



Links to Learning

SEPTEMBER BEGINNERS

Links to Home: Shared Activities for Parents & Children

This month, your child will practice size, color and shape vocabulary, repeat numbers 1-10, and follow two-step directions.

Here are some suggested activities to practice these skills with your child:

- Place a sponge, a cotton ball and an ice cube on the table. Have your child touch each item and describe how the items look. "What color is the cotton ball?" or "What shape is the sponge?"
- Look for opportunities to have your child follow two-step directions. For example, when you are going outside say, "Put away your toy and get your jacket."
- Walk up the steps with your child. Count your steps from 1 to 10.





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OCTOBER BEGINNERS

Links to Home: Shared Activities for Parents & Children

This month, your child will answer “what,” “where” and “yes/no” questions, identify one object versus many, and learn the names of community helpers.

Here are some suggested activities to practice these skills with your child:

- Place one cracker and a group of three crackers in front of your child. Ask him to point to one cracker. If he answers correctly, ask him to point to many crackers.
- Take a drive with your child and play a game of “I Spy.” Ask him to point out different community helpers, for example, police officers, firefighters and postal workers.
- Read a favorite book to your child. Afterwards, ask him “what/where” questions about the characters. “What toy did the boy want?” or “Where did the boy go?”





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NOVEMBER BEGINNERS

Links to Home: Shared Activities for Parents & Children

This month, your child will learn basic shapes, work on understanding same versus different, and identify his favorite foods.

Here are some suggested activities to practice these skills with your child:

- Look through a book or magazine with your child. Ask him to find and point to various shapes, including squares, circles and triangles.
- Place three blue blocks and one red block in front of your child. Ask him which blocks are the same and which are different.
- Go grocery shopping with your child. Ask him to name and point to a few of his favorite foods.





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DECEMBER BEGINNERS

Links to Home: Shared Activities for Parents & Children

This month, your child will continue to use descriptive words, understand the concept of three, and share her family holiday traditions.

Here are some suggested activities to practice these skills with your child:

- Go on a color hunt with your child. Walk through your home and ask her to find items of a certain color. Afterwards, ask your child to describe the items she found.
- Reinforce the concept of three throughout the day. At mealtime, give her three pieces of food. Count to three as she eats each piece.
- Gather some family photos and point out activities that are family traditions (i.e. unwrapping presents, eating holiday dinner, making a snowman). Encourage your child to talk about what she sees in the photos.





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JANUARY BEGINNERS

Links to Home: Shared Activities for Parents & Children

This month, your child will practice retelling familiar stories in her own words, understand the concept of four, and learn names for types of locations (i.e. beach, park, mountains).

Here are some suggested activities to practice these skills with your child:

- Reinforce the concept of four throughout the day. For example, ask your child to place four napkins on the table, find four red blocks, or gather four stuffed animals.
- Show your child pictures of different types of places (i.e. a beach, a park, a mountain) and ask her to identify them.
- Read a favorite book to your child. Afterwards, ask her to “read” the story back to you. By retelling a favorite story, your child is building her recall and sequencing skills.





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FEBRUARY BEGINNERS

Links to Home: Shared Activities for Parents & Children

This month, your child will learn to connect the events in stories to her own life experiences, match animals with their sounds, and continue identifying shapes and colors.

Here are some suggested activities to practice these skills with your child:

- Read a book to your child that features an activity that you recently did together, such as walking in the park or visiting a zoo. Afterwards, ask your child questions that connect the event in the story to an event in her life. "Did the zoo in the book look the same as the zoo that we recently visited?"
- Ask your child to make the sounds of different animals, such as dogs, cats and cows. Reverse the activity by asking, "Which animal says meow?"
- Look at the pictures in your child's favorite book. Help your child find shapes in the pictures, and ask her to name the shapes and their colors.





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MARCH BEGINNERS

Links to Home: Shared Activities for Parents & Children

This month, your child will answer “what” and “where” questions, understand the concept of five, and identify the names of family members.

Here are some suggested activities to practice these skills with your child:

- Ask your child “what” and “where” questions. “What did you eat for lunch today?” or “Where did we go after school today?”
- Share family photos with your child and ask him to name the people in each photo. When he sees himself, ask him to say his own name.
- Reinforce the concept of five whenever possible. For example, ask your child to gather five blocks or pick up five pieces of paper.





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APRIL BEGINNERS

Links to Home: Shared Activities for Parents & Children

This month, your child will recognize her first name in print, identify aspects of nature that we associate with spring, and create art using basic shapes.

Here are some suggested activities to practice these skills with your child:

- Label some of your child's belongings with his name. Point to the name and ask your child, "Whose name is this?" When you drop him off to school, ask him to locate his cubby by looking for his name.
- Cut out several squares, triangles and circles. Give your child the shapes, along with a piece of paper and glue. Let her create a masterpiece using as many shapes as possible. When your child is finished, ask her to name the different shapes she used.
- Go for a walk and play "I Spy" with your child. Ask her to find items associated with spring, for example "I spy a red flower" or "I spy a blue bird."





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MAY BEGINNERS

Links to Home: Shared Activities for Parents & Children

This month, your child will practice using spatial vocabulary, matching items by color and size, and sharing details about recent family events.

Here are some suggested activities to practice these skills with your child:

- Take one of your child's toys and place it near a piece of furniture. Ask your child questions that prompt him to use spatial vocabulary, for example, "Where is your teddy bear hiding?" Listen to words such as under, next to, on top of and near.
- Prompt your child to share details about recent events with you. Ask questions such as, "Do you remember when we went to Grandma's house? What did we do there?"
- As you fold laundry, ask your child to sort clothing items by color and size.





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JUNE BEGINNERS

Links to Home: Shared Activities for Parents & Children

This month, your child will identify events that occur in the beginning and at the end of stories, continue naming shapes, and discuss summertime activities.

Here are some suggested activities to practice these skills with your child:

- Before reading one of your child's favorite books, ask her to tell you about what happens in the beginning and at the end of the story. You may need to show pictures from the book to help your child remember.
- Talk with your child about activities you can do together in the summer, for example, going to the beach, swimming in the pool and playing on the playground.
- Go for a walk with your child. Ask her to find and point to various shapes, for example, a door that is a rectangle or a roof that makes a triangle.





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JULY BEGINNERS

Links to Home: Shared Activities for Parents & Children

This month, your child will feel and describe different textures and temperatures, name the shapes of three-dimensional objects, and identify objects found at the beach.

Here are some suggested activities to practice these skills with your child:

- As you are preparing a meal, allow your child to touch several items (i.e. a piece of bread, a carrot, a piece of whole wheat cereal). Ask him to describe the texture of each item. Is the food hard or soft, bumpy or smooth?
- Gather various objects, such as a basketball and a block. Ask your child to name the shape of each item.
- Give your child paint, a paint brush, paper and a smock. Ask him to paint a picture of the beach. Afterwards, encourage him to talk about what he painted.





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AUGUST BEGINNERS

Links to Home: Shared Activities for Parents & Children

This month, your child will learn the words to familiar songs, follow multi-step directions, and name places in her community (i.e. a park, a school, a grocery store).

Here are some suggested activities to practice these skills with your child:

- Ask your child to follow multi-step directions, for example “Pick up your toy, put it in the bucket, and sit down for dinner.”
- Go for a walk with your child and point to familiar places in your community (i.e. a park, a school, a grocery store). Ask your child to identify each location.
- Sing familiar songs with your child. When you get to a portion of the song that is repeated, pause and listen to whether your child can fill in the missing words.

