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 man), 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 dominos 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
- YouTube: "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.
- YouTube: 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 + ¼ 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
  - 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, orbies, sensory sand, floss, 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 easter brand milk and tint different colors - use to decorate paper eggs 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!!!**