



11 March 2020

Dear Parents,

The recent COVID-19 situation is requiring that schools and families prepare for the possibility of extended periods of time when children are learning at home. As this is a continuously evolving situation your principal and teachers will be communicating with you about assignments and other information that is specific to your child's school and classroom.

The Office of Early Childhood is offering additional resources that can support parents. We know that you want to ensure that your children continue to engage in activities that align with the learning that they are experiencing in school each day. Young children will need adult guidance and interaction in order to benefit from these activities. In addition to the activities, we are including a list of web-based programs that can support learning. As always, we encourage parental supervision and time limitations with screen time.

Enclosed you will find a few resources with suggestions for you to work with your early childhood student. Please know that this work is not mandatory and is only a suggested tool for continued learning at home while your school is closed.

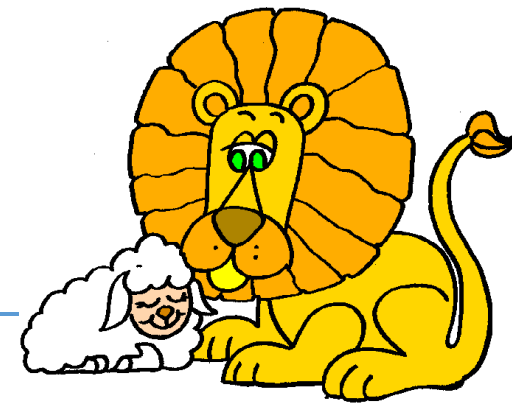
Regards,

The Archdiocese of New York's Office of Early Childhood

# 31 Days of Activities

## Parent/Child Activity Calendar

These may be done in any order



1 March comes in like a "lion" and goes out like a "lamb." Talk with your child about what this means.	2 It's Dr. Seuss' birthday! Read one of his books to celebrate	3 Show your child the change from your purse. Can she identify the coins by name? Talk about the color and size.	4 Tap out a very simple rhythm with household instruments, such as spoons. Can your child copy it?	5 Ask your child to draw abstract ideas such as love, happiness or fear.	6 Ask your child about the story the teacher read in school today. Have her tell you about the book.	7 Set aside some old clothes and create a costume box for your child.
8 Fill a small jar with coins. Have your child guess how many it contains. Count them together.	9 Hide an object and give your child 3 clues to find it. Praise her for following directions when she finds it.	10 Practice barnyard sounds by singing "Old MacDonald" together.	11 Plan a no TV/ IPAD evening. Read or play games instead.	12 Shape the letters of your child's name out of clay. Let him trace the letters to get the feel for writing.	13 Let your child take something new to play with in the bath; a set of measuring spoons or cups.	14 Visit the library. Check new books about your child's favorite subject (dinosaurs, trains or princesses.)
15 Today is the Ides of March. Talk with your child about the middle, beginning and the end.	16 Get down on the floor and play with your child. Don't take over the play— follow her lead.	17 Do some stretching exercises with your child. Do you know any yoga poses? Try them too!	18 Give your child a box of colorful paper clips. Have her link them together and make a long chain.	19 In the morning, help your child find five of his favorite books. Read them throughout the day.	20 Talk about playground safety; taking turns, sliding feet first down the slide and wearing a bike helmet.	21 Help your child make a scrapbook. Staple some construction paper together. Let him glue on ticket stubs, photos, etc.
22 Try a new self-care skill today — teach the first tie of his shoe laces. Finish them off if he can't yet.	23 Make today a "rhyming day." Have your child think of rhyming words for common words.	24 Have your child draw a picture of his favorite toy.	25 Make up stories to tell your child. This encourages her to be creative.	26 Talk about what kinds of things can make a person a "hero." Family members can be heroes too!	27 Let your child help you with a household chore today. Remember to thank him when he finishes.	28 Roll out playdoh. Use household objects to make impressions, like keys, utensils or jewelry.
29 Play an old fashioned game of hide-and-seek with the entire family.	30 Sharpen pencils together. Ask your child how she thinks the machine works.	31 Practice moving slowly and quickly. How would a rabbit move? How about a turtle?				

## Together Time Activities for Families of Prekindergarten Children

### *Infusing the Common Core Learning Standards into Our Daily Routines*

You are your child's first and most important teacher and it is important for you to continue to spend quality time with your child every day.

