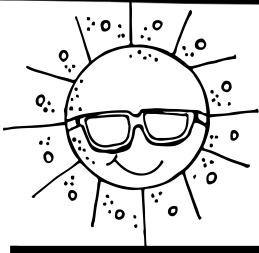


# Dear Families,

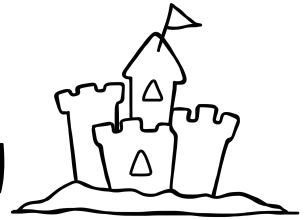
This resource is *packed full* of meaningful, fun activities that are centered around **play**! These activities are all designed to help children spend the summer getting ready for first grade while playing and having fun! Here is what's included:

- **MONTHLY Calendars** - Each calendar includes a simple, suggested activity for your child to enjoy that day. These activities are all the "little things" that will ensure your child is ready for kindergarten - and has fun this summer!
- **Games Section** - This section includes math & reading games to play with your child this summer as you prepare for first grade. These games are fun to play and focus on the phonemic awareness, phonics, listening, and basic math concepts that your child will need to be successful in first grade.
- **"PLAY & Learn" Activities for Each Subject** - Simple, fun learning activities are provided and separated by subject area. Find unique, fun, play-based activities for Math, Science, Reading, and Fine Motor/Writing.
- **Online Resources** - Three full pages of online resources are included. These pages include links to online learning games, storytelling sites and videos & songs. (Links are separated by subject area: Math, Reading, Social Studies, Science & General First Grade activities.)
- **Learning Resources** - The final section of this packet includes some "extra" learning tools that you may find useful as you and your child prepare for first grade. This section includes: phonics cards, numeral cards, vocabulary cards, & sight word cards. These can be used as game pieces, flash cards or as reference tools.

I hope these activities help you and your child focus on having fun together during this special summer before first grade! By playing with your child in a meaningful way you are helping to nurture the natural curiosity & enthusiasm that will begin instilling a lifelong love of learning!



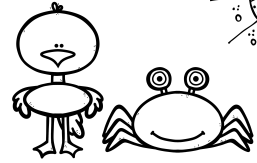
# JUNE



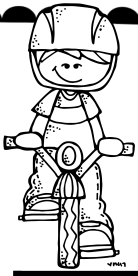
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Draw a picture of your family. Use lots of labels and details in your work.	Make a list of words that rhyme with 'ran'. Count the words on your list.	Read a book that has funny characters. Describe why they are funny to a family member.	Build a tower using blocks. Measure how tall the tower is by counting the number of blocks.	Practice counting by 5's.
Go outside and look for 3 <b>living things</b> . Tell a family member how you know they are living.	Practice jumping rope. See how many times you can jump without stopping.	Draw a picture of a place you like to go. Add labels to your drawing..	Find 5 things that are <b>cone</b> shaped in your home.	Ask each of your family members to tell you about a time they were <i>adventurous</i> .
Write 10+ sight words with sidewalk chalk.	Think of 5 words that are in the 'an' word family.	Make a list of 10 foods that you like to eat.	Sing 2+ math songs. (See the attached song list.)	Play "What Am I?" with a family member. (See the games list.)
Find 5 items in your house that are <b>sphere</b> - shaped.	Practice writing your personal info today (full name, phone number & birthday.)	Make a list of 10 things that are fun to do in the summertime.	Play the card game "Go Fish" with a family member.	Read a story with a family member. Talk about the problem ( <i>conflict</i> ) & the <i>resolution</i> .
Draw & label all the triangle - shaped things you can find in your home.	Help your parents cook dinner, set & clear the table tonight.	Play hopscotch with a friend or family member today.	Make a little booklet that teaches someone how to brush their teeth. Include all the steps!	Make a collage of your favorite things by cutting out pictures & words.



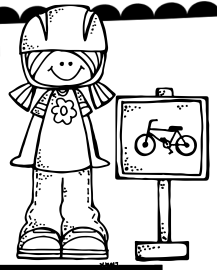
# JULY



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
List 5 words that start with 'sh'.	Write a story about a place you like to go with your family.	Read a story with a family member. Retell the story with lots of <i>expression</i> .	Make a card for each number 1-20. Play "Numeral Hide & Seek" with a friend.	Draw & label all the square - shaped objects you can find in your house.
Play the card game "War" with a friend or family member.	Read a story with a family member. Talk about the <b>main character</b> feels at the beginning, middle & end.	Draw & label what you see when you look at the <b>night sky</b> .	Play catch with a friend or family member. Practice throwing & catching .	Go for a walk with a family member. Notice what you <b>observe</b> with your <b>senses</b> .
Make a "How To" poster that teaches someone how to wash & dry their hands.	Think of 5 words that end with 'ing'.	Sing some sight word songs today! (See the list of song links.)	Practice skipping with a friend or family member.	Make a list of 10 way to stay healthy.
Go outside and practice kicking a ball.	Practice tying shoelaces today. Make sure they are tight!	Find 5 <b>cube</b> - shaped items in your house.	Sing 3+ math songs today! (See the list of song links.)	Draw & label what you see when you look at the sky during the <b>day</b> .
Find objects in your home that are matched into <b>pairs</b> (i.e. socks & shoes).	Practice jumping rope today!	Be a "sight word detective" and hunt for sight words in a magazine or newspaper.	Draw and label all the rectangles you can find in your house.	Practice making patterns with small toys today (i.e. block, block, Lego...).



