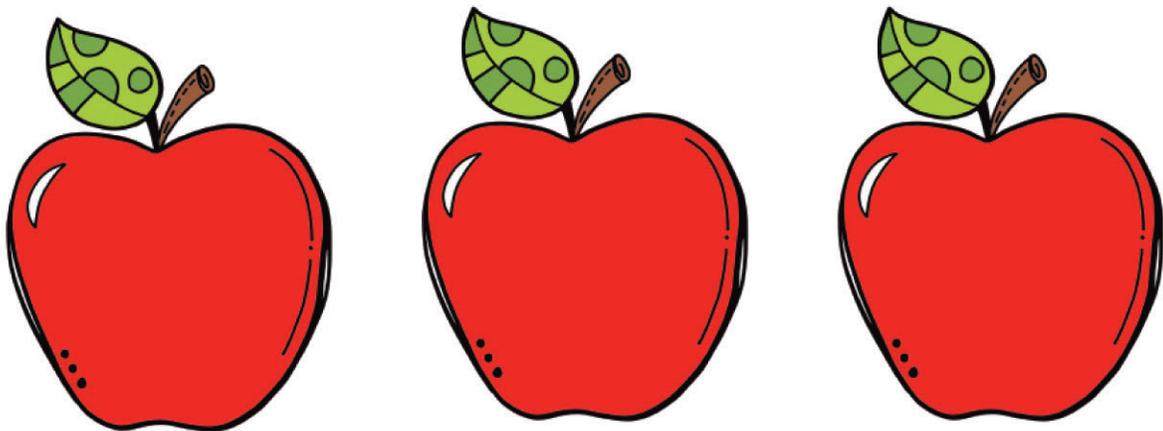


Pre K Learning Activities





Gross Motor Activities



-Choose an animal to act out and take turns guessing the animal. For example: hop like a kangaroo, crawl like a bear, or walk like a crab.

-Create a balancing walk by using chalk or tape to make a long line on the floor. Choose different ways to walk on the line. Backwards, sideways, tiptoes, fast or slow!

-Find different kinds of music and free-style dance for 5 minutes. Encourage your child to move their body to the tempo of the music.

-Create an obstacle course together. Use chairs, pillows, blankets, or sheets. During your interaction use words such as over, under, around, behind, up, and down. You can also take this outside!

-Hop together! Choose a number and hop one foot. Try it again with the other foot and then on two feet. Take turns choosing numbers and counting for each other.

Your child is strengthening gross motor skills and enhancing their ability to listen, focus and follow directions. Active, whole body experiences help to solidify the understanding of positional concepts.

Play Dough Time

-Explore the dough together asking your child to describe how the dough feels. Try using the starter to encourage your child to speak in a complete sentence such as

The play dough feels_____.

-Make balls together with the dough. Make some large and some small. Sort them in large and small piles. Count the piles separately and then all together.

-Stack the balls into two towers. How high can you stack them? Which is taller? Which is shorter?

-Make a large ball of dough. Take turns poking holes in it with your fingers and counting the holes.

-Find a few small objects from around the house. Take turns hiding an object inside the dough and guessing which ball has a surprise inside.

Your child is developing fine motor skills, expressing creativity, and practicing the mathematical concepts of comparison, number awareness, and classification.





Magnetic Letters

- Together build your child's name, family members' names, school friends' names, etc.
- Sort the letters by their different types of lines. For example, letters with straight lines, letters with curved lines, and letters with both.
- Go on a letter hunt. Have your child select a letter they are familiar with and then look through kitchen cabinets for pantry items that have this letter.
- Go on a sound hunt. Have your child select a letter and look for items inside or outside that begin with this sound.
- Together choose a letter and make the letter using playdough.
- Have your child make letter prints in the dough. They can select any letter or they can stamp their name in the dough.

Your child is developing confidence and a love for reading when literacy experiences are meaningful, interesting and satisfying.

Magnetic Numbers

-Go on a number hunt. Choose numbers your child is familiar with and place the number in a Ziploc bag. Walk through the house or outside and collect items to match the number in each bag. Compare items using the words more and less.

-Sort the numbers by their different types of lines.

-Put a few numbers on the table and together make playdough balls to match the quantity.

-Mix the numbers up and work together to put them back in order.

-Make number prints in the dough.

Your child is developing an understanding of whole numbers, concepts of correspondence, counting, cardinality, and comparison.





A Little Something Extra!



-Encourage your child to cut cupcake liners, paper plates, and or straws. Make a collage by gluing the items onto construction paper. Or make a nature collage by collecting leaves and small twigs from your yard.

-Set up an area in your kitchen or bathroom where your child can experiment in with water. Include different size pots, pans, utensils, funnels and measuring cups. While exploring together use words such as empty, full, wet, and dry.

-Follow your child's lead with the construction paper. Let them explore by folding, drawing, cutting and gluing to create their own masterpieces! Describe the actions he is doing and ask him questions about his actions. Let him choose a place to display his creation! Encourage your child to write about their masterpieces.

-Play "I Spy." Choose a category with your child such as colors, items in the same room, or items outside the window. Start with very easy objects. Take turns.