New York State recently adopted a new set of learning standards known as the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS). The CCLS focus on basic skills as well as problem solving and higher order thinking skills. The standards clearly lay out what students should know and be able to do in every grade to ensure they are on a path toward being ready for college and careers.

Standards alone cannot raise the level of student learning. Their full power can only be realized when all learning environments—including home and school—are connected. The Office of Early Childhood Education has compiled some “together time” literacy and math activities that you and your child can engage in at home and while on the go. These activities can support your child's physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development as well as prepare them to think creatively and solve problems. These skills are needed as a foundation for all students to succeed in college, careers, and in life.

More information about the Common Core Learning Standards may be found at:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/CommonCoreLibrary/FamilyResources/default.htm>

At Home Literacy Activities	Pre-K Learning Standards for Literacy
<p>Go to the library and find books with few or no words. Point to the illustrations and encourage your child to interpret what is happening in the story. Help make real life connections by providing examples, such as, "This picture reminds me of the time you lost your teddy bear and were so sad." Encourage your child to talk about what the story reminds them of.</p>	<p><b>Reading Standards for Literature</b>  <i>Responding to Literature</i>            1. With prompting and support, make connections between self, text, and the world around them (text, media, social interaction).</p>
<p>After reading with your child, talk about what each of you liked or disliked about the book and why. If you have more than one child, read a picture book together and take turns sharing your thoughts at the end of the book. To spark conversation, ask questions or pose a statement for them to respond to, such as, "My favorite part of the book was..."</p>	<p><b>Speaking and Listening Standards</b>  <i>Comprehension and Collaboration</i>            1. With guidance and support, participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about <i>pre-kindergarten topics and texts</i> with peers and adults in small and large groups.                a) Engage in agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., listening to others and taking turns speaking about the topics and texts under discussion).</p>
<p>Look at family photographs together and explore how people change over time. Encourage your child to ask questions about the people in the pictures and provide stories in response. For example, "Here is a picture of Uncle Greg when he was 8 years old. He is my little brother which is why I am taller than him in this photograph. But, you're right...he is taller than me now that we're adults."</p>	<p><b>Speaking and Listening Standards</b>  <i>Comprehension and Collaboration</i>            2. With guidance and support, confirm understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media by asking and answering questions about key details and requesting clarification if something is not understood.</p>
<p>Play word games with your child as you're walking down the street, riding the subway, or waiting in line at the store. Ask your child to name the opposite word of everyday actions, such as the opposite of <i>on</i> the table is <i>off</i> the table. Also help your child describe opposite emotions, such as the opposite of feeling <i>tired</i> is <i>energized</i>.</p>	<p><b>Language Standards</b>  <i>Vocabulary Acquisition and Use</i>            5. With guidance and support, explore word relationships and nuances in word meanings.                b) Demonstrate understanding of frequently occurring verbs and adjectives by relating them to their opposites (e.g., up, down, stop, go, in, out).</p>

At Home Literacy Activities	Pre-K Learning Standards for Literacy
<p>Help your child to write 'thank you' notes for birthday and holiday gifts. Prompt him to draw a picture and tell what was special about that day. Write exactly what your child says in response, and encourage him to try to write or guess letters in a word on the note card.</p>	<p><b>Language Standards</b>  <i>Conventions of Standard English</i></p> <p>2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.</p> <p>b) Attempt to write a letter or letters to represent a word.</p> <p><b>Writing Standards</b>  <i>Text Types and Purposes</i></p> <p>3. With prompting and support, use a combination of drawing, dictating, or writing to narrate a single event and provide a reaction to what happened.</p>
<p>Ask your child to help you make a list of what to buy at the grocery store. Encourage her to draw pictures and provide details about the items, and write exactly what she says next to the pictures. Have your child go to the grocery store with you and help find the items on the list.</p>	<p><b>Writing Standards</b>  <i>Text Types and Purposes</i></p> <p>2. With prompting and support, use a combination of drawing, dictating, or writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.</p>
<p>Find out what your child's classroom theme is and create a project at home that connects to that theme. For example, if the class is reading books by author Eric Carle all month, create a paper bag puppet of the "hungry little caterpillar" character and re-enact the story at home.</p>	<p><b>Writing Standards</b>  <i>Responding to Literature</i></p> <p>1. Create and present a poem, dramatization, art work, or personal response to a particular author or theme studied in class, with prompting and support as needed.</p>

