

TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN

Early Childhood Learning Services

Parent Involvement ~ Head Start Program

FUN SUMMER ACTIVITIES

These are not only fun,
but educational too!



PLAYDOUGH: Children love using different tools with the play dough such as rolling pins, cookie cutters or anything that can be used to make an impression. Just making free form sculptures is so good for the development of the small muscles in their hands.



NECKLACES: Use yarn or string with anything that you have that can be strung. Try Cheerios, straws cut to 1" lengths, beads or whatever you find. Your child will love your oohs and aahs over their creation!



SHAVING CREAM: Shaving cream is always a hit (and cleans your table, too). Adding food coloring is an exciting adventure.



BUBBLES: Children love experimenting with different types of blowers. You can make bubble wands with straws by flaring out the ends. Yarn can be used to create large bubbles. Fly swatters can be purchased very cheaply at the \$1 store and will make tons of bubbles. Pipe cleaners can be shaped by your child into any design they choose.



SIDEWALK CHALK: This is a great activity on the playground or sidewalk. Try outlining his body, and letting him color it in.



WATER PLAY: In the summer, water feels especially wonderful. Let your child play outside or in the kitchen with a dish tub filled with water, giving him/her measuring cups, spoons, bowls and anything else you can find that he can fill and pour.

Places to go, and things to do!

Imaginarium 321-7420

Calusa Nature Center 275-3435

Parks and Recreation 461-7400

Public Library 479-4636

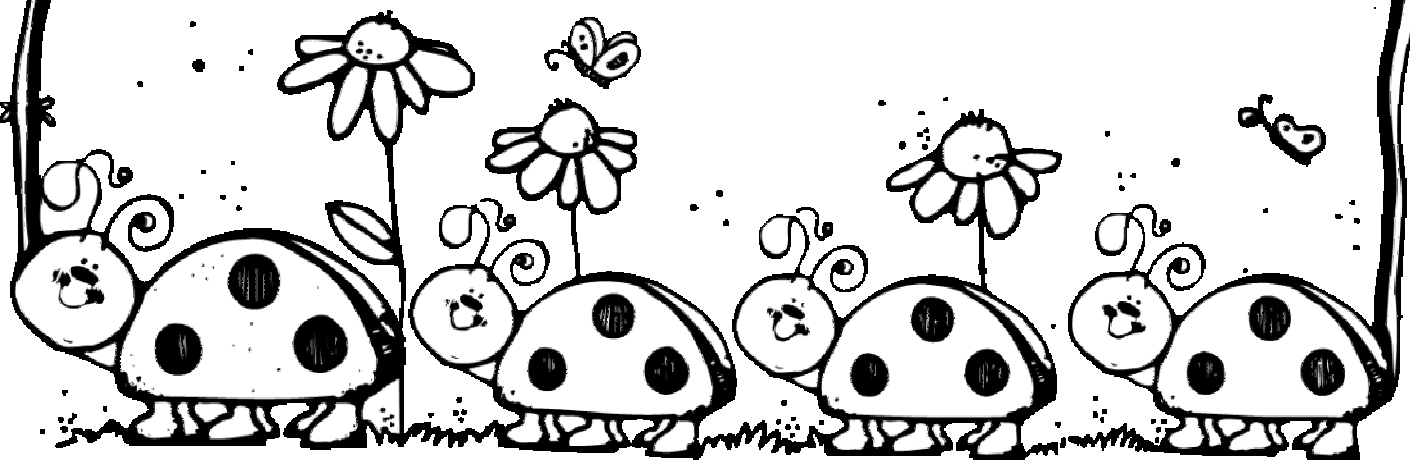
Sun Splash 574-0557

Beaches FREE!

Corkscrew Swamp 348-9151

Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary 543-1130

Lakes Regional Park 533-7575



KEEPING BUSY!

Consider keeping a box just for your preschooler,
filled with things like...