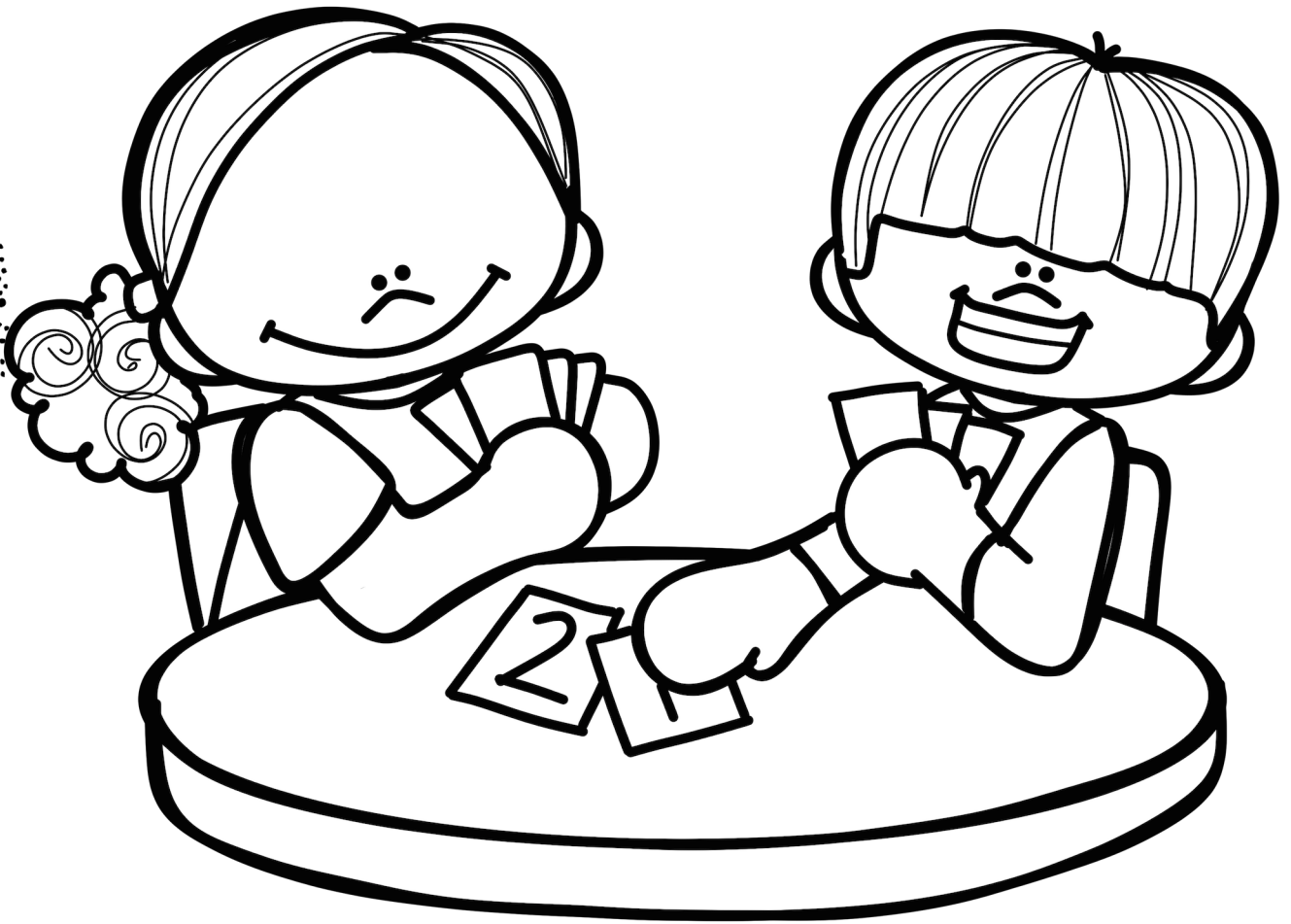
# AUGUST



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Make a menu of healthy foods. Use it to play restaurant with a friend!	Practice sight words by making them with play dough today.	Make a list of words that begin with 'ch'.	Practice using scissors to cut out pictures from a magazine.	Help your parents make a grocery list.
Play "What Am I?" (from the game list) with a family member.	Practice zippering zippers by yourself today.	Gather a handful of coins. Put them into sets of 10. How many groups of 10 are there?	Read a story with a family member. Then tell what happened at the beginning, middle & end.	Sing some sight word songs today. (See the song links.)
Go outside and practice kicking a ball.	Think of 10 words that start with 'th'.	Practice writing sentences that begin with capital letters & end with periods. Use sidewalk chalk to write!	Find 5 items in your home that are <b>rectangular prisms</b> .	Start a collection of seashells, pebbles & small rocks. See how many different ways you can sort them.
Read a story that takes place in the summertime!	Write a story about your family.	Talk with a family member about why rules & laws are important.	Sing some math songs today! (See the song links.)	Paint "disappearing sight words" with water today. (Paint on the ground with a paintbrush & water.)
Go outside and play "catch" with a family member. See how many times you can catch the ball!	Practice buttoning buttons, zippering zippers & typing shoelaces.	Think of 5 words that <i>end</i> with 'th' and 5 that end with 'sh'.	Ask each of your family members to tell about a time that they felt <b>confident</b> .	Make a list of 10 you hope to learn in school this year!

# Games

This section includes simple, low-prep learning games & activities.



# Let's Play & Learn With Games!

**Numeral Hide & Seek** - To play this game either print the numeral cards that are provided in the "Learning Tools" section of this packet or have your child make a card for each numeral 1-30. Each person, or team, takes turns hiding the numerals in a designated area (such as in the living room). The other person, or team, hides their eyes and counts and then hunts for the cards and calls out the numeral's name as it is found. This game is played just like traditional "Hide and Go Seek". The only difference is that the "hiding team" hides cards (instead of themselves) and the "seeking team" seeks for cards instead of people. The teams can alternate "hiding" and "seeking" for each round of the game.

\*\*\*This game also works with sight words, shape cards etc. Any skill cards can be hidden and looked for!\*\*\*

**What Am I?** - This game is very similar to "20 Questions". The only real difference is that you will name a category and will give your child a few context clues to get started. For example: You might say: "I am an animal. You might see me if you go to the jungle or the zoo. What am I?" Your child would then get to ask you questions ("Are you a cat?") and ultimately guess "what you are". The purpose of this game is for your child to learn about categorization and to practice his/her questioning skills.

**Traditional Card Games (Such as "Go Fish" & "War")** - These traditional card games are perfect for kindergarten and first grade aged children! These games reinforce important math concepts and help children with concentration, memory & turn taking skills.

**Go Fish** - each player is dealt 7 cards from a deck. The rest of the cards are placed in a pile in the middle. The goal of the game is for each player to "find a match" for each of their cards by asking other players for cards. For example, Player 1 might ask Player 2 "Do you have any 7s?" Player 2 would either give Player 1 his 7 or say "Go Fish.". If Player 1 gets a 7 (and now has a pair of 7s) he can put those cards down for the remainder of the game. If he has to "Go Fish" he picks up a new card from the deck. This continues until one player has no more cards and is declared the winner.

