



ALTERNATIVE H.W. ACTIVITIES FOR KINDERGARTEN



READING AND WRITING

- Read a book
- Draw out letters or sight words on the sidewalk using chalk
- Write letters to family members
- Write sight words in something unique like shaving cream, sand, pudding, rice, brownie mix, fog in the bathroom mirror, etc.
- Build sight words out of something interesting like yarn, cooked spaghetti, alphabet noodles or cereal, magnetic letters, bathtub crayons, pipe cleaners, etc.
- Spell words by cutting out letters from newspapers or magazines
- Host a Family "spelling bee"
- Make a book using family member names to learn letters (ex: A is for Adam - and include a photo of the family member)
- Use closed captioning or subtitles when watching TV or movies, regardless of hearing ability, as another way to expose your child to print language
- Find sight words and vocabulary words in newspapers, magazines, and junk mail
- Choose 3 sight words and write a sentence - continue until all words have been used
- Write a letter to a friend using as many sight words as you can
- Use glow-in-the-dark pens to write your sight words - hang in dark place to review
- Use alphabet stamps and stamp out words onto paper
- Make sight word flashcards
- Practice name writing and ABC's in whip cream on the kitchen counter or in wet sand at the local park
- Play the rhyming game - "what rhymes with cat?...stop?...mat?"
- Play the alphabet game - find something that starts with each letter (play in the house, at the store, in the car...etc)
- Spelling Simon Says - say something like "do jumping jacks while you spell cat"
- Label items around the house (TV, clock, couch, door, etc) to help children identify objects and learn to read
- Singing Spelling - spell sight words while singing to your favorite song
- Try to identify one rhyming word for each sight word
- Alphabetize things in the kitchen (ex: apples, bananas, cereal, donuts)
- Sight Word Rainbows - write sight words in pencil and trace over the letters a number of times in different colored crayons, pencils, or markers
- Write about your favorite topic
- Find rhyming words in songs on the radio
- Play "Sight Word Go Fish"
- Listen to books on CD at home or in the car
- Sing the ABC's - name the letters plus something that starts with the letter
- Paint or draw a picture - add labels or write a sentence about the picture
- Sing your favorite Nursery Rhymes and try to memorize them

MATH AND NUMBERS

- Count to 100 (or as high as you can go)
- Use homemade pizza, pie, cake to work on fractions (whole, half, etc)
- Create an "Estimation Jar" where kids estimate how many items are in the jar
- Addition and subtraction using food on the dinner plate (works really well with vegetables ☺)
- Count the number of steps it takes you to get to different locations in your house
- Go bowling and keep score manually instead of letting the computer do it (or subtract the number of pins you knock down from the pins still standing)
- Count by 2's or 5's or 10's together
- Use stamps or stickers to make an addition or counting book
- Play "Higher/Lower" or "Bigger/Smaller" - mention two numbers or two objects and have the kids identify which is higher/lower or bigger/smaller
- Use M&Ms to learn addition and subtraction
- Count the number of windows and doors in your house
- Look for shapes in the yard, at the store, and while in the car
- Addition Bingo - call out an equation (such as $1+2$) and have the kids look for the right answer on their Bingo card that can be drawn on a piece of paper
- Play Twister to reinforce color, left/right, and parts of the body
- Measure things in your home (use rulers, paperclips, Legos, etc)
- Invite the children into the kitchen while you bake (practice measuring)
- Give your child loose change - sort the coins (penny, nickel, dime, quarter)
- Play "Hi Ho Cherry-O" (great early counting game)
- Create your own math stories (mom had five cookies and dad ate four of them... how many cookies are left?)
- Count anything and everything - how many peas are on your plate, how many pillows are on your bed, how many blocks are in the box?
- Hop scotch to learn how to count to 10
- Practice telling time using the clocks in your house
- Sort items by size, color, or weight
- Count the number of people eating dinner and set out enough dinnerware for all
- Create patterns with different types of beans, pasta, leaves, beads, etc.

