

SMALL TALK

week
1

Use the summer to experience and explore.

TASTE all kinds of different foods. Try some foods raw and cooked. Compare the differences. Play a taste guessing game with eyes closed.

FEEL heartbeats after funning, hot sidewalks, sand, cool mud, sunshine, wind, water, etc.

SMELL the air after it rains, flowers, wet dogs, fresh air, campfires.

WEDNESDAY

Play "I spy" with your child. Pick an object, give your child two clues and let him guess what you are describing.

Teach your child to give clues about objects so you can guess what he is describing.

This activity is a good one to continue throughout the summer.

MONDAY

Read a short poem to your child several times during the day.

Can your child tell you which words rhyme?

Help your child to think of words that rhyme with his name.

Memorize the poem.

THURSDAY

What is your telephone number?

Help your child memorize your number.

Ask him to repeat the number from memory at least five times during the day.

Could your child dial emergency numbers (fire, police, etc) if necessary?

TUESDAY

Ask your child to count the chairs in your house.

How many chairs are at the table? In the living room? Which room has more? Which has fewer?

Do the same with windows, plants, pictures on the walls, etc.

FRIDAY

Ask your child to draw four circles. Then give him these directions:

Color 2 red and color 2 blue.

Ask him to draw five squares. Then follow these directions:

Color 3 green and color 2 yellow.

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Manuscript writing (printing) is a skill that is practiced daily in first grade. Basically, all letters are a combination of straight lines and circles. It is very important that your child learn to make his circles the correct way. If circles are started at "2 o'clock" it is easy for your child to correctly form all letters which have a full or partial circle in them.

Visit the zoo with your child. How many animals can your child name?

WEDNESDAY

On unlined paper, help your child begin practicing circles for handwriting.

Be sure to begin at "2 o'clock" and make a round circle.

Ask your child to make 20 circles, and then make a smiling face out of the one he thinks is his best.

MONDAY

Use a calendar at your house. Discuss yesterday, today, tomorrow, the sequence of the numbers, etc.

Count the number of days until school starts again.

Tell your child how happy you are he will be a first grader.

THURSDAY

Say two words to your child. Have him tell you if the words begin with the same sound or with different sounds.

Example: rope/ruler; canoe/goat; pig/bib; team/take; fence/land; win/rain

TUESDAY

Let your child begin an ABC booklet.

From old magazines or catalogs help your child find pictures of things beginning with "A".

If your child cuts out a picture that you think is incorrect, ask him what it is. He may be calling it something that does begin with an A.

FRIDAY

Let your child practice saying the alphabet to you (no singing).

Say a group of letters to your child and have him supply the next letter.

Example: "G, H, I, J, ... what comes next?"

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Flag Day is June 14. Read from an encyclopedia or the morning paper about Flag Day. Explain the meaning of the day to your child.

Does your child know what our flag stands for?

Can your child say the Pledge of Allegiance?

Go for a drive and let your child see how many flags he can see on display on this day.

WEDNESDAY

Let your child practice writing his numerals to 10. Can he make his 3 and 5 go the right way?

Ask your child to count for you. How far can he go?

Say a number. Can your child tell you what number comes before it? after it?

MONDAY

Ask your child to look at the names of the days on this page.

Can he find two days which begin with T? How many days begin with M? How many days end with Y?

This is a good activity to continue with the grocery store ads in the newspaper.

THURSDAY

Help your child add to his ABC booklet.

Ask him to find and cut out five pictures whose names begin with B.

Old newspapers are fine to glue these pictures on. Your child could find and circle all the B's printed on the page. (Do the same with the other letters)

TUESDAY

Help your child learn the names of the coins.

Can he pick out all the dimes from a group of coins? Can he find all the pennies?

When you get change at the store, let him name each of the coins in your hand.

FRIDAY

Ask your child to draw a rectangle.

Ask him to find 5 things in your house which are rectangular in shape.

Examples: door, window, mirror

Can your child tell you how a rectangle and a square differ?

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On a rainy day or during a hot afternoon, play Bingo, dominoes, Uno, or some other favorite game with your child. Learning to follow rules and take turns is so important.

Visit the public library. Help your child get a library card and learn to check out books. At home, enjoy your child's books with him.

When reading to your child, let him follow your finger across the line of words on the page. This teaches him that reading is done from left to right and from top to bottom.

WEDNESDAY

Ask your child to count all the doors in your house. Then ask him to count all the light switches. Do you have more doors or light switches?

Count other things and discuss which you have more or fewer of.

Say three nursery rhymes or sing a song with your child.

MONDAY

Put a piece of tape or tie a piece of yard on your child's right hand.

Let him show his right hand to five different people during the day.

