

## Summer Reading

The most important thing you can do to help your child's academic development over the summer is to read to them every day for 20 minutes. This aids in their letter-sound recognition, comprehension skills, word acquisition, and so many more "pre-reading" skills. Below we have a list of suggested books. Please use it as a guide throughout the summer as you spend cuddle time with your little treasure. These are just a few favorites... there are too many excellent books to list. We also want to encourage you to take advantage of our Summer Library hours. This provides a great time for you and your child to check out books from the library.

*My Teacher Sleeps in School* (Weiss)

*Guess How Much I Love You* (McBratney)

*Chicka Chicka 1,2,3* (Martin)

*Corduroy* (Freeman)

*Goodnight Moon* (Brown)

*Good Day, Good Night* (Singer)

*The Little Engine That Could* (Piper)

*Mama, Do You Love Me?* (Joose)

*Love You Forever* (Munsch)

*Curious George* (Rey)

*Madeline* (Bemelmans)

*Click, Clack, Moo: Cows that Type* (Cronin)

*The Wolf's Chicken Stew* (Kasza)

*Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* (Steig)

*Farmer Duck* (Waddell)

Clifford series

Mercer Mayer series

Bernstein Bear series

Puppy Mudge series

Arthur series

Franklin series

Froggy series

Max Lucado bug series

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## Hickory Valley Christian School

# A Summer of Learning Opportunities for K-4



# Can preparing for K-4 actually be fun?

You bet! We are sooo excited to have the opportunity to work with your child this coming Fall. Within this brochure, you will find a variety of suggested activities and books to use during those long summer days with your young one. These activities are meant to address a variety of skills in a natural manner- we're not talking worksheets. Research has found that children tend to retain information better by actually engaging in a task and applying the skill in a "real-life" manner. This also provides a "fun" vehicle for learning. We have divided these activities into four categories: life skills, fine motor development, academic ventures, and summer reading suggestions. Please note that the first two categories tend to be the most pivotal in preparing your child for a successful year in K-4.

## **Life Skill Activities- These are basic skills that foster independence.**

- Practice all components of a potty routine (child initiated trips, undressing, wiping, flushing, re-dressing, and washing hands). It is ok if these tasks are not completed in a perfect manner, but attempts to complete all tasks should be made.
- Practice effectively blowing one's nose. (Special Agent Oso has an excellent episode dealing with this task!) Remind your child that we wash our hands after blowing our nose as well.
- Practice putting on shoes and clothes (This includes buttoning, snapping, and zipping. Some students are even ready to practice tying.)

- Implement proper hand washing techniques. One easy way to get a child to wash his/her hands an appropriate length of time is to have him/her sing "The Birthday Song" as they wash. We will be practicing washing front, back, and in between as we wash our hands this year.

## **Fine Motor Activities- These are activities that serve as a precursor to handwriting. They serve to develop the muscles within these young hands.**

- Tearing- This is a precursor to scissoring. It strengthens hand muscles while allowing a child to create their own confetti. Old newspaper works well for this.
- Scissoring- Allow your child to practice using scissors. They may practice on any paper item. Old newspapers and magazines work especially well for little snippings. This is an activity that tends to require adult supervision for both safety and correct grasp assistance. Also, Melissa and Doug have a pair of scissors that only cut paper (no hair or cloth- we've tried)
- Gluing- Allow your child to make creations using the snippings and glue. Although we will be using both liquid glue and glue sticks in the classroom, glue sticks serve as a great introduction to glue around the home. Children love to create "books" using paper creations, glue, and markers/crayons.
- Stickers/Stamps/Markers/Crayons- These materials allow a child to generate colorful creations while still developing fine motor muscles.
- Playdough/Clay- These items allow a child to create three-dimensional creations as fine motor skills are improved. When using these mediums, encourage a child to make a variety of items (ex.- balls, snakes, a cube)
- Painting/Chalk- Depending on how these are used, paint and chalk can work both fine motor and gross motor muscles. For instance, sidewalk chalk works gross motor muscles. Writing on a small chalkboard, however, works fine motor skills. We would also encourage you to use a variety of mediums. Children can even paint with water on the side of a house or drive-

way. It is all about giving those muscles a workout!

An additional resource we've found is a set of inexpensive Kumon-brand books on folding, cutting, and gluing. We've found them at Target and Barnes and Noble, but they may be available elsewhere as well.

## **Academic Ventures- These are specific skills and fun activities that address academic content.**

Skill: Letter (uppercase and lowercase)/ basic sound recognition

Brainstorm things that begin with the letter sound. You might look for items in the grocery cart, at home, in the car, etc.

Skill: Color and shape recognition

Practice finding shapes and colors in the surrounding environment.

Skill: Number recognition through 10

Practice counting aloud everyday objects (stairs, cars in line before you, number of ants in a line, toys in the tub, etc.)

Play games like Candy Land and Go Fish that develop number sense.

Skill: Directional words

Use left and right in your terminology when going someplace or referring to an object.

Skill: Comparative thought

Set the table incorrectly (too many plates, not enough spoons) and have the child "help" figure out what is wrong and how to fix it.

Play the "What doesn't belong" game with household items. (Remember the *Sesame Street* song, "One of these things is not like the other. One of these things just doesn't belong...")

Additional activities:

Cooking- combines both math and reading skills

Working puzzles- develops spatial awareness

Using maps and a calendar with trips- develops spatial awareness and sense of time