Word families are groups of words that have the same ending sound, like the ending *it*." See how many different words your child can think of that end with each of these word family sounds.

Watch the video again and if your child is ready, mute the audio and have your child do the reading!



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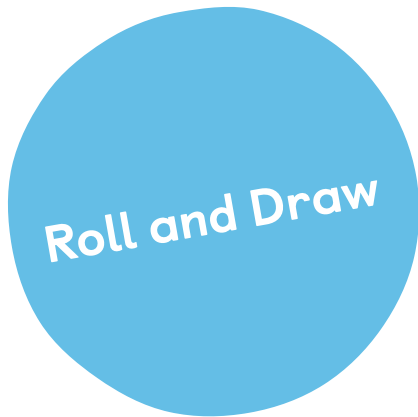
Week of August 24, 2020



Game Time: Child's Choice

Let your child choose from a few of our favorites or select one of their own.

Share the three games on the following pages with your child and invite them to choose which one they'd like to play. If they have a favorite that's not on our list, play that one instead!



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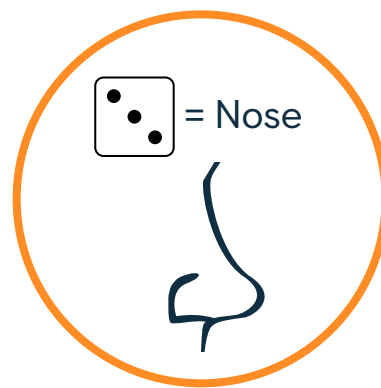
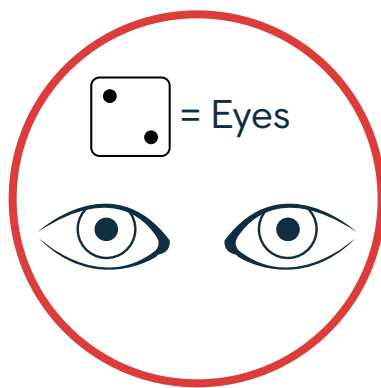
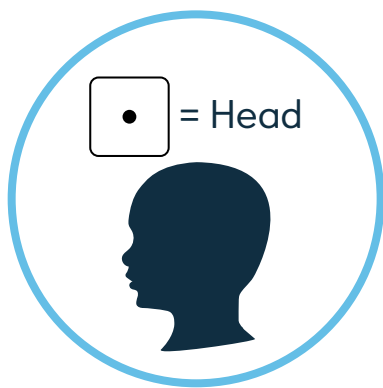
Game Time: Roll and Draw

This drawing game is all up to a roll of a dice! Who will be the first to finish their drawing?

What you need:

- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Dice
- Paper

Each player will need a sheet of paper and something to draw with. The first player rolls a dice and draws the corresponding feature below, then it's the next player's turn to do the same. Play continues in this manner until one player completes their drawing by drawing all six features. If a player rolls a number that corresponds to a feature they have already drawn, then they lose their turn and it's the next player's turn.



Want to increase the challenge of the game? Add the rule that a player has to roll a 1 to draw the head before they can draw any other features.

You can also create your own version of the game by selecting any simple drawing that can be done in six steps, such as a flower with a center and five petals or the head, thorax, abdomen, legs, antennae, and wings of a butterfly or bee.

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Game Time: How Many?

This picture game builds observation, counting, and vocabulary skills.

Look at the [collage of red images](#) with your child. Invite them to name any of the images they recognize. If your child is unfamiliar with any of the images, share the name of the object in the image and a little information about the object. Then play a game by asking your child “How many” questions that they can answer using the images in the collage. As your child looks at the collage and answers your questions with a number, ask them to name the pictures they’re using to answer the question.

Here are some questions to get you started:

- How many different pictures do you see?
- How many types of fruit do you see?
- How many types of vegetables do you see?
- How many types of flowers do you see?
- How many types of art supplies do you see?
- How many things can you eat?
- How many things can you smell?
- How many things can you draw with?
- How many things can you paint with?



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Game Time: I Spy

Put your child's observations skills to the test with a fun game of I Spy!

Using the [picture](#) on the next page, play a game of I Spy with your child. Look at the picture and select one object to provide clues about. Have your child look at the picture and provide them with an "I spy" clue. Keep providing clues until they've named the object you selected. Here's one set of clues to get you started!

Clues for the 4-spot dice:

- I spy with my little eye something with four circles.
- I spy with my little eye something white.
- I spy with my little eye something with a square face.
- I spy with my little eye something you roll.

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I Spy



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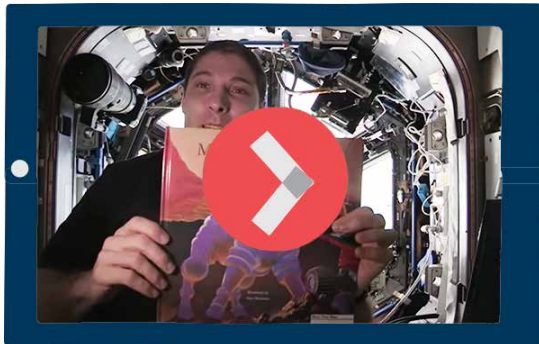


Virtual Field Trip: Field Trip Trifecta

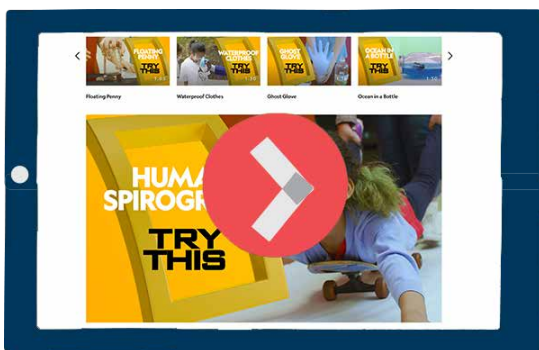
Revisit three of our favorite field trips that focus on science and literacy.



Would you and your child like to see some amazing animals in action? Check out the [live cams](#) at the San Diego Zoo! Which animals are your child interested in seeing? As you watch the live cams, ask your child questions about what the animals are doing, what they notice about the animals, and what they wonder about the animals.



[Watch](#) Astronauts aboard the International Space Station read books aloud for you to enjoy on Earth! The International Space Station travels at an amazing 17,500 miles per hour—meaning it orbits Earth every 90 minutes! And you can see it on a clear night—find out when it will be passing over your area [here](#).



Take a virtual trip to [National Geographic Kids](#) where you can make an ocean in a bottle, create your own lava lamp, explore upside down water, and more!