

Science and Math Bonus Activities

You're never too young to start learning about basic science and math concepts. Learning about science begins with asking questions and exploring the world around you. Math begins with learning to count, sorting, and recognizing shapes. Help your child get a head start on getting ready for school with these fun activities.

Science

___ Set up some water play for your child. It can be as simple as a big bowl filled with water. Talk about the ocean, sink vs. float, or other water related topics as you play.

___ Read a book together about your child's favorite animal or animals.

___ Explore color with a simple activity combining art and science. Fill a plate with baking soda. Fill four glasses with vinegar and tint each one a different color using food coloring. Use an eyedropper or a spoon to drop the vinegar on the baking soda and watch it fizz.

___ Read a book about the weather and talk about what the weather is like that day. You can take it a step farther by making a family weather chart to fill out each day.

___ Explore nature by creating a sensory bin using things you find outside. Fill a bowl or box with leaves, pinecones, flowers, rocks, etc. that children can hold. As they explore the bin talk about how things look and feel, if they are big or little and where they were found.

Math

___ Pick a day and count to ten or twenty at least three times.

___ Practice sorting together. You can use toys, blocks, pots & pans, etc.

___ Read a counting book.

___ Go on a shape hunt. Find circles squares, triangles, and rectangles in the world around you. Take it a step further by encouraging your child to draw the shapes they find.

___ Practice finding patterns by using music. Sing a song with a repeating patten or refrain. "The Wheels on the Bus" and "If You're Happy and You Know It" are good examples of possibilities.

This Log Belongs To:

Child's Name:

Age:

Caregiver's Name(s):

Phone Number:

Ready to Learn

Summer Learning 2020

A Program for Little Learners

From Birth Through Age Three



Read
Talk
Sing
Write
Play

Did you know that during your child's first three years his or her brain triples in weight and establishes about 1,000 trillion nerve connections? This happens through positive interactions with you!

Look inside for fun activities to complete with your child to help their brain grow strong, healthy, and ready to learn. This year's program is based on the five early literacy practices that help children get ready to read and ready for school. Choose three of the five activities for each early literacy practice. As you choose and complete activities with your child check them off the list. For each three activities completed you earn a magnetic badge and an entry into our prize drawings. The first three badges also come with fun prizes. Earn badges for all five early literacy skills and you also earn a bonus entry into the prize drawings. There are also bonus activities for science and math that earn extra badges and drawing entries.

Read

Reading every day is the best way to get your child ready to read. Make sure you make reading a fun experience for both you and your child when you sit down to read by choosing a time when you are both calm and by choosing books you both enjoy.

- ___ Read any book together.
- ___ Read or tell your favorite bedtime story when you tuck them in.
- ___ Let your child hold a book and turn the pages as you read together.
- ___ Read a rhyming book together.
- ___ Make a zipper bag book about your family or your child's favorite things together. You can find instructions for a zipper bag book here <https://www.icanteachmychild.com/make-it-ziploc-my-body-book/>

Children learn about language by listening to caregivers talk and by joining in the conversation. Give your child plenty of opportunity to talk with you during the day. Make sure you respond even when their words are just coos and gurgles.

Talk

- ___ Take a walk outside together. Point out and name the objects and colors you see.
- ___ Let your child help you make dinner and talk about what you are doing, where food comes from, etc. Children can even help from their high chairs by playing with food.
- ___ Take a picture book walk with your child. Explore a book from cover to cover by only talking about the pictures.
- ___ Have a conversation with your child about something that interests them. Make sure to take turns talking and give plenty of feedback.
- ___ Read a book together and talk about what it was about when you're finished.

Sing

Singing is a natural way for children to learn about language. It slows down language so children can hear the smaller sounds in words and it introduces new information. Whether you're singing in the car or at bedtime, remember your child doesn't care what you sound like, they just want to have fun together.

- ___ Sing the alphabet song while you wash hands together or while changing a diaper.
- ___ Sing a song together during bath time.
- ___ Host a family dance party with lots of singing and movement.
- ___ Sing a song that includes your child's favorite word, their name. You can make up your own or ask a librarian for a suggestion.
- ___ Sing a silly song together in the car while you run errands. Use silly voices or sing really loudly.

Reading and writing go together. Both are ways to represent spoken words and communicate information and tell stories. Writing begins as scribbles so as soon as your child can grasp a thick crayon or marker, give him or her unlined paper and plenty of opportunities to draw and write.

Write

- ___ Allow your child to scribble or draw with crayons or markers. They'll have more fun if you draw and scribble too.
- ___ Practice the small motor skills needed for writing by finger painting with paint, pudding, ketchup, etc.
- ___ Create a fun drawing with your child and help them label parts of the drawing to connect words with objects.
- ___ Fill a baking pan with flour, sand, salt, or something else made of small grains and encourage your child to draw letters, numbers, lines, etc.
- ___ Show your child how to write their favorite word, their name and practice writing it together.

Play

Pretend and dramatic play help children think symbolically, develop oral language skills and learn how a narrative works. As children play school, pretend to be a lion, or bake mud pies, they are learning. They love to learn and play with you.

- ___ Practice small and large motor skills by playing ball with your child.
- ___ Read a book together. After you're finished, act out the story together using props you have at home. Your family can even play the characters.
- ___ Build together with blocks. Make up stories as you go about what you are building.
- ___ Play a game together like tag, hide-and-seek, or peek-a-boo. Make sure you are talking together while you play.
- ___ Pretend with puppets. If you don't have a puppet handy you can make one out of a sock or a paper bag. Stuffed animals can quickly become puppets too.

Congratulations!

We're so proud of you for reading, writing, talking, singing, and playing together. You can log your activities on the library's summer learning site, www.henrylibrary.beanstack.org or return your log to the Henry County Public Library and we will help you. Prizes can be picked up during the designated prize pick up week.