Let your child find five "C" pictures for his ABC booklet.

THURSDAY

Have your child draw six pictures beginning with the "D" sound to add to his booklet. (Suggestions: dog, deer, doll, dress, drum, etc)

Encourage your child if he insists that he can't draw. Let him know that doing his best is what is important.

TUESDAY

Can your child say his full name and address?

Does he remember his telephone number? Perhaps when you are away from home, he could practice calling your number.

Can your child give directions for getting to your house?

FRIDAY

Say three words to your child. Ask him to pick out the word which begins with a different sound from the other two.

Examples: bag/bus/ran or fan/milk/fig

Continue with other groups of words.

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Plan an outing with your child ... even if it's only to the neighborhood park. Talk with him about the things you are doing. After such an experience (perhaps the next day) ask your child to tell you or someone else about your day. How many different things can he remember and describe?

WEDNESDAY

Add three "E" pictures to the ABC booklet. Let your child decide if he wants to draw them or cut them out.

Suggestions: egg, elephant, elbow, exercise

Does your child know when his birthday is?

MONDAY

Can your child make a sensible sentence with each of these words?

happy, give, swim, ride, jump, hot

Can he make a question using each of these words?

THURSDAY

Say the name of a consonant letter. Ask your child to tell you what sound it stands for. Can he think of a word that begins with the sound?

Say a word. Ask your child to say another word that begins with the same sound.

TUESDAY

Let your child practice writing his telephone number.

Practice writing the numerals from 0-10.

On unlined paper, practice the letters made from straight lines (E, F, H, I, etc)

FRIDAY

Can your child say the names of the days of the week?

Does he know how many days are in a week?

How many days of the week will he go to school?

Using your calendar, count the days until school begins.

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Children who do things for themselves at home find it much easier to get along at school. Require your child to consistently do some things for himself: put on his own clothes and shoes, turn lights on and off, put away his own toys.

Give your child a specific task and expect it to be done without your reminding him.

Can your child tie his shoes by himself?

WEDNESDAY

Let your child use the play doh you made together yesterday.

Can he form the numerals from balls of the play doh?

Can he make his telephone number from it?

Can he spell his name with it?

MONDAY

Let your child count 30 beans into a bowl.

Can he make 3 groups with 10 beans in each group?

Let your child see how many designs he can make with his beans.

Can he make letters with his beans?

THURSDAY

Read the cereal box with your child.

He probably knows the name of the cereal, but can he spell the name to you?

When the cereal box is empty, cut up the front of it to make a puzzle.

TUESDAY

Let your child help you make play doh.

Measure together.

4 cups flour
1 cup salt
1.5 cups water
food coloring

Mix well. Keep in refrigerator.

FRIDAY

Find five "F" pictures to add to the ABC booklet.

Go back through your child's booklet. Let him "read" to you the names of the pictures on each page.

Let your child say three of his favorite nursery rhymes to you.

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- All children should have experience in respecting the property and rights of others.
- Encourage your child to take turns and to get permission when using something which belongs to someone else.
- Encourage sharing.
- Are you finding time to read to your child each day? As you read, does your child listen attentively? Can he retell the story in the right order?

WEDNESDAY

Use the lower case letters you cut out yesterday.

Can your child identify the letters as you pick them up? Be sure NOT to pick them up in ABC order.)

Can your child pick out the letters in his name?

MONDAY

Let your child count all the toes in your family.

Let him trace around his right hand and foot.

Can he make a picture from his foot pattern?

Encourage creativity.

THURSDAY

Work with coins again. Does your child remember the name of each coin?

Does your child know how many cents are in a nickel? a dime?

Let your child watch you count your change.

Your child may be ready to learn to count by 5's or 10's.

TUESDAY

Let your child cut out the lower case letters from the page included in this booklet.

Put the letters in an envelope so none will get lost.

FRIDAY

Use the lower case letters again.

Let your child practice putting the letters in ABC order.

Can your child think of a word beginning with each of the letter sounds?

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Let your child help you work in your yard or in the garden. Talk with him and explain why you do the things you do. Give him some job which he can do independently. Let him know you appreciate his help.

A lot of praise and warm hugs will assure your child that he is doing a great job of being your kid!

How many days until school begins?

WEDNESDAY

Let your child practice making more circles for handwriting practice.

On unlined paper, let him work again with letters made from straight lines.

Being practicing with letters which combine straight lines and circles: b, d, p, etc.

MONDAY

Say a pair of words to your child and ask if the end with the same sound.

Examples: net/not; paper/meat; land/rag; nail/school; keep/worm

Continue with other word pairs.

THURSDAY

Use the play doh you made.

Practice making the lower case letters.

