

P.L.A.Y.

Purposeful, Learning Activities for Young Children

A resource of fun activities for kindergarten parents!

Gathered by Jennifer Schultz
North Muskegon Public Schools
Kindergarten



I tried to teach my child from books.
He gave me only puzzled looks.
I tried to teach my child with words,
They passed him by, often unheard.
Despairingly I turned aside.
“How shall I teach this child?” I cried.
Into my hand he put the key:
“Come,” he said, “Play with me.”

~Author Unknown

Table Of Contents

Kindergarten Learning Objectives/Goals.....	4
Literacy Activities.....	5
Math Activities.....	7
Fun Recipes to Make With Your Kids.....	9
Songs and Poems.....	12
Cool Books for Kids.....	14
Cool Books for Parents.....	15
Cool Websites for Families With Young Children.....	16

Kindergarten Learning Objectives/Goals

*These goals and objectives are a condensed version of what we are working on throughout the year. Please feel free to support the curriculum by having fun with your child with these activities!

Language Arts

- Listens when others speak
- Listens without interrupting
- Talks before the group
- Expresses ideas freely and clearly
- Enjoys stories and poems
- Recalls details from a story read aloud
- Tells story in a sequence
- Recognizes rhyming words
- Identifies uppercase letters
- Identifies lowercase letters
- Matches beginning sound with consonant letters
- Can write first and last name
- Can recognize 40 basic sight words

Math

- Knows basic shapes
- Rote counts to 100
- Counts 20 objects (1:1 correspondence)
- Recognizes numerals through 50
- Arranges objects according to pattern
- Understands concept of more, less, same

Other General Skills

- Recites: address, phone number, days of the week, months of the year
- Knows left from right
- Follows directions
- Pastes and glues neatly
- Demonstrates fine motor control with pencils, crayons, and scissors

*Social skills are a very important part of kindergarten. Characteristics of friendship, cooperation, respect, responsibility, perseverance, and honesty are focused on throughout the year within the curriculum.

Literacy Activities

- *Read to your child everyday.
- *Practice and play with alphabet magnets on your fridge. Talk about the letters and the sounds each letter makes.
- *Rhyme with your child. Make a game out of it. You say a word, he/she says a word that rhymes with it. Let him/her use silly or nonsense words too!
- *Sing familiar songs. Change the initial consonant in the song throughout to a particular letter. (i.e. Happy Birthday to you => Sappy Sirthday so sou)
- *When walking outside, at the grocery store, etc. talk to your child about your surroundings.
- *Draw shapes in the dirt with sticks, on the cement with sidewalk chalk, etc.
- *Point out letters or words on signs as you are driving. Play a game by “hunting” for specific letters.
- *Practice tongue twisters or make up silly sentences with your child that have the same sound throughout. (i.e. Silly Sarah sank seven ships on Sunday).
- *Try the same game with rhyming words.
- *Play “I Spy”. Say, “I spy something that begins with the letter t.” Give other clues if necessary. Discuss with your child the letter and sounds it makes.
- *When driving or walking, talk with your child about direction (left, right, up, down, North, South, East, West).
- *Buy alphabet soups and cereals. Practice hunting for letters.
- *Let your child draw and then tell you about his or her picture. Write down what he/she says it is about and then reread it with your child.

*Practice writing your child's name with fingerpaint, in shaving cream, etc. Anything fun and kinesthetic will help them remember!

*Give your child an old flyer or magazine. Have him/her circle specific letters.

*Clap out the syllables of words.

*Clap and chant how to spell simple words. (i.e. Say at, clap and say a, clap and say t, say at).

*Play learning games with your child. Memory, Chutes and Ladders, Candyland, and Boggle Jr. are all excellent choices.

*Give your child an empty shoebox. Ask him/her to go on an "Alphahunt" searching for things that begin with a specific letter. (i.e. cars, candy, corn)

*Play with play-dough. Help your child make letters, create creatures and tell about them.

*Go to the library, zoo, children's museum. Afterwards talk with your child about his/her favorite thing.

*Read a story and talk about what happened first, second, last.

*Read a story and have your child draw a picture of his/her favorite part.

*Make glitter letters. Trace the letters with glue and pour glitter on them.

*Have your child help you with the grocery list. Explain letter/sound relationships.

*Create a family book with your child. Take pictures of everyone in your family and write their names next to the pictures.