-Have your child create "roads" by drawing lines on a piece of construction. Let them choose an item to "drive" over the roads. Where does the road lead? Who is traveling with you? What will you do when you get there?

Your child is strengthening creativity and problem solving skills as well as fine-motor skills.

Language and Literacy Activities

-Let your child choose a book. Looking at the cover picture discuss what you see in the picture. Read the title to your child and ask them what they think this book might be about.

-Choose a comfy spot to read the book together. Make sure your child can see the pictures as you read the story. Let your child help you hold the book and turn the pages.

-While reading, ask questions about the book. Encourage your child to retell a favorite part and name the characters in the story. Could this story really happen? Why or why not? Ask questions that begin with words like why, how come and what if.

-Reread this book together on another day. Ask your child if they would like to read it to you by retelling the story and using the pictures as a guide.

Your child is learning pre-reading and communication skills that are the building blocks for becoming a skilled reader.





-Follow your child's lead and let them explore with the cubes. Describe their actions as they stack cubes together.

-Create color towers. Have your child choose a color and create a tower using only that color.

-Gather a few items from around the house and use the cubes to measure each item. Count how many cubes long each item is. Which item is the longest? Shortest?

-Create a tower with 5 cubes (or any chosen number). Together look for items in your house that are the same length as your tower. Next hunt for items shorter and/ or longer than the tower.

-Use the cubes to make patterns. You can create a simple pattern with two colors and have your child copy the pattern, extend the pattern or create their own pattern. Have your child say the pattern and ask what comes next?

-Create several towers of different lengths and together see what shapes you can make with these towers. You could create squares, rectangles, triangles and even letters or numbers!

Talking with your child about these explorations, patterns and mathematical connections is promoting their mathematical thinking and learning.

Water Colors

-Follow your child's lead and let them explore with the paints. What happens when your brush doesn't have water on it? What happens when you have too much water on it?

-Encourage your child to mix colors on the paper and describe what he notices.

-Explore with different types of brush strokes. Fast, slow, big, small, up & down, back & forth, etc. Describe what you notice on the paper and encourage your child to describe what they notice.

-Free paint. Let your child create any type of painting they would like. Encourage them to describe their painting to you when finished and find a place to display their creation! Encourage your child to write about their painting.

Valuing the process over the product allows for self-expression and encourages your child to be creative!





Magnifying Glass



-Follow your child's lead as they look through the magnifying glass for the first time. Ask questions such as "What do you notice?" "What looks different?" "What looks the same?"

-Gather items from your home to create an observation tray. Possible items can include beads, yarn, flowers, pinecones, sand, rocks, buttons, wood and feathers. Encourage your child to discuss their observations.

-With your child's help, create themed observation trays. Themes could include plants, nature, food, insects, toys, cloth, flowers, etc. Encourage your child to discuss their observations.

-Have your child bring the magnifying glass on a nature walk. Follow their lead and allow them to observe items that interest them along the walk.

Your child is learning science practices that foster curiosity and enjoyment in exploring the world around them which lays the foundation for a progression of science learning through their entire lives.



Beach Ball



-Follow your child's lead and let them brainstorm different ways to blow up the ball. Give each of their ideas a try discussing why they think it did/did not work. Once it's blown up, ask questions about how they think the air will stay in.

-Play catch with your child. Find a distance where your child can successfully catch the ball several times in a row. Make statements about how they used their arms to catch the ball. After your child has experienced success, challenge them by slowly increasing the distance between you. Encourage your child to say the color their thumb lands on when they catch the ball.

-Try different ways of balancing the beach ball. Balance on your head or your hand and count how long each of you can balance it there. You can even lay down and balance the ball on your feet. Encourage your child to think of different ways to balance the ball.

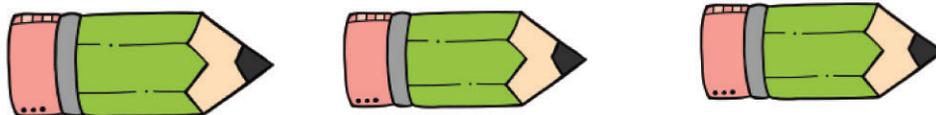
-Place the beach ball on top of a towel or small blanket. Holding the corners, wave the blanket in different ways and talk about how it effects the movement of the ball. Big waves, small waves, slow waves and fast waves.

-Place a laundry basket or something similar across the room (or yard). Use masking tape or some type of string to make a line on the ground at an appropriate distance for your child and let them toss the ball into the basket. Create various challenges by changing the distance of the line or use a timer to see how many baskets they can make in a minute.

Playing with balls improves kids' motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and timing, which are important parts of the developmental progression of young children.

Writing Together

{Look for opportunities to write and draw together.}



- ~ Keep a family journal.
- ~ Write a story together.
- ~ Create a comic together.
- ~ Create a play.
- ~ Write a family story or family history after interviewing your family members.
- ~ Create a book all about me and my family.
- ~ Create a timeline about your family.
- ~ Caption and label photographs or drawings.
- ~ Write a poem for someone in your family.
- ~ Talk about your heroes. Draw a picture and tell why they are your hero.