**War** - The entire deck of cards is dealt out between the players. Players put their cards in a pile and turn over their top card at the same time. The player who had the card with the greatest value wins the round and takes all the cards that were played. This continues for each round. If there is more than 1 card with the greatest value that is played in a round there is a "war". In this case, the players who had these cards put out 3 cards (faced down) and then the 4<sup>th</sup> card is played face up- at the same time. The player who has the card with the greatest value wins all of the cards from the round. The game continues until there is only 1 player who still has cards left to play. This player wins the game.

# Let's Play & Learn With Word Games!

These simple, easy to play word games will help your child get ready to read by becoming aware of sounds, how they come together and how to break them apart.

**Simon Says, Says, Says** - This game is a variation of the traditional "Simon Says" game. To play this game 'Simon' gives multi- step directions. For example "Simon says: Touch your head. Then, touch your toes." Your child needs to follow *both* Simon's directions in the correct order to stay in the game. All of the directions should be at least 2-step directions. You can build up to 3 or even 4/5 step directions to make the game more challenging!

The purpose of this game is to help your child practice listening for and processing multi-step directions. This is an incredibly important skill that will help to ensure his/her success in school!

**Say It Fast** - To play this game you say a word in chunks or say the individual sounds that make up a word. You will take a small pause between each sound. Your child will listen to all of the sounds and then will "Say it fast!" to make the entire word. For example, you might say: "/c/\_/\_/a/\_/\_/t/\_/\_/". Then, your child would say "Cat!". The purpose of this game is for your child to begin blending sounds.

**Steal a Sound** - To play this game you will say a word and have your child repeat it. Then instruct your child to say the same word but to "steal a sound" or to leave a sound (or word part) out. For example, you might say: "Say Birthday." Your child will say "Birthday". Then, you would say: "Now, say 'Birthday' without saying 'birth'". Your child would then say "day". For a more difficult version you could have your child say 'birthday' without saying /b/. (So, your child would say 'irthday'.) The purpose of this game is for your child to start segmenting words and hearing the individual sounds that make up words. This will be especially important as your child begins "sounding out" words when he/she is learning to write.

**Rhyme Time** - Rhyming is a very important skill that will help children with reading fluency and mastering spelling patterns. For "Rhyme Time" you can play a rhyming version of "I Spy" with your child. For example, you can say, "I spy something that rhymes with 'crush'". Your child would have to figure out that you are looking at a *brush*. You can also play a rhyming version of the "I am going on a trip" game. The first person says, "I am going on a trip and I am bringing my cat." The next person then says "I am going on a trip and bringing my cat and a bat" etc.

# Simon Says, Says, Says

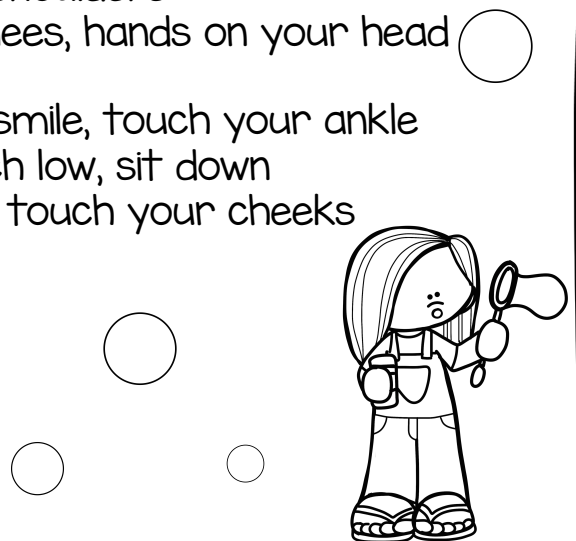
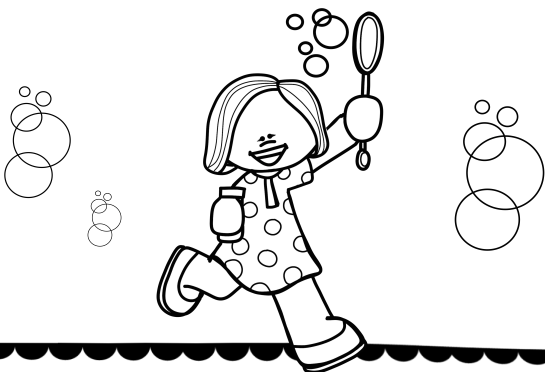
## A Game About Following Multi-Step Directions

This game is a variation of the traditional "Simon Says" game. To play this game 'Simon' gives multi- step directions. For example "Simon says: Touch your head. Then, touch your toes." Your child needs to follow *both* of Simon's directions in the correct order to stay in the game. All of the directions should be *at least* 2-step directions. You can build up to 3 or even 4/5 step directions to make the game more challenging!

This game is lots of fun but it is also great practice for important listening and processing skills that your child will need to be successful in school! Most of the directions that are given in a typical classroom are given orally and are given in multiple steps. It is very common for students to be told to: "Put away your crayons, go get your book bag and come to the carpet". You would be surprised to find how confusing this can be in a busy classroom! Following multi-step directions is an important skill that needs to be practiced with young children. Playing games is the perfect, fun way to learn this valuable life skill!

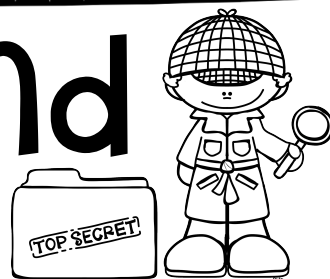
### Here are some sample direction sequences:

- Jump up high, touch your toes, touch your nose
- Wave hello, turn around, touch your shoulders
- Hands on your hips, hands on your knees, hands on your head
- Smile, frown, touch the ground
- Touch your elbow, touch your wrist, smile, touch your ankle
- Reach high, hands on your waist, reach low, sit down
- Wiggle your fingers, wiggle your ears, touch your cheeks



# Steal a Sound

## A Phonemic Awareness Game



To play this game you will say a word and have your child repeat it. Then instruct your child to say the same word but to “steal a sound” or to leave a sound (or part) out. For example, you might say: “Say Birthday.” Your child will say “Birthday”. Then, you would say: “Now, say ‘Birthday’ without saying ‘birth’”. Your child would then say “day”. For a more difficult version you could have your child say ‘birthday’ without saying /b/. (So, your child would say ‘irthday’.)

The purpose of this game is for your child to start segmenting words and hearing the individual sounds that make up words. This will be especially important as your child begins learning how to write. Young children “sound out” words or “break them apart” as they try to write them. Helping your child to develop strong segmenting skills now will make this process much, much easier!

