



Dear Parents,

Summer is upon us. It opens a huge door for learning. Teachers often dread summer due to the fear of what knowledge students may forget over the “un-schooled” months. I see it as a wonderful opportunity to have fun learning and bonding with the little ones in our lives. These are simply suggestions and I hope that they are helpful. Remember a few keys; to have fun, some of the best learning happens on the moment and run with their interests. Make sure to monitor how well they are doing. You want to do something called scaffolding. Scaffolding is when the learning is not too easy that they breeze through, or so hard that it causes them to “break down.” It should be a little struggle that they can accomplish. Be patient and it will pay off when they are so proud of how well they did. Don’t be overly critical of how they do, simply notice their progress and acknowledge that most of learning happens in the process not the product.

Blessings,

Mrs. Myers

- Every child is a unique individual made by God.
- We all grow and develop at different rates.
- We all excel in different areas.
- All children need encouragement and a safe atmosphere to grow and learn.
- Learning has to be a balance of challenging and yet not damaging a self esteem. We need to be challenged enough that it takes some effort to obtain and enough to keep us interested. At the same time we do not want to challenge a student to the point where they are depressed or stressed over the matter.
- How do we “help” a child learn? Give them challenges at their level. Encourage them but do not give answers right away if at all.
- The best key to learning, KEEP IT INTERESTING AND FUN! If we are interested in something, we are more likely to keep working on it. ☺

Resources:

Practice books: I have found that the Dollar Store, Sam's Club and various book stores have good practice books. One that I really like is Practice and Learn by J.L.Smith. Overall it goes back to the child's interests. Make sure that they help pick out the book, that it is their level, and that when you have them work on it, it is appropriate time length for their age. If they are interested, let them work on it as long as they like. If they are struggling, set a goal with them and have them meet it. Example: so many problems or pages.

Hands on learning: I have taught 3 year olds up through every grade to 8th graders. I have found that hands on learning works the best. Learning and playing with your child also add to their interest. They remember it best and have a higher interest level. These are just some ideas. There are endless ideas on the web and in family magazines. You just have to sort through to find ones that will work for you.

Art: Create with them. 1. Use recycled items around your house. 2. Make sure to do authentic art and not just crafts. Crafts are great for following directions. Authentic art uses the right brain and creating. I have endless ideas. If you ever need help, ask and I would love to give suggestions. 3 Describe colors, and shapes in nature 4 Go to an art museum 5 Buy a cheap frame and use it to rotate their art work 6 Use many different tactile objects to draw in. (pudding, sand, shaving cream, finger paint, etc) It increases brain synapses. Make sure you explain that we only play with food when we do this special project or reasons or places that we do this activity. That way it can prevent a mess later on.

Music: 1 clap out basic rhythmic patterns and have them repeat, 2. Sing, dance and play to music. Believe it or not, research shows that music helps us learn patterns and math. 3. Sing certain songs whenever you do certain things and their recall will be higher. Example: Sing head and shoulders, knees and toes during every bath time and then talk/point to numerous body parts and they will be more likely to remember them. As they remember more just keep adding more. 4 Have them listen to music and draw a picture to what they think of when listen to that music

Reading/writing/spelling: "Phonemic Awareness is the most potent predictor of success in learning to read." (Stanovich) 1. Research shows that reading to your child increases their interest in reading, the vocabulary and their attention span. Make sure to pick fiction and nonfiction books. Libraries are a great resource for not only books but activities with reading. 2. Make sure that your child has a literacy rich environment. You point out words and letters wherever you are. Have different types of materials for you and them to read. 3. Play with writing letters in different textures. Put your substance on a cookie sheet or another pan with edges. Pudding, salt, flour, shaving cream, etc. 4. Play

with the first sound in words, recognize that different words start with the same sound, recognize if a word doesn't match out of a group of three or four, blend letters together to make words /d/ /o/ /g/, break a word into sounds, notice how many sounds are in a word, create a new word by adding sounds /s/ + lip = slip, substitute sounds or rhyming, 5. Have them "read" books by looking at pictures 6. Have them label their pictures. Don't worry if it isn't spelled correctly. It is more important that they are going through the process. 7. Make a journal. After different events, have them draw a picture and "write" what they did. Date it and maybe add a photo to save their memory.

Social/emotional skills: 1 Responds politely to authority, 2 Cooperates, 3 Have them describe their emotions, 4 Ask them to use their words when they are upset, 5 Whenever they receive a gift, have them make a thank you, 6 Make things for your neighbors (cupcakes, crafts, etc.) 7 If your child is having a hard time describing their feelings, have them draw them. Notice the colors they use and ask questions about what is in the picture. 8 Have play dates 9 Have your child be in an activity with other children (dance, soccer, swim team, VBS, Sunday School)

Work Habits: 1 They clean-up after themselves 2 they help with basic chores,

Math Readiness: 1 Play with shapes, 2 Do basic adding and subtracting story problems 3 Add and subtract with toys or other objects 4 Have them fix basic problems (if we have two cookies and four people what should we do?) 5 Count forward and backward up to 30.

Social Studies: 1 Have fun telling stories about your family or history 2 Go to the capital 3 Talk about the differences between cities, and states, or mountains and hills, 3 If you go on a family vacation or a drive, talk about land forms and point them out.

Science: 1 Explore in your backyard, 2 Plant a garden or flowers and chart their growth (also a math skill) 3 In a clear jar put dirt, ants, a little water and scraps. Ant farms are a lot of fun. 4 Go to the zoo and see if you can identify animals of the same species. 5 Visit baby animals and have them notice the difference in-between the baby and adult animal. 6. 1001 Ways to Explore Science and Nature by Publications International has great experiments to do at home.

Listening Skills: 1 Read a story and have them answer basic questions, 2 Play a game where they close their eyes, listen and guess what sound they heard 3 Hide and seek with sounds, you hide in a place where they can't see you and quietly call their name till they can find you.

Speaking Skills: 1 Read at least one story a day 2 Add new vocabulary words 3 Have your child tell you stories. Pay attention to their sentences and descriptions of things. 4 Any time you are in a car have them describe what they see out of their window.

Fine Motor skills: 1scissors, 2puzzles, 3building with blocks,4 buttons, 5snaps, 6zippers, 7working with liquid glue, (baby dots)

Large Motor skills: 1 play catch 2 gallop 3 run 4 climb 5 skip 6 balance 7 kick a ball around 8 jump in place 9 swim