*Encourage "invented spelling". Have your child stretch or sound out the words. It is okay if they only write the sounds they hear. (i.e. prsn for person).

*Make pancakes into the shapes of letters.

Math Activities

- *Practice counting with your child.
- *Count by 2's, 5's, 10's.
- *Put a handful of objects on the table. Ask your child to count them. Practice taking some away and adding some to the pile. Introduce addition and subtraction.
- *Talk about shapes and how to make them. Go on a shape hunt. See how many triangles are in your house. Squares? Circles? Etc.
- *Play mind reader. Say, "I am thinking of a shape with four sides." Continue giving clues until they guess the correct shape.
- *Play with puzzles.
- *Cut out shapes (tangrams) and make objects with them.
- *Look for patterns.
- *Create patterns when playing with your child.
- *Make shapes out of play-dough.
- *Build with legos or other blocks. Talk about the shapes, patterns, colors.
- *Play Connect Four, War, or Go Fish with your child.
- *Go on a number hunt with your child at home, in the car, at the grocery store, etc.
- *Sing songs with numbers in them (Five Speckled Frogs, Sally the Camel)
- *Give your child an old newspaper. Have him/her circle specific numbers in it.
- *Practice writing numbers on a magna-doodle.

*Have fun with estimating. Before opening a bag of M&M's estimate with your child how many are in the bag. Count them and compare the number with your estimate.

*Read stories with numbers in it.

*Talk about coins and how much each are worth. Make a game of counting out the right change. (i.e. The ways to make 14 cents.)

*Play with stickers or stamps. Write down a number and have your child stamp or place the corresponding amount of stickers next to it.

*Build things using old cardboard boxes. Get the tape measure out and model how to use one.

*Keep track of your child's height on a growth chart.

*Count with your fingers with your child. Ask him/her to show you how old he/she is, how many apples there are in the basket, etc.

*Count steps as you walk up stairs. Figure out how many steps it takes to get from the bathroom to your child's room.

*Jump rope and count how many times your child jumps. Encourage your child to hop on one foot for as long as he/she can. Count as he/she jumps.

*Play catch with your child. Count how many times you catch the ball. You can do the same shooting hoops, mini-golfing, playing soccer.

*Talk about volume by collecting old jars and containers. Fill up the jar and explore with your child how much each jar holds of various objects.

*Sort objects. Gather anything (golf tees, old nuts and bolts, small toy figurines, bouncy balls, etc.) and figure out the ways in which you and your child can sort.

*As you are cleaning up, ask your child to pick up all the red toys first. Continue doing this while classifying the toys into groups.

*Cook with your child. Talk about measurements, reading recipes, etc.

Fun Recipes to Make with your Children!

Playdough Recipe (<http://www.homeschoolzone.com/pp/crafts/play-dough.htm>)

Items Needed:

- 1 c Flour
- 1/2 c Salt
- 1 c Water
- 2 tsp. Cream of Tartar
- 1 tsp. Salad Oil
- Food Coloring

Mix together all ingredients and cook for 3 minutes over low heat. Stir well. Add food coloring. Store in a plastic container.

Playdough Recipe-Scented (<http://www.homeschoolzone.com/pp/crafts/play-dough.htm>)

Items Needed:

- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup salt
- 3 tbsp oil
- 1 package of Koolaid (for color and scent)
- 1/2 cup of water

Mix all the ingredients together and cook for 3 minutes over low heat. Stir well and add food coloring. Store in an air-tight container.

Play Clay (<http://www.homeschoolzone.com/pp/crafts/play-dough.htm>)

Items Needed:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar
- Food coloring or cake paste

Mix the flour, water, salt, oil and cream of tartar in a saucepan. Cook over medium heat until it holds together (keep mixing or it will stick to the bottom of the pan). When the clay is cool enough to touch, knead it on a floured surface and add the food coloring until mixed well. Store in an airtight container such as a Ziploc baggie or Tupperware dish.

Silly Putty (<http://www.homeschoolzone.com/pp/crafts/play-dough.htm>)

Items Needed:

- 1 tablespoon of liquid Starch
- 2-3 drops of food coloring
- 2 tablespoons of white glue
- ziplock bag

Mix the white glue and food coloring together in a small bowl. Pour the liquid starch into a second small bowl. Slowly pour the glue mixture on top of the liquid starch. Allow the mixture to stand for 5 minutes or until the glue absorbs the liquid starch. Remove the putty from the bowl and knead until the desired consistency.

