

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

We are so excited to welcome your children to our classroom in the fall! We are going to have a great year. In the meantime, summer is a wonderful time for families to read together. Attached is a suggested summer reading list with many great stories and poems. Please have your Kindergartener choose ten books from the reading list to read with you. Write these books on the attached list and return it in August to receive a special bookmark!

Summer is a great time to have your child practice their fine motor skills. Please have your children practice writing their upper and lowercase letters (especially their name!) and their numbers. If you would like additional ideas for strengthening their fine motor skills, we have enclosed 25 fun activities!

We are excited to see you all soon! Have a fun and safe summer.

Love,

The Kindergarten Team ☺

Kindergarten Summer Reading List

Books

Adam Raccoon (Parables for kids)
Alphabet Under Construction
Astronauts are Sleeping
Berenstain Bear Books

The Big Red Barn
Caps for Sale
The Cat in the Hat
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom
The Chicken Sisters
Child's Garden of Verses

Clifford, The Big Red Dog
Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs
Corduroy
Curious George
The Doorbell Rang
Emma & Mommy Talk to God
The Giving Tree
God's Quiet Things
Goodnight Moon
Green Eggs and Ham
Hattie and the Fox
I Can See What God Does

Authors

Keane, Glen
Fleming, Denise
Standiford, Natalie
Berenstain, Stan and
Jan
Brown, Margaret Wise
Slobodkina, Esphyr
Dr. Seuss
Martin, Bill
Numeroff, Laura Joffe
Stevensen, Robert
Louis
Bridwell, Norman
Barrett, Judi
Freeman, Don
Rey, HA
Hutchins, Pat
Williamson, Marianne
Silverstein, Shel
Sweetland, Nancy
Brown, Margaret Wise
Dr. Seuss
Fox Mem
Wolcott, Carolyn M.

Ira Sleeps Over
Jamberry
The Little Engine that Could
Market Day
Millions of Cats
Mouse Mess
Mother Goose
My Many Colored Days
My Bible Story Book
On Noah's Ark
Rosie's Walk
Sheep in a Jeep
Stone Soup
The Tale of Peter Rabbit
Ten Black Dots
There's an Alligator Under My Bed
What Does God Do?
Where the Wild Things Are

Waber, Bernard
Degen, Bruce
Piper, Watty
Bunting, Eve
Gag, Wanda
Riley, Linnea Asplind
DePaola, Tommie
Dr. Seuss
Fletcher, Sarah
Brett, Jan
Hutchins, Pat
Shaw, Nancy
McGovern, Ann
Potter, Beatrix
Crews, Donald
Mayer, Mercer
Wilhelm, Hans
Sendak, Maurice

Anonymous Authors - "Goldilocks and the Three Bears",
"Cinderella", "Gingerbread Man", "Little Red Riding Hood", "The
Three Little Pigs"

Date:	Book Read:

Activities to Build Fine Motor Skills

1. Use tweezers to pick up and/or sort beans, beads, or other small objects.
2. Use chopsticks to pick up and/or sort beans, beads, or other small objects.
3. Spread shaving cream on a table or shower stall wall and have your child practice drawing letters.
4. Spray a dollop of shaving cream on your kitchen counter or table and have your child smear it into a thin layer. Have her use his index finger to practice writing letter, shapes, and her name and to draw people. When she's done, give her a small, clean, damp sponge to wipe away the shaving cream in a side to side motion, encouraging her to use his arm and wrist and not to move her shoulders.
5. String paperclips in a chain.
6. Thread beads or noodles on pipe cleaners.
7. Mold or roll play dough into small balls.
8. Cut play dough with scissors.
9. Cut fringe on construction paper.
10. Create designs with a hole punch on construction paper.
11. String large beads on a shoelace or piece of yarn with the end wrapped in tape.
12. Transfer small items from one bowl to another using a clothespin.
13. Rip paper or newspaper into strips, placing both hands on the top of the page and pulling in opposite directions. Have your child put one strip at a time into the palm of her hand and try to crumple it into a ball using just the fingers of that hand. To increase the strength in both hands, remember to have her switch hands.
14. Use scissors to cut newspaper into strips or make paper snowflakes. The goal is to give your child a chance to develop a proper scissor grip, so it doesn't matter whether or not his creations are pretty or even recognizable.
15. Use a turkey baster to "puff" cotton balls across a table or surface.
16. Tape a large piece of paper to an easel or the wall and have your child practice drawing a line from the top to the bottom of the paper.
17. Play the add a line game. On a large piece of paper, draw a simple shape or line. Take turns connecting a different shape or line to create a new object. You can continue doing this until the paper is full or your masterpiece is complete. Be creative and use curvy lines and variety of different shapes, encouraging your child to do the same.
18. Use a pencil to complete mazes designed for kindergarten children.
19. Use chop sticks to eat a meal or snack such as popcorn.
20. Once your child is ready to move on to a regular pencil, buy a package of golf pencils. Since they're short, the pencils are perfect for little hands and naturally promote a correct pencil grip.
21. Hide small objects like coins or beads inside a lump of Silly Putty, modeling clay or homemade play clay. Have your child pull off pieces of the clay, using one finger and his thumb until the objects are revealed.
22. Invest in toys that use fine motor skills while your child is playing. For example: lacing cards, Legos, peg boards, Magnetix and erector sets all require good fine motor control.
23. Provide your child with dot-to-dot pages and stencils to trace. If she's having trouble using a pencil or thin marker, have her begin with a thick crayon or thick marker.
24. Assemble puzzles.
25. Decorate a page with stickers or complete the activities in a sticker book.