### Steal the beginning syllable of a word

Doctor	Say: doctor	Now say doctor <i>without</i> say ‘doc’.
Father	Say: father	Now say father <i>without</i> saying ‘fa’.
Answer	Say: answer	Now say answer <i>without</i> saying ‘ans’.
Castle	Say: castle	Now say castle <i>without</i> saying ‘cas’.
Summer	Say: summer	Now say summer <i>without</i> saying ‘sum’.
Octopus	Say: octopus	Now say octopus <i>without</i> saying ‘oct’.
Extinguish	Say: extinguish	Now say extinguish <i>without</i> saying ‘ex’.
Operation	Say: operation	Now say operation <i>without</i> saying ‘op’.
Scientific	Say: scientific	Now say scientific <i>without</i> saying “sci”
Experiment	Say: experiment	Now say experiment <i>without</i> saying ‘ex’.

### Steal the ending syllable of a word

Nurses	Say: nurses	Now say nurses <i>without</i> saying ‘ses’.
Water	Say: water	Now say water <i>without</i> saying ‘ter’.
balloon	Say balloon	Now say balloon <i>without</i> saying “oon”.
Friday	Say Friday	Now say Friday <i>without</i> saying ‘day’.
Sister	Say sister	Now say sister <i>without</i> saying ‘sis’.
Shoelaces	Say shoelaces	Now say shoelaces <i>without</i> saying ‘es’.
Hamburger	Say hamburger	Now say hamburger <i>without</i> saying ‘ger’.
Watermelon	Say watermelon	Now say watermelon <i>without</i> saying ‘on’.
Orthodontist	Say orthodontist	Now say orthodontist <i>without</i> saying ‘ist’.
Education	Say education	Now say education <i>without</i> saying ‘tion’.

# Steal a Sound

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### Steal the beginning sound

cookie	Say: cookie
wild	Say: wild
pool	Say: pool
heart	Say: heart
kitten	Say: kitten
bottle	Say: bottle
sharp	Say: sharp
right	Say: right
please	Say: please
mister	Say: mister

Now say cookie without the /c/.  
Now say wild without saying /w/.  
Now say pool *without* saying /p/.  
Now say heart *without* saying /h/.  
Now say kitten *without* saying /k/.  
Now say bottle *without* saying /b/.  
Now say sharp *without* saying /sh/.  
Now say right *without* saying /r/.  
Now say please *without* saying /p/.  
Now say mister *without* saying /m/.

### Steal the ending sound

will	Say: will
stay	Say: stay
blanket	Say: blanket
fireman	Say: fireman
rope	say: rope
ready	say: ready
mother	say: mother
practicing	say: practicing

Now say will *without* saying /l/.  
Now say stay *without* saying /ay/.  
Now say blanket *without* saying /t/.  
Now say fireman *without* saying /n/.  
Now say rope without saying /p/.  
Now say ready *without* saying /y/.  
Now say mother *without* saying /r/.  
Now say practicing *without* saying /ing/.

# SAY IT FAST

## A Phonemic Awareness Game

To play this game, you will say a word "the slow way" or "in pieces". You will say the word in "chunks" or "parts". For example, for the word 'birthday' you will say /birth/ /day/ (with a short pause between each part). Then, you will prompt your child to "Say it fast!" and your child will respond with the complete word.

This game is an excellent way to set the stage for fluent reading. As children learn to read they commonly "sound out" unknown words. This game will help your child hear the way that individual sounds come together to form words. Mastering this phonemic awareness skill is incredibly important for emergent readers! (Plus, it is fun!)

P-o-s-t

C-r-y

J-u-m-p

B-u-n-n-y

Sh-ir-t

F-ir-s-t

P-l-a-t-e

L-u-n-ch

B-ir-d

S-i-s-t-er

S-w-ing

Sh-u-t

W-i-l-l

F-l-o-w-er

Qu-ee-n

D-e-s-k

Ch-i-p-s

S-m-i-le

S-t-r-o-l-l-er

Ch-e-s-t

K-ey-b-o-a-r-d

D-a-n-c-er

T-e-l-e-ph-o-ne

Ch-o-c-o-l-a-t-e

B-r-o-t-h-er

P-r-e-s-ch-oo-l

C-a-l-e-n-d-ar

W-ee-k-e-n-d

H-o-t-d-o-g

P-a-i-n-t-i-ng

S-n-ea-k-e-r-s

H-a-m-p-s-t-er

B-u-tt-er-f-l-y

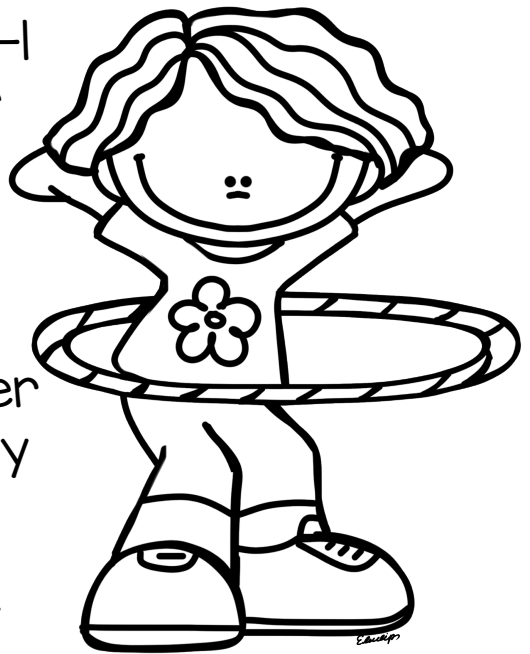
K-i-ng-d-o-m

Ch-a-p-t-er

Sc-i-en-t-i-s-t

C-o-c-o-n-u-t

S-k-a-t-e-b-oar-d

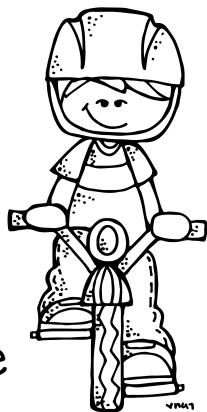
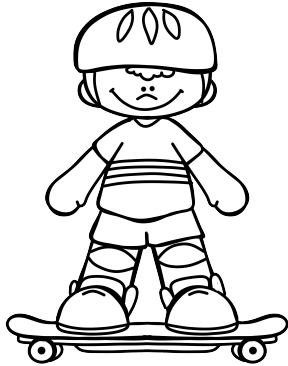