Crayons

Glue

Safety Scissors

Paint

Play dough

Newspaper

Old clean socks

Noodles

Yarn

Construction paper

Markers

Pencils

White paper

Water colors

Old magazines

Paper bags

Buttons

Beans

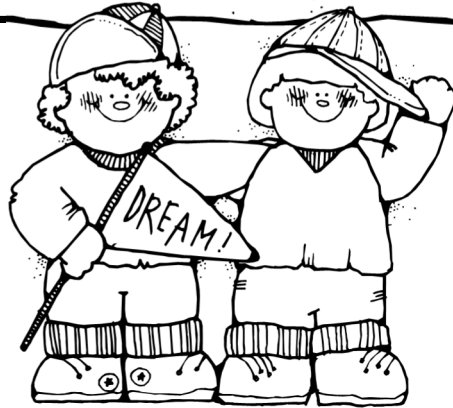
Hole puncher

Tape

This "Busy Activity Box" will come in handy,
when you have some time to sit down
together and create a

Masterpiece!

PRACTICING INDEPENDENCE!



Here are some ways you can help your preschooler learn to be independent and help her feel GOOD about herself!

Write own name.

Help with laundry.

Water the plants.

Vacuum or sweep.

Check the mail.

Make own bed.

Dress self.

Cut with scissors.

Put on own shoes.

Tie own shoes

Set the table.

Feed the pets.

Help with grocery shopping

Tell you his age.

Tell you his/her full name, address and phone number.

SUPER
KID!

WHAT TO DO AHEAD OF TIME!

Going to "Big School" can be exciting and scary, for your child and for you! Help both of you by doing the following activities a few weeks before Kindergarten starts. These will help you both have a smooth, happy and positive transition.

- ♥ Drive or walk by the school with your child and look around the playground.
- ♥ If your child is going to take the bus, walk to the bus stop.
- ♥ Take advantage of any opportunities that the school offers ahead of time to take a peek inside or to meet the teacher. Call your school to see if they have an orientation day.
- ♥ Consider arranging a play date for your child and a child in your neighborhood who will be in the same class. It will be reassuring for your child to recognize a friendly face on the first day of school.
- ♥ Create starting school rituals together, such as choosing a lunch box, a pair of sneakers, or a special dinner together the night before school starts.
- ♥ Establish bedtime and wake-up routines, and practice getting up and going to bed on the new school schedule.
- ♥ Read books together about going to kindergarten and use it as a springboard for discussion about any last minute concerns that either one of you might have. Here are some questions to get you started...

Why do I have to go to kindergarten?
Will I get to play with my old friends again?
Will my teacher be nice?
Do I have to be quiet in kindergarten?
What if I don't have time to eat?
What will the teacher do if the kids aren't good?
Do I get to play in kindergarten?

SCHOOL
IS
COOL

GETTING READY...

.....WORDS TO THE WISE.....

Show your child that learning is fun.

Share activities such as:

Arranging household items into groups to build organizational skills.

Preparing snacks and meals together to teach about measuring, temperature and time.

Growing plants to encourage curiosity and a sense of wonder.

Playing games with words, numbers and colors at home and in the car to build basic language and number skills.

Promote a love of reading.

Read aloud with your child every day. Ask questions about the stories and pictures.

Set aside quiet reading time. Turn off the TV!

Have books available in your home. Go to the library often.

Encourage helpful habits.

Putting things away - Set a regular time to pick up playthings. It's a good way to develop responsibility and the ability to organize.

Getting along with others - The ability to work with others and a sense of caring and sharing are vital for children in school.

Learning to listen - Being able to follow directions is a necessity at school.



summer

reading

BOOKS ABOUT KINDERGARTEN

Leo, the Late Bloomer	Kraus
Froggy Goes To School	London
How Do Dinosaurs Go To School	Yolen
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom	Martin
The Night Before Kindergarten	Wing
Will I Have a Friend?	Cohen
My Kindergarten	Wells
Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come	Carlson
Spot Goes To School	Hill
Wemberly Worried	Henkes
Countdown to Kindergarten	McGhee
When you go to Kindergarten	Howe
Annabelle Swift, Kindergartner	Schwartz
The Twelve Days of Kindergarten	Rose
Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten	Slate