SPECIAL OUTINGS

- Visit the local Children's Museum
- Stop at historical sites to develop an interest in history
- Visit a zoo and a farm
- Play at the park
- Grocery shop together - read ingredients, choose the healthiest food, find items you have coupons for
- On a drive, see if you can find every letter of the alphabet in order - look at road signs, billboards, company names, etc.
- Create field trips for your kids - visit a kitchen at a local restaurant, a candy factory, a pumpkin patch, etc.
- Go to work with mom or dad to see what they do
- Attend a musical or play
- Take lots of trips to the local library - check out as many books as you can!
- Take a walk around your neighborhood
- Visit a community garden

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

- Building blocks - use blocks to identify shapes, count blocks as you build a project, how tall can you get the blocks to stack before they fall down?
- Play Tic-Tac-Toe
- Play Checkers
- Buy a placemat that has details about a fun topic and discuss the different facts during dinner
- Play Candy Land
- Play Chutes & Ladders
- Watch a movie or show together and talk about your favorite parts or characters afterwards
- Find & Seek Books - such as Where's Waldo and I Spy
- Learn an instrument
- Cook as a family
- Play dress up
- Read the newspaper
- Complete chores as a family - add music to make the chores more fun
- Read a book together and then watch the movie - compare and contrast
- Play ABC Bingo
- Graph Halloween or Easter candy - lay the candy out and physically create the graph (can also be done with toys, fruits, vegetables, etc.)
- Listen for sounds that create music - the gentle hum of the refrigerator, the splashing of rain on the window, the wind in the trees
- Plant a seed in a glass jar so you can watch the plant grow and see the roots
- Plan your own lunch menu
- Draw a map to your friend's house (or to the store, school, park, etc.)
- Learn how to say hello, goodbye, and thank you in a new language
- Read a book and then act it out when you are finished
- Talk to your kids - what was the best part of your day and why?...what was the worst part of your day and why?
- Look at different things under a microscope
- Call a family member and have a phone conversation about what you did at school
- "Invent" something using random items from around the house
- Sing your favorite songs
- Make up your own song and teach it to someone
- Make up a new game and try to play it with friends
- Take something apart to see how it works - reassemble if possible, or create something new
- Play restaurant - the kids create the menu, serve and make the food, and then make a bill and collect money (pretend food and money of course)
- Do a science experiment - find some fun ones online
- Put together a puzzle
- Play a card game
- Build a fort (snow fort, blanket fort, couch cushion fort, etc.)
- Use sidewalk chalk to write the ABC's, sight words, addition facts, names
- Paint with water on the driveway on a hot and sunny day
- Color mixing fun - put an ice cube tray on a cookie sheet and fill the ice cube squares $\frac{1}{2}$ full of water - put several drops of red, yellow, and blue food coloring into squares - give kids eye droppers and let them explore/create their own colors

COMPUTER AND IPAD

- Email relatives - this makes writing and spelling fun!
- Type sight words on the computer or iPad
- Use Google Earth and Google Maps to find your house, your school, your favorite places to travel, etc.
- Play math and reading games at <http://www.abcya.com>
- Order books and play games at <http://www.scholastic.com>
- Play games at <http://www.sesamestreet.org>
- Play games at <http://www.pbskids.org>
- Play math and reading games at <http://www.starfall.com>
- Search the App Store for fun apps and games for the iPad

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

- In the bath, identify what will sink or float with objects around the house
- Play sports
- Spell words or count by 10's as you jump on the trampoline - one letter/one number per jump
- Spell words or count to 20 as you play basketball - one letter/number per shot
- Spell words or count as you jump rope

ARTS AND CRAFTS

- Make a family banner using hand prints to tell about each family member
- Use a large paper doll to decorate and tell about yourself
- Disguise a turkey so the farmer can't find him - use items from around home
- Build a birdhouse and paint it
- Make jewelry - like bead necklaces or friendship bracelets
- Create mosaics from scraps of colored paper
- Make a scrapbook using photos, drawings, school projects, etc.
- Make birthday cards for family members
- Color, draw, paint
- Take a picture book and cover up the text - have your child create their own story
- Make your own play dough - find a simple recipe online

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

- Plant and explore in the garden
- Go fishing, go puddle jumping
- Take a walk/hike - discuss things you see, look for animals, take photos
- Teach your dog a new trick
- Explore nature - identify trees, flowers, weeds, etc.
- Run a lemonade stand
- Go on a bike ride, play catch, go skating
- Play on the playground, play hopscotch
- Go swimming, go camping
- Name that rock, insect, plant, flower, etc.
- Measure your shadow
- Find, house, and feed a caterpillar to watch it transform into a butterfly
- Create a chalk town on your driveway