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G-l-ue  
Sh-u-t  
F-i-s-t  
C-r-u-s-t  
P-i-ck-le  
Sh-ow-er  
F-l-u-t-t-er  
B-l-a-n-k-e-t  
W-i-n-t-er  
G-r-a-n-d-m-a  
W-a-ff-le  
F-ea-th-er  
S-u-n-f-l-ow-er  
N-o-t-b-oo-k  
J-a-ck-e-t  
G-r-a-p-e-f-r-u-i-t  
S-t-i-ck-er  
Eye-b-r-ow  
B-ir-th-d-ay  
L-i-z-a-r-d  
L-au-gh-t-er  
C-on-c-er-t  
C-o-s-t-u-me  
P-l-a-n-e-t



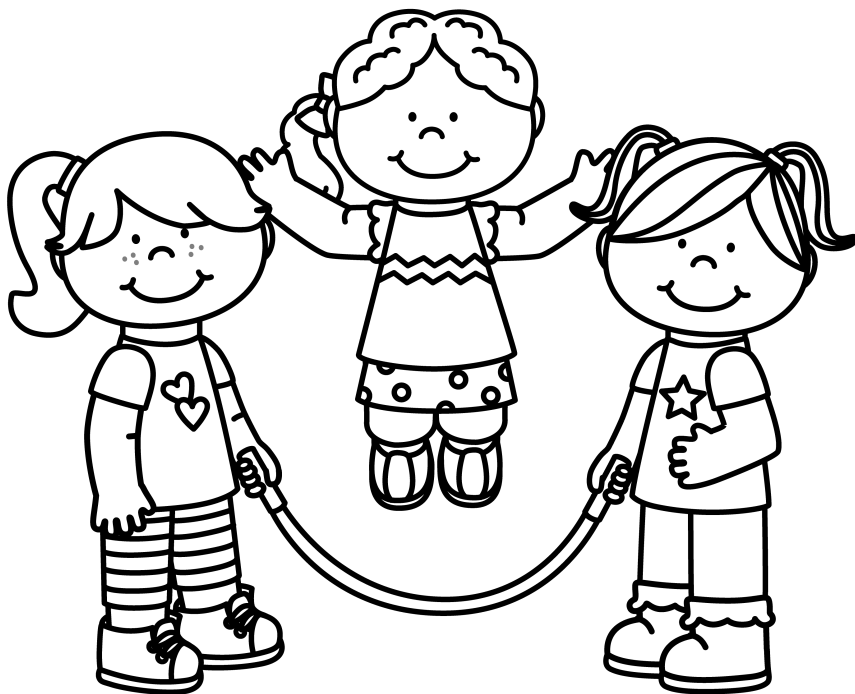
S-u-n-s-e-t  
K-i-tt-e-n  
M-a-g-i-c  
D-i-s-c-u-ss  
R-i-v-er  
V-i-o-l-i-n  
C-o-m-p-u-t-er  
P-oo-d-le  
T-r-i-ck-le  
P-l-a-y-g-r-ou-n-d  
P-l-a-ne  
U-n-d-er-w-a-re  
B-e-l-l-y-b-u-tt-o-n  
R-e-c-t-a-n-g-le  
M-e-ch-a-n-i-c  
V-e-h-i-c-le  
F-r-igh-t-en-ed  
P-a-r-t-i-c-u-l-a-r  
S-u-p-er-h-e-r-o  
S-u-b-t-r-a-c-t  
C-o-r-r-e-c-t  
F-a-v-or-i-te



# PLAY & Learn

This section includes activities  
fun learning activities divided  
by subject. Spend the  
summer

## PLAYING & Learning!



# Let's Play & Learn Math Skills!

These activities will help your child develop the math skills needed for first grade while having fun this summer!

- **Yummy Graphs** - Your child will love making "Yummy Graphs" during snack time this summer! Anytime you are serving a snack that has an assortment of some kind (think: fruit salad, cut veggies, rainbow colored goldfish crackers etc.) you can have your child sort, count and graph their snack! Help your child to create different types of graphs and make comparisons as the summer progresses. (See the "Play & Learning Resources" section for ideas and math vocabulary.)

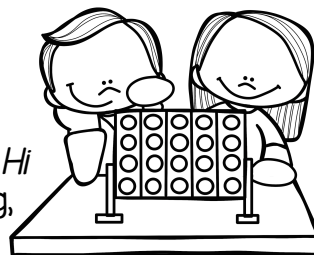


- **Kids in the Kitchen** - Have your child act as your "assistant chef" this summer. Cooking provides *so many* opportunities to practice important math skills! Your child will be measuring, cutting, pouring & counting. Talk to your child about the temperature of the oven and cooking times. You will be surprised at how much your little chef will learn and remember from a few quick cooking lessons!



- **Play Patterning Games** - Have your child find, continue & create basic patterns. This can be done with toys (red Lego, red Lego, yellow Lego...), snacks (green grape, red grape, green grape, red grape...), sounds (ring, ring, buzz, buzz, ring, ring, buzz, buzz...), movements (jump, stomp, jump, stomp...) and much more!

- **Games, Games, Games!** - Kindergarten & first grade children are at the perfect age to learn from basic board games. Games such as *Connect Four*, *Sequence for Kids*, *Sorry*, *Trouble*, *Chutes & Ladders*, *Candy Lane*, *Battleship*, & *Hi Ho Cherry Oh!* provide opportunities for counting, sequencing, turn-taking, concentrating & strategizing. These games are perfect for developing problem solving & critical thinking skills. Playing with dice and dominos are also excellent for kindergarteners & first graders! Any game that includes dice or dominoes gives your child the opportunity to practice recognizing "dot patterns" and numerical representations. This will be *so important* as your child begins learning more complicated math concepts...you are laying the groundwork now...so keep playing!

