

At-Home Learning Activities for Families of Young Children (Ages 3-5)



Emergent Writing

(drawing, scribbling, letter-like forms, invented spelling, words or a combination)

- Have writing tools and paper available for your child to use at home.
- Write notes to family members/friends together.

- Take inventory of the refrigerator/pantry and help your child make a list of things you need to buy during your next visit to the supermarket.

- Have your child draw or paint a picture and tell you a story about their picture. Write down what your child says and read the story back to your child.

- Put shaving cream or sand on a plastic tray or hard surface and encourage your child to write their name or letter-like forms (lines top to bottom, left to right, circles, curves, slanted lines) using their finger.

- Help your child make name labels to put on their art supplies or items at home (e.g., refrigerator, stove, socks, shoes, etc.).

Additional Support for Pre-K ESE: Allow children to draw/scribble/write on a variety of surfaces: large paper on the floor, an easel, etc.



Emergent Reading

(picture-reading, reading the words in the story, retelling the story, role-playing the story, making up stories)

- Set aside a special time for reading each day.
- Create inviting and comfortable reading areas in your home.
- Read with your child for 20 minutes 1 to 2 times a day.
- Visit *myON Reader* on your child's MDCPS Portal/APPS to access a digital library.

- Encourage dramatic play/acting-out the story you read.
- Have family members pretend to be a character in the story as you retell the story.

- Let children hold the book and use the pictures as visual cues to retell the story.
- Talk about what happened in the beginning, in the middle and at the end of the story.

- When reading stories to your child, let them make up the ending, or retell favorite stories with "silly" new endings that they make up.

- While reading a story, engage your child in conversation by asking open-ended questions and expanding their comments through back and forth dialogue.

Additional Support for Pre-K ESE: Use picture communication boards and/or Mini Word Books in order to offer children a way to deliver messages about characters/events in the stories. There are ready-made versions of these on prekese.dadeschools.net under "Visual Supports."



Mathematics

(numbers, counting, matching, sorting, patterns, shapes, spatial relations, measuring)

- Go on a nature walk and collect a variety of leaves. At home, help your child sort the leaves and talk about why the leaves were placed in each pile.

- Ask your child to bring one book, two pencils and three sheets of paper. As your child brings the objects, have them count out each item one by one. Take one of the items out and ask, "How many are now left?"

- Play a game with your child by displaying a set of three or four objects on the table. Ask your child to look, then cover the objects with your hand or cloth and quickly ask, "How many are under the cloth?" Continue playing by adding or taking away objects.

- Count throughout the day...count how many steps it takes to get to the bathroom, count how many pillows are on the couch, count how many doors/windows are in the house, count how many grapes they will eat for snack, etc.

- Gather laundry and ask your child to help you separate clothes by color. After washing the clothes, ask your child to match socks and help sort folded clothes into piles by type of clothing.

Additional Support for Pre-K ESE: Pre-made picture boards for a variety of math activities such as recipes and play ideas for common toys and manipulatives that may exist in your home already can be found on prekese.dadeschools.net under "Visual Supports" & "Toy Bin Visuals."

At-Home Learning Activities for Families of Young Children (Ages 3-5)



Emergent Writing

(drawing, scribbling, letter-like forms, invented spelling, words or a combination)

- Provide your child with playdough and practice with your child rolling the playdough into snake-like strips. Use the pieces to shape letters and their name.

- Create a pretend post office at home. Provide your child with envelopes, cards, old bills and have fun writing and distributing mail to family members.

- After reading a story, have your child draw a picture about their favorite part. Ask them to tell you about their picture and write down what they say.

- Sit outside with writing materials. Encourage your child to write about what they see.

- At the end of the day, talk about the day's events. Have your child write about what they did throughout the day.

Additional Support for Pre-K ESE: Allow children to use their fingers and a variety of textured materials to draw/scribble/write such as shaving cream, sand, water on paper, etc.



Emergent Reading

(picture-reading, reading the words in the story, retelling the story, role-playing the story, making up stories)

- Play a word game, saying the first part of a compound word and asking your child to provide a variety of second words that make compound words (e.g., say "sun" and encourage responses like "flower")

Read books that include rhyming words like *The Cat in the Hat*. As you read the story, pause for rhyming words and allow your child to fill in the missing word in the sentence with a word that rhymes.

- Read alphabet books with your child.
- Go on a Letter Hunt around the house and point out words that begin with the same letter as your child's name.

- Write uppercase and lowercase letters on pieces of paper and put them in a paper bag. Have your child pull a letter from the bag and name it. Match uppercase with lowercase letters.

- Talk about the first sound in your child's name. Look for other objects in books or around the house that begin with the same sound. Do the same with the names of family members.

Additional Support for Pre-K ESE: Use picture communication boards and/or Mini Word Books in order to offer children a way to deliver messages about characters/events in the stories. There are ready-made versions of these on prekese.dadeschools.net under "Visual Supports."



Mathematics

(numbers, counting, matching, sorting, patterns, shapes, spatial relations, measuring)

- Take a walk and gather rocks, sticks, and leaves. Compare sizes of objects and help your child sequence objects by size (smallest to biggest). Count the number of objects one by one.

- Use items collected on a walk. Arrange them in a pattern such as one rock, two leaves, one rock, two leaves. Then mix them up and ask children to recreate the pattern or make their own.

- Discuss shapes. Go around the house and talk about the shapes you see. "The table is a circle, the window is a square, the door is a rectangle. What shape is your bed?"

- Create an obstacle course inside or outside that involves children moving in different locations and directions.

When outside, start a fun game with your child by giving them a place to stand and have them guess how many steps they are away from you. When they walk back, have them count their steps aloud. Try different distances.

Additional Support for Pre-K ESE: Picture boards for a variety of math activities using common toys that may exist in your home already can be found on prekese.dadeschools.net under "Visual Supports" & "Toy Bin Visuals."