



## Ideas to keep skills up that are meaningful and play based

### \*Practical Skills:



- learn a parent's cell #
- learn address with zip code
- make up a simple tune to help them "sing" their address with city, state, and zip code - makes it much easier to remember.
- learn neighborhood name
- learn birthday with year
- learn mom & dad's name
- learn where parent's work
- learn how to tie own shoes !!!
- learn how to fasten own clothes
- You'd be surprised how many kiddos don't know these things.*
- how to tell time

### Science:



- make cookies or another dish together (*teach how to measure out ingredients & what measuring tools are & what they mean*), how to stir, clean up, wash dishes, etc.
- go on a scavenger hunt outside
- write about it: "I see a \_\_\_\_\_"  
"I saw \_\_\_\_\_"  
- Keep a journal about outside activities.
- weather: talk about it, keep a daily weather chart, write about it:  
"Today, the weather is \_\_\_\_\_."  
"Yesterday, it was \_\_\_\_\_."  
"Tomorrow it is supposed to be \_\_\_\_\_."  
Then, compare it.
- Do simple experiments:
  - make butter
  - make playdoh
  - grow plants/flowers
- Look up a favorite animal, planet, dinosaur, etc.
- write about it: *what it eats, where to find it, how big it is, etc.*

### Social Studies:



- pick a state or place that you would like to visit. *Find it on a map/globe. Learn something about it. Write about it.*
- pick a president or other famous person to learn about that is interesting to your child.
- learn about money denominations, how to add it, and how to make change.
- learn about American symbols or other historical places or symbols.

### Math:



- use card & card games to teach numbers, adding, subtracting
- teach them how to play "War", learn how to identify which is greater than, less than, or equal to with the cards.
- use cards, dice, or dominoes to add and subtract. *Write the equation for 2 different cards. (2 + 8 = 10)*
- use cereal or beads to practice adding & subtracting: *roll dice, lace that number of cheerios/beads on a pipe cleaner or yarn. Roll again, add more cereal/beads or take away that number.*
- teach them how to play dominoes
- learn new board games
- make up own games
- You tube:*  
"Jack Hartmann" & "Harry Kindergarten" for math and counting songs
- use legos and other toys: *count number of legos it took to make creation, graph and sort different pieces, make patterns with them.*

## Reading:

- Read at least 20 minutes a day EVERYDAY!
- point out sight words in reading
- let your child read to you
- read to all ages - they still love to hear you read to them, ask comprehension questions about what you read
- make environmental print books together:

*-cut out the labels & names of cereal, snacks, stores, toys, etc.*  
*-use these labels to make book*  
*They write: "I like \_\_\_\_\_."*  
*(label glues onto blank spot)*  
*"I can read \_\_\_\_\_."*

*Now, they have a book they can read on their own.*

- read & learn nursery rhymes - they are so important for learning early reading skills and phonemic awareness
- read fairy tales & anything they are interested in. They will learn more if it's meaningful to them.
- read or find books online from favorite authors: *David Shannon, Dr. Seuss, Robert Munsch, Eric Carle, Mo Willems, etc.*
- You Tube: many good songs to teach reading skills:
  - Jack Hartmann
  - Harry Kindergarten
  - Learning Station
  - Heidi Songs
  - Super Simple Songs
  - Story Bots

## Sight Words:

- use index cards, inside of cereal boxes, etc. to make sturdy cards
  - hook together with big key ring, yarn, or zip tie*
- practice with siblings
- make a game/race out of who gets the most correct or the fastest
- play memory or bingo with them
- write them in sand
- make words with playdoh

## Writing:

- make a family cookbook
- help your child write a simple recipe as a favorite snack  
*(trail mix: ½ C goldfish + ½ C of mini marshmallows)*  
**Let them illustrate it.** Put it in a page protector and save in a binder. Make the cover page: let them illustrate or take a family picture.
- start adding favorite family recipes, holiday recipes, cookie recipes, etc.
  - write or type recipe for them, or let them write it*
  - let them illustrate it or take a picture of the food*
  - this will become a treasured keepsake for your family that you can add to for years to come.*
- write a letter or email to a friend or family member. Let them type it.  
*Everyone needs to learn how to type at some point.*
- take pictures or cut out photos, let them write about them.
- make their own books, keep a journal
- extend a favorite book: *(ex. The Pigeon Wants a Puppy - let them make own book. "The Pigeon wants a hippo.")*
- Let them continue to add new things, write the sentences, & illustrate them.  
Now, they've written their own book.

## Computer or Online Games:

- let them log in themselves
- teach them how to put in their own i-station password and username
- Pebble Go (covers all subjects)
  - UN: prairievale
  - PW: school
- \*This is a favorite and great learning tool for everyone.
- \*It has videos and sounds too of different animals, etc.

## Fine Motor and Sensory:



-fill a small tub with: rice, sand, noodles, beans, aquarium rocks, orbes, sensory sand, floam, salt, sugar, easter grass, etc.

*-hide toys, sight words, plastic letters, numbers, coins, plastic eggs, etc. in it*

*-let them play in, use tweezers or tongs to pick things out of it.*

-color the uncooked rice or noodles for more fun. It can be saved for years! (put in a gallon size bag with a tablespoon of rubbing alcohol in it & few drops of food coloring. Shake until evenly colored. Spread out on a cookie sheet covered in foil or wax paper until dry. Store in bag or plastic container.)

-spray paint rocks or dry beans on one side. Can use the beans for math games & sorting.

-pick up and sort nuts, bolts, different cereal pieces, beads, different color rocks - the smaller, the better!

-playdoh - great for strengthening hand muscles

-monkey bars are great for that too

-finger paint with pudding

-use eye droppers and to drop colored water in ice cubes trays - color mixing is fun too

-cook noodles and run fingers through it, scoop it (definitely in a confined tub & space)

-make own scented playdoh

*-koolaid playdoh*

*-gingerbread playdoh*

*-peppermint playdoh*

\*many recipes online

-keep playdoh in airtight container or baggie

-use cookie cutters with playdoh or for tracing with fine tip markers or pencils

-leaf and coin rubbings with crayons or pencils

## Art:



-free art

*-they love to make their own creations with scrap paper, colored paper, old newspapers, magazines, etc.*

-crazy scissors

-watercolors

-fingerpaint or paint with pudding

*-use eagle brand milk and tint different colors - use to decorate paper egg cutouts - makes shiny eggs when it dries*

*-salt paint: draw a picture, trace the outline of the picture with glue from a glue bottle (elmer's white glue), sprinkle table salt on the glue (like you would with glitter), and let it dry. When dry, touch a section of the salt with paint from water colors. Watch it spread! Add more colors. Makes a cool picture when finished and dry.*

-color a coffee filter or paper towel with markers

*-mist lightly with water & watch the colors spread*

-directed drawings of favorite characters

*-tell which parts to draw one part at a time*

*-see how similar or different each person's picture turns out*

*-color or paint when finished*

-trace shadows or silhouettes & cut out

-sidewalk chalk

-wet colored chalk makes cool pictures on dark colored construction paper

## Movement Songs:



You Tube:

*Cosmic Yoga*

*Go Noodle*

**Have fun! Go outside!!  
Let them be kids!!!**