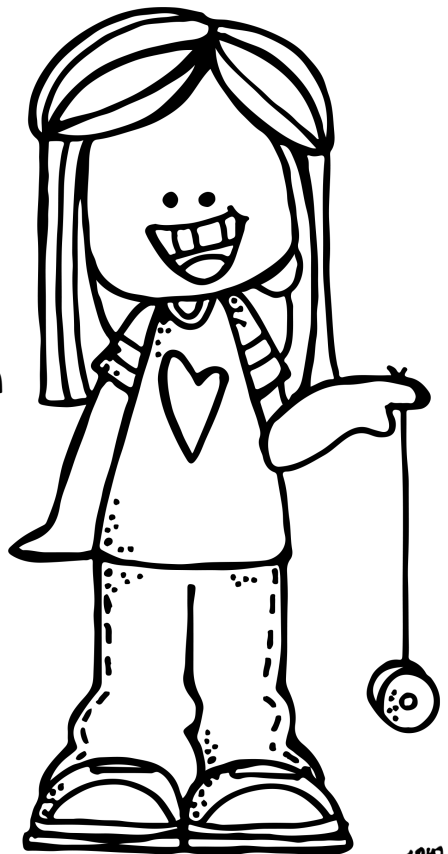


# Let's Play & Learn Math Skills!

These activities will help your child develop the math skills needed for first grade while having fun this summer!

- **Bowling Addition-** Practice addition skills with your child playing this fun game! Grab 10 clean, empty water bottles and label them with the numerals 1 through 10. Set the water bottles up in a "bowling pin" formation. Take turns rolling a lightweight ball toward the pins and then adding up the amounts on each of the bottles that was knocked down. Be sure to keep a pencil and paper nearby to record scores. It is also a good idea to have some beads or pennies nearby. These can be used as "counters" if your child needs them for support while adding. (This is a great addition strategy - so don't discourage it! Using manipulatives, or a concrete representation of a numeral, is a very appropriate way for kindergarten and first grade students to master math concepts!)

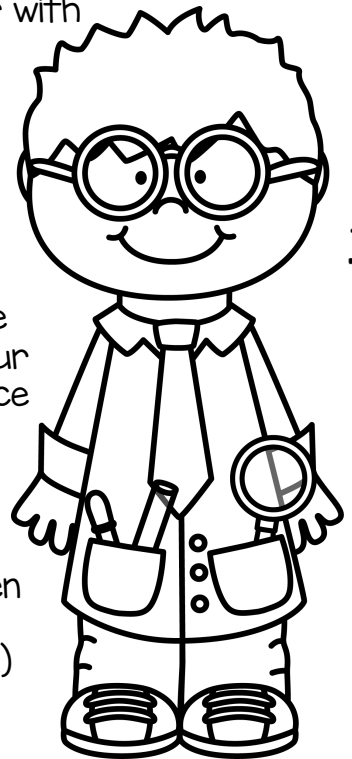
- **Move & Groove Graphing -** Incorporate math into outside play by keeping a clipboard with paper & a pencil and/or a large chart near your outside play area. Create family "Move & Groove" challenges (such as bouncing a ball without stopping, jumping rope, yo-yoing, hopping on one foot etc.) Have your child count & keep data on how many times each family member can perform the challenge skill. Then, create a graph to display the results. The graph can either represent a single challenge or you can continue to add data to the graph each time you play outside and keep the challenge going all summer long!



# Let's Play & Learn Science Skills!

These activities will help your child develop the science skills needed for first grade while having fun this summer!

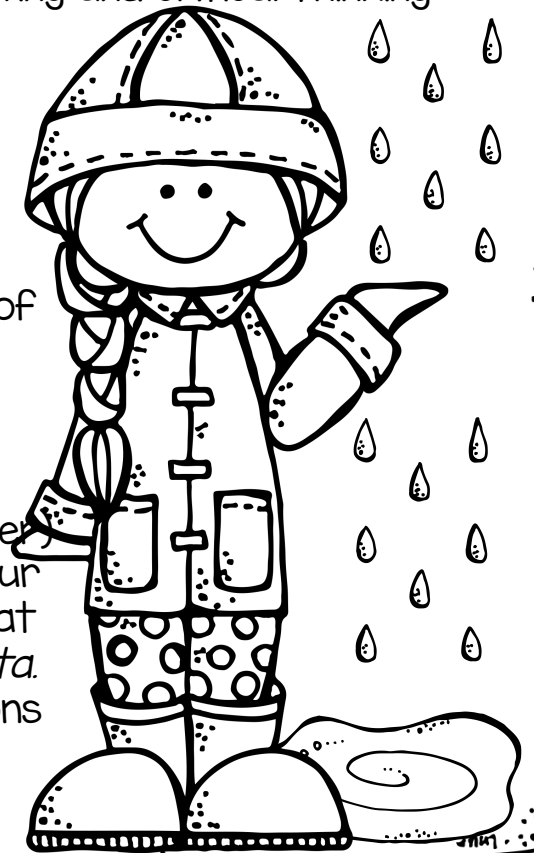
- **MYSTERY BAGS** - Fill small bags with different "mystery materials". Have your little scientist reach into the bags to feel the items inside. Discuss the *texture* of the items using as many descriptive words as possible & write them on the outside of the bag. Then, have your child use this *data* to guess (or *hypothesize*) what might be inside the bag. This game can be played again and again. Try to use a variety of different materials. (Some great ideas include: cotton balls, Q-tips, coffee beans, toothpicks, teabags & marbles.)
- **STEM Structures** - Have family fun building STEM structures this summer. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) projects promote "outside the box" thinking, creativity, and problem-solving all within a science and math framework. Set up family STEM challenges and build houses, vehicles & tools. Use household materials such as toothpicks, straws, marshmallows, tape, cardboard, aluminum foil, plastic utensils, & popsicle sticks
- **Force, Speed & Motion** - Have fun this summer exploring the scientific concepts of *force*, *speed* & *motion* as you play together with toy cars and ride bicycles & scooters. Help your child build a small ramp to test out how it effects the *speed* of toy vehicles. Talk about the concepts of *push* & *pull* as you play with wagons & wheelbarrows. Set the stage for these scientific concepts by using the vocabulary during play activities.
- **States of Matter** - Explore the different states of matter and exploring the different ways matter can be changed. There are lots of fun ways to do this with your child this summer! Making popsicles by freezing fruit juice is a great way to watch a liquid freeze and change to a solid. (If you eat it slow enough it might even start to melt back into a liquid... exciting stuff!) Playing with Play Dough and paper art projects are great ways to teach children about how we can change matter (flatten it, tear it, squish it, roll it and more!)
- **Bird feeder** - Set up a bird feeder (or make your own!) and have your child *collect data* each day. Help him/her tally the number of birds you see each day and draw pictures of the types of birds you see.