Salt Dough Ornaments (<http://www.creativehomemaking.com/articles/111002b.shtml>)

Items Needed:

- 4 Cups of Flour
- 1 Cup of Salt
- 1 1/2 Cups of Hot Water
- Cookie Cutters
- Rolling Pins
- Decorations: Glitter, Paint, Beads, Buttons, Yarn, Etc.

Mix the ingredients together to make the dough. Next, knead the dough and roll it out to cut out shapes with cookie cutters (just like making sugar cookies). Place them on a microwave safe plate. Microwave on high for about 2 minutes. Paint and decorate as desired.

Soap Crayons (<http://www.christian-parent.com/articles/122701i.shtml>)

Items Needed:

- Mild powdered laundry soap
- Food coloring
- Ice cube trays or other small molds
- Water

Add about 1 cup of the powdered laundry soap to bowl. Slowly add water by the teaspoon until it becomes a thick liquid mixture. Stir well and begin adding food coloring until it is the color you like. Pour into ice cube trays or other small mold. Set in a sunny, dry spot for a few days to allow crayons to harden. When hard, remove from mold and use!

Muffin Owls

Items Needed:

- English muffins
- cheese slices
- peanut butter
- banana slices

Slice each muffin into two round halves and toast. Spread peanut butter over the muffin. Cut the cheese diagonally, forming two triangles. Put the triangle at the top of the muffin to form the owls beak. Place two slices of bananas for the eyes on each side of the beak. Enjoy!

Boat Bowls

Items Needed:

- Apples, halved and cored
- peanut butter
- granola
- cheese slices
- toothpicks
- raisins

Mix 1 cup of peanut butter and ½ cup of granola in a small bowl. Let your child spoon the mixture into the center of a halved and cored apple. Help your child break the cheese slice into triangles, slide a toothpick through and attach as the sail of your apple boat. Add raisin sailors to the mix.

Fruit Tree Salad

Items Needed:

- Cottage cheese
- fruit cocktail, drained
- toasted bread
- green food coloring

Rip a piece of toast into a tree trunk shape and set it on the plate. Tint the cottage cheese with green food coloring and spread above the toast. Set individual pieces of fruit on top of the tree.

Songs/Poems for Kids

Days of the Week Song (Tune: "The Addams Family")

Days of the week (snap, snap)

Days of the week (snap, snap)

Days of the week

Days of the week

Days of the week (snap, snap)

There's Sunday and there's Monday,

There's Tuesday and there's Wednesday,

There's Thursday and there's Friday,

and Saturday's a week!

Days of the week (snap, snap)

Days of the week, Days of the week (snap, snap)

Month Chant

January, February, March, April, May

June, July, August - - Hooray! Hooray!

September, October, November, December

These are the months that I CAN REMEMBER!

Good Morning Boogie

Hello Neighbor, what do you say?

(Children bow to each other)

It's going to be a happy day.

(Children clap hands together)

So greet your neighbor,

(Children give each other high fives)

And boogie on down.

(Children wiggle their hips)

Give 'em a bump,

(Children bump their hips together)

and turn around.

(Children turn around)

Little Autumn Leaves by Elizabeth Giles

One little autumn leaf shiny red

Two little autumn leaves on my head

Three little autumn leaves in the trees

Four little autumn leaves in the breeze

Five little autumn leaves golden brown

Six little autumn leaves, falling down

Seven little autumn leaves blow away

Eight little autumn leaves want to stay

Nine little autumn leaves on the tree

Ten little autumn leaves just for me

Turkey Gobbler

I met a turkey gobbler just the other day
I said to the turkey gobbler, "How are you today?"
He looked at me and said, "Here's what I have to say-
Don't ask me such a question when it is Thanksgiving Day!"

The Beehive

I found a beehive! (show fist)
But where are the bees? (Pretend to look around)
They're hidden away, where nobody sees. (Whisper this as you continue to look.)
Here they come, creeping out of their hive... 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (Bring fingers out one at a time).