At Home Math Activities	Pre-K Learning Standards for Math
<p>While at home or walking to the park, make up a number of silly steps that can be acted out by your child. For example, take two backwards steps to the door and walk five zigzag steps down the sidewalk. With your child, count out the number of steps it takes to get from one place to the next starting with 1 and increasing to 20.</p>	<p><b>Counting and Cardinality</b>  <i>Know number names and the count sequence</i></p> <p>1. Count to 20</p> <p><i>Count to tell the number of objects</i></p> <p>3. Understand the relationship between numbers and quantities to 10; connect counting to cardinality.</p>
<p>As your child gets dressed in the morning, remember to name the steps aloud stating what comes first, second, third, and last. Take photographs of your child's daily routines and play a game sequencing the images from first to last. The photographs can also be used to help your child choose what to do independently, and what to do with your help.</p>	<p><b>Counting and Cardinality</b>  <i>Compare numbers</i></p> <p>6. Identify "first" and "last" related to order or position.</p>
<p>Encourage your child to help you set the table for mealtime and figure out how many forks, spoons and cups are needed for each family member. Ask questions that encourage mathematical problem solving, such as, "We have five people eating dinner. How many napkins will we need? What happens if one napkin gets dirty too quickly?"</p>	<p><b>Counting and Cardinality</b>  <i>Compare numbers</i></p> <p>5. Identify whether the number of objects in one group is more, less, greater than, fewer, and /or equal to the number of objects in another group, e.g., by using matching and counting strategies.</p>
<p>Go on a pattern search in your home finding shapes, colors, and designs that repeat over and over again. With your support your child may start to recognize a pattern of lines on a shirt or a pattern of squares in the bathroom tiles.</p> <p>You may also listen for patterns. Listen for the repetitive sound of a drum beat and try repeating the rhythm while clapping your hands.</p>	<p><b>Operations &amp; Algebraic Thinking</b>  <i>Understand simple patterns.</i></p> <p>1. Duplicate and extend (e.g., what comes next?) simple patterns using concrete objects.</p>



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>At Home Math Activities</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pre-K Learning Standards for Math</b></p>
<p>At the end of each month, measure your child's height and growth and record on chart paper. Pose some mathematical problems that you and your child can solve together. For example, "Let's find out how much you grew since September. Let's measure the difference with a pencil to find out how many pencils tall you grew!"</p>	<p><b>Operations and Algebraic Thinking</b>  <i>Understand addition as adding to, and understand subtraction as taking from.</i></p> <p>1. Demonstrate an understanding of addition and subtraction by using objects, fingers, and responding to practical situations (e.g., if we have 3 apples and add 2 more, how many apples do we have all together?).</p> <p><b>Measurement and Data</b>  <i>Describe and compare measurable attributes</i></p> <p>1. Identify measurable attributes of objects, such as length, and weight. Describe them using correct vocabulary (e.g., small, big, short, tall, empty, full, heavy, and light).</p>
<p>Ask your child to help you sort the laundry. Prompt your child to find all of the matching socks and make pairs, or sequence the pants in a row from shortest to longest. Make separate piles for each family member, estimate how many articles of clothing are in each, and count the number of articles to find out.</p>	<p><b>Measurement and Data</b>  <i>Describe and compare measurable attributes</i></p> <p>1. Identify measurable attributes of objects, such as length, and weight. Describe them using correct vocabulary (e.g., small, big, short, tall, empty, full, heavy, and light).</p> <p><i>Sort objects and count the number of objects in each category</i></p> <p>2. Sort objects into categories; count the numbers of objects in each category (limit category counts to be less than or equal to 10).</p>
<p>Encourage your child to help you put away the groceries by sorting the items by type, color, size or shape. Compare how many fruits and vegetables you have, or edibles to non-edibles. Ask questions to prompt thinking about specific characteristics, such as, "Can you find 5 grocery items with corners like this box of cereal? Let's place all the items with corners here."</p>	<p><b>Measurement and Data</b>  <i>Sort objects and count the number of objects in each category</i></p> <p>2. Sort objects into categories; count the numbers of objects in each category (limit category counts to be less than or equal to 10).</p> <p><b>Geometry</b>  <i>Analyze, compare, and sort objects</i></p> <p>1. Analyze, compare, and sort two- and three-dimensional shapes and objects in different sizes, using informal language to describe their similarities, differences, and other attributes (e.g., color, size, and shape).</p>