# Let's Play & Learn Science Skills!

These activities will help your child develop the science skills needed for kindergarten while having fun this summer!

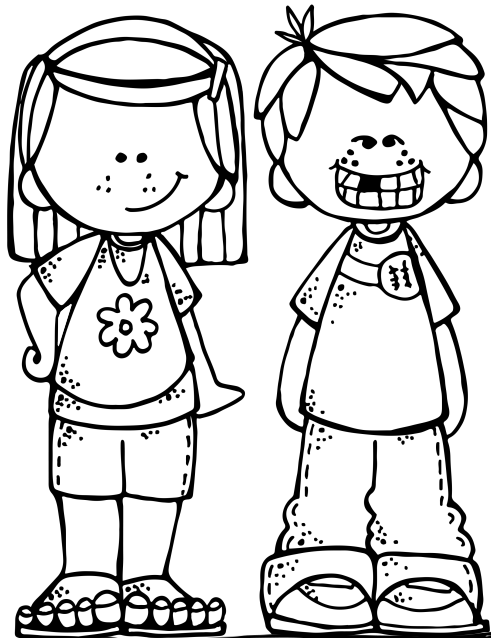
- **Wind Chimes & Wind Socks** - Art, creativity & science often go hand and hand. Helping your child to make wind chimes and wind socks will be a great way to demonstrate that this summer! Let your child brainstorm a list to decide what materials are needed to make wind chimes. You may want to attach seashells, small beads or bells to string. The strands can be hung from an embroidery hoop. Wind socks can be made by rolling construction paper into a large tube. Have your child hang pieces of tissue paper, string or yarn from the wind sock and decorate it. Talk to your child about the wind and the way that it moves. Trying hanging the wind chimes and wind socks in different places. Talk about why the wind might be making them move more in some places than in others. This is such a fun way to study wind while working on problem solving and critical thinking skills!
- **The Gravity Game** - Children LOVE gravity experiments. Have your child create some home-made parachutes (from things like tissue paper, baggies, paper & string) and investigate the way using a parachute changes the effects of gravity when they drop small toys both with and without a parachute.
- **Weather** - Consider setting up a rain barrel (or any type of collection container) this summer. Each time it rains, help your child to measure the amount of rain that was collected and keep track of this *data*. You can further your scientific discussions as you use the collected rainwater to water indoor plants!



# Let's Play & Learn Phonics Skills!

These activities will help your child develop the phonics skills needed for first grade while having fun this summer!

- **Bean Bag Toss** - To play this game lay out phonics cards on the ground. (You can lay them close together for a more challenging "toss" or farther apart to make it easier for your child to hit the correct card.) You will say a sound sounds that make up a word). Then, your child will toss a small beanbag (or pebble, coin etc.) toward the card that has the sound that you made represented. If your child's bean bag lands on the correct card he/she receives a point. The purpose of this game is to improve your child's listening skills and to practice basic phonics skills. You can use any type of phonics cards that are appropriate for your child, including alphabet letters, digraphs (such as sh, th, ch) or simple words (such as cat, mug, bit). You can make your own cards or use the cards that are provided in the resource section of this packet.
- **CUP TOSS** - This "carnival style" game is a great way to practice phonics skills while having fun with your child this summer! To set up the game you will need a few plastic cups, a magic marker & a small ball or beanbag to toss into the cups. You will write a sound on the top, inside each cup and then set the cups up close together in a triangle formation (similar to bowling pins). You and your child can take turns tossing the beanbag into the cups. To earn a point, each time a player's beanbag lands in a cup, the player will make that sound and then think of a word that begins with that word. To prepare for first grade, try putting digraph sounds on the cups, such as ch, sh, th and wh.
- **Sound Scavenger Hunt** - To play this game, you will give your child a stack of phonics cards and a bag to collect items in. After you set a timer for 5 minutes, your child will begin hunting around your home for an item that begins with the sound on each of the phonics cards. If your child is ready for a phonics challenge try using phonics cards that ask your child to hunt for digraphs & blends (sh, th, ch, wh, cr, br, tr, sw, sc, cl, bl, st, sp, sn, sg, fl, pl, dr). If this is difficult for your child, begin with single consonant sounds. This game will keep your child thinking about sounds and blends all summer!



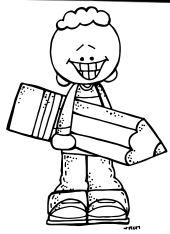


# Let's Play & Learn Reading Comprehension Skills!



These activities will help your child develop the reading comprehension skills needed for first grade while having fun this summer!

- **Beach Ball Reading Comprehension** - For a fun way to practice listening & reading comprehension skills with your child this summer all you need is a favorite book & a beach ball! Grab a beach ball and write some simple comprehension questions on it. (Such as what happened at the beginning of the story? The middle? The end? What was the conflict/problem? etc.) After reading a story together you can toss the beach ball back & forth. When your child catches the beach ball have him/her answer the comprehension question that is facing up.
- **Make Character Puppets or Paper Dolls** - Your child can make his/her own collection of character puppets or paper dolls this summer and practice important reading comprehension skills at the same time! Gather a few simple art supplies to keep in a "character building center". (Collect things like paper, popsicle sticks, yarn, googly eyes, markers, glue, paper bags, felt etc.) After reading a book together, encourage your child to think about the characteristics of the main character. Help him/her make a list of the things he/she learned about the main character in the story. (He was brave., He was 8 years old., He wore glasses.) Once you have a character description written down, have your child make a puppet or paper doll to represent that character. Find a place to display the characters that he/she creates this summer. As the collection grows, you will be able to compare the characters from different books. This is a *great* way to introduce your child to the deep character analysis skills that he/she will be learning in first and second grade!
- **Make Predictions With a Crystal Ball** - Making predictions while reading is an important reading comprehension skill. Your child probably began working on this in kindergarten. It will become even more important in first and second grade. To make predicting what will happen in the stories that you read this summer exciting, consider setting up a "crystal ball"! (You can buy a "crystal ball" on Amazon for about \$15 or your "crystal ball" can be a glass ball, a large marble, or any "special" ball that you choose to put on a bookshelf and declare magical.) As a family, practice making predictions both *before* and *during* books that you are reading together. You can stop when the main character in the story has a big decision to make or a problem, grab the "crystal ball" and everyone can predict what is going to happen in the story. Then, at the end of the story, talk about whose "prediction powers" were the strongest for that story! This is so much fun and a great way to practice an important skill!