My Bunnies' Bedtime

My bunnies now must go to bed. (hold up hand, extend fingers)
The little mother rabbit said.
But I will count them first to see. (point to fingers)
If they all have come back to me.
One bunny, two bunnies, three bunnies dear (point to each finger)
Four bunnies, five bunnies-yes all here.
They are the pretties things alive-
One, two, three, four, and five. (Point to all the fingers)

Five Fat Fish

Five fat fish were gliding by the shore.
Along came a net, and then there were four.
Four fat fish, diving in the sea.
Along came a bigger fish and then there were three.
Three fat fish swam the ocean blue.
One got stuck in seaweed and then there were two.
Two fat fish thought swimming was fun.
One nibbled on a little worm and then there was one.
One fat fish went swimming home.
It was not fun swimming all alone.

Websites with fun songs

<http://www.kinderthemes.com/Songsideasandchecklists.html>

<http://www.songs4teachers.com/backtoschool.htm>

<http://www.kididdles.com/lyrics/food.html>

Cool Books for Kids

Aardema, Verna. Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears. Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon.

Anno, Mitsumasa. Anno's Counting House.

Barrett, Judi. Animals Should Definitely Not Wear Clothing. Illustrated by Ron Barrett.

Brett, Jan. The Mitten.

Carle, Eric. Have You Seen My Cat?

Carle, Eric. The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

Carle, Eric. The Very Quiet Cricket.

Cherry, Lynne. The Great Kapok Tree.

George, Jean Craighead. Look to the North: A Wolf Pup Diary. Illustrated by Lucia Washburn.

Gerstein, Mordicai. Man Who Walked Between the Towers.

Hall, Donald. Ox-Cart Man. Illustrated by Barbara Cooney.

Hutchins, Pat. The Doorbell Rang.

Hutchins, Pat. Rosie's Walk.

Joose, Barbara M. Mama, Do you Love me? Illustrated by Barbara Lavalley.

Koller, Jackie French. One Monkey Too Many. Illustrated by Lynn Munsinger.

Lionni, Leo. Little Blue and Little Yellow.

Martin, Bill, Jr. Chicka Chicka Boom Boom. Illustrated by Lois Ehlert.

Numeroff, Laura J. If You Give a Moose a Muffin. Illustrated by Felicia Bond.

Polacco, Patricia. The Keeping Quilt.

Rathmann, Peggy. Officer Buckle and Gloria.

Wood, Don and Audrey. The Napping House

Cool Books for Parents

Alexander, Ruth and Zempke, Deborah. Number Jugglers: Math Game Book and Math Game Cards.

Brown, Jackson. Live and Learn and Pass It On.

Carlson, Richard. Don't Sweat the Small Stuff with Your Family.

Chapman, Gary and Campbell, Ross. The Five Love Languages of Children.

Cline, Foster and Fay, Jim. Parenting With Love and Logic: Teaching Children Responsibility.

Diffily, Deborah and Sassman, Charlotte. Fun-Filled 5-To 10-Minute Literacy Activities for Young Learners.

Fay, Jim. Love and Logic Magic for Early Childhood: Practical Parenting from Birth to Six Years.

Golant, Susan and Golant, Mitch. Kindergarten: It Isn't What it Used to Be.

Hannigan, Irene. Off to School: A Parent's-Eue View of the Kindergarten Year.

Press, Judy and Braren Trezzo, Loretta. The Little Hands Art Book/Exploring Arts and Crafts with 2-To-6-Year-Olds.

Ross, Kathy. Crafts for Christian Values.

Sadler, Judy and Price, Caroline. The Jumbo Book of Easy Crafts.

Stull, Kathie and McGuffee, Julie. Hands On Crafts for Kids Around the World.

Cool Websites for Families of Young Children

<http://www.christian-parent.com/elementary/activities.shtml>

<http://www.easy-kids-recipes.com/play-dough-recipes.html>

<http://www.kinderplanet.com/makestuf.htm>

<http://www.justreadfamilies.org/greatideas/K5Activities.asp?style=print>

http://www.awesomelibrary.org/Office/Main/Involving_Family/Preschool.html

<http://www.funbrain.com/>

<http://www.surfnetkids.com/>

<http://www.uptoten.com/kids/uptoten-home.html>

<http://lifestyle.msn.com/FamilyandParenting/RaisingKids/ArticleBC2.aspx?cp-documentid=75020>

<http://www.billybear4kids.com/>

<http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/>

<http://www.parentsplace.com>