At Home Math Activities	Pre-K Learning Standards for Math
<p>On a neighborhood stroll, stop and observe the two- and three-dimensional shapes of street signs and buildings. Ask your child to name the different parts of a building, such as the roof, door and columns. At home, re-create a three-dimensional structure that you observed out of blocks, or by re-using materials such as boxes and toilet paper tubes.</p>	<p><b>Geometry</b> <i>Analyze, compare, and sort objects</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analyze, compare, and sort two and three dimensional shapes and objects in different sizes, using informal language to describe their similarities, differences, and other attributes (e.g., color, size, and shape).</li> <li>2. Create and build shapes from components (e.g., sticks and clay balls).</li> </ol>
<p>With your child, identify common shapes that are found in everyday food and objects. Maybe you eat triangle sandwiches, cheese cubes, or oval beans for lunch! Help your child identify and name the positions of the objects, such as the placement on a shelf or on a plate. For example, "The cheese is on top of the circle crackers. Can you place the cheese squares under the crackers?"</p>	<p><b>Geometry</b> <i>Identify and describe shapes (square, circles, triangles, rectangles)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe objects in the environment using names of shapes, and describe the relative positions of these objects using terms such as top, bottom, up, down, in front of, behind, over, under, and next to.</li> <li>2. Correctly name shapes regardless of size.</li> </ol>
<p>Look through children's magazines for pictures of animals and cut these images out. Ask your child to name the animals and categorize them by familiar traits. One trait may be animals with fur and one may be animals with wings. Be silly and create new categories! For example, try grouping animals with two ears and animals with wings together and discuss their differences and similarities.</p>	<p><b>Geometry</b> <i>Analyze, compare, and sort objects</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analyze, compare, and sort two and three dimensional shapes and objects in different sizes, using informal language to describe their similarities, differences, and other attributes (e.g. color, size, shape).</li> </ol>





### Remote Learning Ideas for PreK

- See attached for **Together Time Activities for Families** and **A Month of Learning Ideas** for ideas as to things you can do to engage with your child in a simple learning experience
- NAEYC Resources on **Supporting Math Learning at Home**: <https://www.naeyc.org/math-at-home>
- NAEYC Resources on **Supporting Writing Development at Home**: <https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/support-writing-home>
- NAEYC Resources on **Creating Big Jobs for Children at Home**- “Big Jobs are indoor and outdoor jobs children do with their families (or others) that help the whole family”:  
<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/big-jobs-home>
- Websites to support learning: ABC mouse.com, getepic.com, education.com, ABCya.com, starfall.com, learningA-Z.com, education.com, cookie.com, PBSkids.org,  
<http://daybydayny.org/>, [www.nyphilkids.org](http://www.nyphilkids.org), filefolderfun.com,  
<https://www.amnh.org/explore/ology> <https://learninglab.si.edu/>,  
<https://www.nps.gov/kids/index.htm>
- Access e-books from the New York Public Library: <https://www.nypl.org/books-music-movies/ebookcentral>
- NAEYC Resources on **DIY with Children at Home**- aka Makerspaces:  
<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/creating-makerspace-at-home>
- NAEYC Resources on **Supporting Music at Home**: <https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/playing-music-home>

### Remote Learning Ideas for Kinder

- <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/school-success/school-success-guides/guide-to-kindergarten.html>

### Remote Learning for PreK-1st Grade

- **Khan Academy Education App for Pre-K, Kindergarten & 1st** :  
<https://learn.khanacademy.org/khan-academy-kids/>  
Khan Academy Kids’ materials are aligned with both the Common Core State Standards for kindergarten-aged children and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework for preschool-aged children, according to the organization. (Please click the “Get help here” on the blue banner on the top of the webpage to get the directions for using this program.)