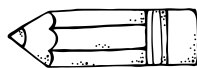


# Let's Play & Develop Fine Motor Skills!



All of the activities listed on this page are fun ways to build up the muscles and coordination your child will need in school! These motor skills are very important as your child builds endurance for writing. So have fun together this summer as you help your child build up strength and endurance!

- **PLAY dough-** Playing with play dough is always so much fun and it is excellent for building up the muscles in little hands & arms. You can even incorporate academic skills while playing by having your child roll the dough into letters to build sight words or to make different 3D shapes.
- **Rubber band JEWELRY-** First graders are at the perfect age to begin making rubber band jewelry. There are lots of different looming toys that are easy and fun to use and will help your child develop excellent concentration, hand-eye coordination & coordination. (There are lots of great "how to" videos on YouTube that you can watch with your child to learn how to make different patterns, designs & types of jewelry.
- **Tear paper-** Tearing paper is a great way to exercise hand muscles! Encourage your child's creativity and have him/her make collages and designs by gluing down small pieces of torn paper.
- **Cut up Collages** - Have your child practice cutting skills by making collages from the pictures in old magazines. The collages can have academic themes (things that start with 'sh' or things that are cone shaped) OR they can just be fun! Either way, those little hand muscles will be building up strength and dexterity!
- **Build With LEGOS** - Legos & toys that "snap" together are great for building hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills. As your child begins to build more complicated structures they are also building their concentration, spatial awareness & motor skills!
- **Criss Cross** - Exercises and stretches that require your child to "cross the midline" are excellent for increasing motor control. These exercises force the two sides of the brain to "talk" to each other and help your child with coordination. Any stretch or exercise that requires the left side of the body to cross over to the right side of the body (or visa versa) achieves this. You can find lots of great excercises on YouTube... but you can also just stretch together in the mornings! For example: reach your right hand down and touch the toes on your left foot.
- **Nuts & bolts** - Allow your child to twist large metal nuts & bolts together. (You can purchase these for less than \$1 at a hardware store. It is always a favorite activity!)



# Let's Play & Learn Online!

These activities will help your child develop the skills needed for first grade while having fun this summer!

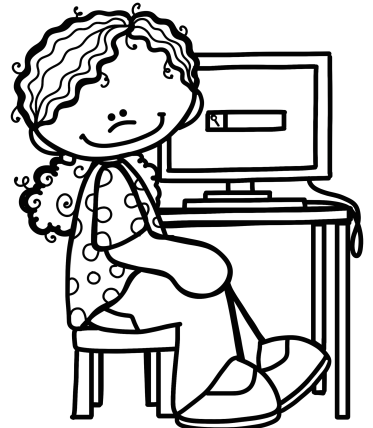
Suggested Websites and Internet Links:

<http://starfall.com> - This is a great site for kindergarteners! This website is perfect for helping children learn letters, sounds, nursery rhymes, basic reading skills, simple math & much more!

<http://www.storylineonline.net> - Storyline Online is one of my favorite story telling websites. This site has actors reading classic books to your child. There are lots of choices available and it is a favorite with students of all ages.

<http://www.justbooksreadaloud.com> - This is another site with lots of great read alouds!

<https://jr.brainpop.com> - This is a fabulous learning site. It is a paid subscription site, so you will not be able to access everything without a membership. However, they offer lots of great free content that is worth checking out! There are videos, games & quizzes for all subjects. They are very Educational and the Brainpop Jr. site is perfect for young students.



# Let's Play & Learn With Poems & Songs

Suggested Websites and Internet Links:

## Reading Songs & Clips

The Alphabet Song (Have Fun Teaching)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36IBDpTRVNE>

Sight Words (Harry Kindergarten)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrmYfo84hyg>

Sight Words- Jump Out Words

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LU2xPI8N40&list=PLEmKwkbyzZj3azeSJKLIF3FI3JisT9pPD&index=5>

Word Families

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VhGTmI8K05E>

Time to Rhyme- Word Families

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHi3KJDpe\\_E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHi3KJDpe_E)

Pirates Say 'AR'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Vywhf7cF7Q>

What Do the Letters Say?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtbL3byFal8>

Vowel Bat

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2hXa8dbK3o>

## Science Songs & Clips

The Seasons Song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZjpI6fgYSY>

The Weather Song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5UTaPV-DIg>

We Are the Planets

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHAqT4hXnMw>

The Earth Song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBmZjOHrVJO>

The Sun Song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-kzdR93bqw>

The Needs of an Animal

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4UDf3tF\\_04&list=PLRy\\_SSHI4k-4wI47pHmlk3ET8RgvX0tmJ&index=25](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4UDf3tF_04&list=PLRy_SSHI4k-4wI47pHmlk3ET8RgvX0tmJ&index=25)

# Let's Play & Learn With Poems & Songs

Suggested Websites and Internet Links:

## Math Songs & Video Clips:

Count to 100 - Let's Get Fit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TgLTf3PM0c>

Counting by 5s

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_awKIEMyleA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_awKIEMyleA)

Counting by 10s

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYRTtwZGwj8>

Add 'Em Up

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INHYbIRNaMM>

Doubles, Doubles, I Can Add Doubles (1-5)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ik\\_-0AgzD-8&list=PLLoYR8uydBtoiDIZGVGWlvnj9lEXAArpo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ik_-0AgzD-8&list=PLLoYR8uydBtoiDIZGVGWlvnj9lEXAArpo)

Doubles, Doubles, I Can Add Doubles (6-10)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUprfk7UWNA>

Double, Double Numbers Can't Be Beat

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9YQ4phTB0E&t=270s>

3D Shapes I know

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2cg-Uc556-Q&index=6&list=PLTmehQ077Xk5vpicSXX4Dp9NIIdT4IAbCL&t=46s>

When You Add With a Pirate

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WT\\_wvvEvkw4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WT_wvvEvkw4)

## Social Studies Songs & Video Clips:

Flying Over America

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KcuDdPo0WZk&list=PLyXSgIKllaURrILliQ6nnTjdZSkRs-J25>

The 7 Continents

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNGJfg45QRI&index=23&list=PLyXSgIKllaURrILliQ6nnTjdZSkRs-J25>

The Map Song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9NpWpr27Ak>

Fire Safety

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s\\_5FqaWTj9c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_5FqaWTj9c)