

August

IN AN EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM

Children get excited about a new school year. This is a great time to focus on how you will be involved in your child's early learning program. Think about the ways you can show support for your child and his school. Even if you work during the day, there are still many ways to get involved. Be sure to ask!

Children need to develop personal and social skills as they interact with other children and adults in the school or program environment. Encourage your child to engage with you in play activities and practice self-help skills. Allow children to explore lots of art materials and activities to develop their creative expression skills.

Looking for a child care or
early learning program?

Search at
findchildcare.pa.gov/



me book

INFANT

Add a picture of your baby taken
at the child care center.

TODDLER

Ask your toddler to draw a
picture of their school.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Ask your preschooler to find
pictures (or use photos from
school activities) of school
related activities to glue onto a
page about school.

KINDERGARTEN

Ask your kindergartner to
choose one item that they bring
home from school each marking
period to add to the *Me Book*.

The resource *Be Your Child's
Champion* has suggestions you
can use when talking with
your child's early learning
teacher.

Find it at
www.papromiseforchildren.com.



Activity 1: FOLLOWING RULES

Key Learning Area: Social and Emotional Development

INFANT: Maintain a regular and consistent schedule with your baby. Try to keep naps, feedings and play at regular times each day.

TODDLER: Keep rules simple and easy to understand for toddlers, and help your toddler follow the rules. Remind your child of the rules and demonstrate and help him if necessary. For example, help to clean up toys when it is time to clean up. Remind him of the rule, and why it's important and the consequence for not following the rule. "We need to clean up our toys to take good care of them. If we don't clean up the toys, we can't play outside."

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Use clear directions about helping your preschooler complete tasks before moving to the next. For example, "When you have cleaned up your toys, you may play outside." Enforce the consequence (not playing outside) if the toys are not cleaned up.

KINDERGARTEN: Ask for a copy of the classroom rules from your kindergarten's teachers. Talk about these rules at home, and if possible, introduce them to use in your own home. For example, washing hands before a meal, no hitting, or using an inside voice.



Activity 3: MUSIC ALL AROUND

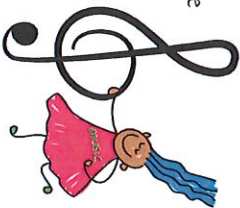
Key Learning Area: Creative Thinking and Expression

INFANT: Play quiet and gentle music as your baby settles in for a nap or at bedtime. Play music in the car or while you are completing activities.

TODDLER: Listen to and sing children's songs by artists like Raffi and Red Grammar while driving in the car or while you are completing activities (like housekeeping or cooking).

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Change the words to a favorite song to make it silly. Can your preschooler make some silly changes, too? Act out funny or silly songs with your preschooler.

KINDERGARTEN: Put on some of your favorite music and dance with your kindergartner. Encourage him to move in any way that is comfortable.



Activity 2: PUPPETS AND DOLLS

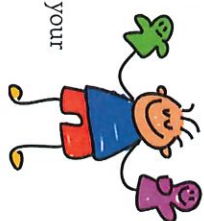
Key Learning Area: Creative Thinking and Expression

INFANT: Use a puppet and interact with your baby. Use voices and movements that will engage her.

TODDLER: Provide dolls with accessories like blankets and bottles for your toddler to use to take care of his "baby."

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Read a story about a family. Ask your preschooler to act out the story with dolls, puppets or other toys. (Fairy tales, Three Little Kittens, or Three Billy Goats Gruff are great examples.)

KINDERGARTEN: Provide puppets for your kindergartner to create and perform plays. If your child doesn't want to perform using the puppets, ask her about the puppets. What are their names? What do they like to do? Can they sing or dance? Have your child show you!



Activity 4: MAKING CONNECTIONS

Key Learning Area: Partnerships for Learning

INFANT: Attend a parent conference with your infant's teacher to understand more about her daily activities.

TODDLER: Share new milestones with your early learning provider as your toddler achieves them (like new words, toileting procedures, etc.).

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Role play school activities with your preschooler such as riding the bus, going to the cafeteria, or lining up. Talk about the things that might occur and help him problem solve issues.

KINDERGARTEN: Assist in at least two classroom activities. If you work during the day, ask the teacher if there are ways you can help at home, in the evening or at special events.



AUGUST SUGGESTED BOOKS

Stripes of All Types by Susan Stockdale

Dinosaur Roar by Paul & Henrietta Stickland

Do I Have To Go To School? – A first look at Starting School by Pat Thomas

If You Take a Mouse to School by Laura Numeroff

Now...For My Next Number Songs for Multiplying Fun

by Margaret Peck

My Teacher Sleeps in School by Leattie Weiss

Wemberly Worried by Kevin Henkes

My Kindergarten by Rosemary Wells

Going to my Nursery School by Susan Kuklin

What Did you Do Today? The First Day of School

by Toby Forward

Elizabeth's School by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen

School by Emily Arnold McCully

Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come! by Nancy Carlson

Countdown to Kindergarten by Alison McGhee

For more ideas visit www.papromiseforchildren.com