Practice making the letters to spell his name. Be sure he makes only the first letter a capital.

TUESDAY

Add "G" and "H" pictures to the ABC booklet.

Turn back through the booklet. As you say the name of a picture can you child tell you which letter it begins with?

Practice again putting the lower case cut-out letters in ABC order.

FRIDAY

Add "I" pictures to the ABC booklet.

Suggestions: ice, iron, igloo

Say or read poems or nursery rhymes to your child. Pick out rhyming words.

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As you drive around town with your child, let him see how many signs he can read to you.

Let your child count the cars you see on a short drive, the blue cars on a longer drive, pick-ups another time, etc.

WEDNESDAY

Give your child a plain piece of paper. Can he follow these directions?

Draw a big box.

Make a blue X in the top right corner.

Make a purple O in the top left corner.

Make a green X in the bottom left corner.

MONDAY

Use the lower case letters as flash cards with your child. Make a stack of the ones he knows and the ones he is not sure of.

Keep practicing.

If you say a letter, can your child tell you which letter comes next?

THURSDAY

Let your child look through the newspaper and find "L" and "M" pictures for his ABC booklet.

TUESDAY

Let your child add "J" and "K" pictures to his booklet.

Read a story to your child. Ask him to tell it back to you, telling all the things that he can remember.

Can he repeat the main ideas of the story?

FRIDAY

Say each of the following words to your child. Can he tell you which letter each begins with?

hope, page, sick, feed, mask, baby, goat, table, river, drive, leaf, vine

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Let your child choose his favorite book. Have him sit quietly and look at it for ten minutes without getting up.

WEDNESDAY

Let your child use the newspaper to cut out words he can already read. If your child cannot recognize any words, let him cut out letters he can name. You might let him make a poster of these words.

Cut out the upper case letters from this booklet and put in an envelope.

MONDAY

Let your child add "N" pictures to his booklet.

Say a group of 3 words and ask your child to tell how they are alike.

Example: dog, cat, bear

Continue with other word groups.

THURSDAY

Have your child listen as you say each of the following words. Can he tell you the letter whose sound he hears at the end of each?

club, treat, slam, gloss, wasp, train, round, strong, smell

TUESDAY

Let your child add "O" pictures to his booklet.

Say unfinished sentences and let your child complete them.

Example: How _____ are you?

FRIDAY

Let your child draw or cut out pictures for "P", "Q", "R" for his booklet.

Use the letters already cut out. Can your child match the upper and lower case letters? Let your child continue to practice and develop this skill during the remainder of the summer.

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Try on clothes your child will be wearing to school. Can he manage belt buckles, buttons, snaps, etc.?

WEDNESDAY

Have your child finish his ABC booklet before school begins.

How many more days until the first day of school?

Practice matching capital and lower case cut-out letters.

MONDAY

Add "S" and "T" pictures to the ABC booklet.

Name groups of three objects and ask your child which one doesn't belong. Does he know why it doesn't?

apple/grass/orange
lake/river/flower

THURSDAY

Let your child practice writing his name, address and phone number.

Does your child know his parents' name?

Does he know how he will get home from school each day?

TUESDAY

Add "U" pictures to the booklet.

Show your child how to fold a sheet of paper into quarters.

Have him number the boxes and follow simple directions such as: Make a red circle in box 3, etc.

FRIDAY

Talk with your child about a trip to the grocery store.

Can he name fruit you bought?

Can he name the vegetables?

Can he tell you what you bought that came from a cow? a pig?

Later in the day, can he recall in order things you did on the outing?

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WEDNESDAY

Play Simon Says with your child using position words.

Examples: over your head, under your chin, between your eyes

Ask your child to place an object on the right side of the table, on the left side of the chair, etc.

MONDAY

Let your child practice telling you his whole name, his phone number and address.

If your child will ride the school bus, does he know the number of the bus?

THURSDAY

Let your child practice writing the lower case letters on unlined paper. Does he remember to begin at "2 o'clock" to make all round circle strokes? Does he remember to always begin at the top to make a straight line?

Let him practice writing his name.

TUESDAY

Let your child choose his favorite coloring book. Have him sit and work in it for 15 minutes without talking or getting up.

This is an excellent readiness activity. Practice it several times during the day if possible.

Explain to your child this is what school will be like.

FRIDAY

Let your child practice writing the upper case letters on unlined paper.

You write a letter and ask your child to make the upper or lower case letter to match it.

Let him practice writing the numerals as far as he can correctly go.

SMALL TALK

alphabet

A B C D E F G H I
J K L M N O P Q R
S T U V W X Y Z

a b c d e f g h i
j k l m n o p q r
s t u v w x y z