



## Links to Learning

### 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.



# Here's what your child experienced this month.

Each month's Links to Learning activities build on the month before, connecting previously learned skills with new learning. These activities include the essentials of language and math, along with a variety of other skills.



## Links to Learning

<b>JANUARY – BEGINNER</b>	
<b>📖 Language and Literacy</b>	<b>📚 Science and Social Studies</b>
COMMUNICATION	SCIENCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speaks using a variety of vocabulary</li> <li>Understands simple pronouns</li> <li>Asks “why” and “what” questions</li> <li>Answers “what,” “where,” and “yes-no” questions</li> <li>Verbally states first and last name</li> <li>Follows two-step directions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explores water and ice</li> <li>Matches parent to baby animals (big to little)</li> <li>Identifies daily weather (hot, cold)</li> <li>Describes temperature (hot/warm, cold)</li> </ul>
LITERACY	SOCIAL STUDIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognizes first name in print</li> <li>Acquires new vocabulary through shared reading experiences</li> <li>Retells a familiar story in own words</li> <li>Connects events in story to own life</li> <li>Talks about characters and events in a story</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognizes and identifies common places in the community (beach, park, mountains)</li> </ul>
WRITING	DIVERSITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begins to hold a crayon or other writing utensil correctly</li> <li>Makes horizontal and vertical lines on paper</li> <li>Makes circular marks on paper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies age</li> <li>Identifies characteristics of self (hair color, gender, eye color)</li> </ul>
<b>🔢 Mathematics</b>	<b>🎨 Creative Expression</b>
NUMBERS AND NUMBER SENSE	MUSIC AND MUSICIANS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repeats numbers 1-20</li> <li>Understands the number concept of four</li> <li>Counts items in groups of 1-4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Makes simple musical instruments</li> <li>Moves body expressively with music</li> <li>Listens to music attentively</li> <li>Sings familiar songs</li> </ul>
GEOMETRY AND RELATIONSHIPS	ART AND ARTISTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Names shapes and colors (primary and some secondary)</li> <li>Does simple matching of color, shapes, and objects</li> <li>Sorts a few objects based on color, shape, or size</li> <li>Matches a picture of an object to an object</li> <li>Understands big and little</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paints with an object other than a paintbrush (e.g. ice cubes)</li> <li>Explores and creates multi-sensory art (scent, texture)</li> <li>Draws a picture that has a defined shape</li> <li>Uses a glue stick</li> </ul>
PROBLEM SOLVING AND REASONING	DRAMATIC PLAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completes 3- to 10-piece puzzles</li> <li>Answers simple questions about what comes next in simple, familiar tasks</li> <li>Explains everyday occurrences using simple reasoning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acts out scenes and events from the weekly book</li> <li>Recreates winter experiences using a variety of props</li> </ul>

**(continued on back)**

# JANUARY – BEGINNER (continued from front)

🏃 Wellness	🧠 Social-Emotional
FINE MOTOR SKILLS	SELF-HELP SKILLS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses safety scissors</li> <li>• Stacks 3-6 blocks</li> <li>• Uses snaps, buttons, and zippers</li> <li>• Picks up small objects with control</li> <li>• Fits objects together and takes them apart (Duplo Blocks)</li> <li>• Laces lacing cards with support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removes shoes</li> <li>• Attempts to put shoes back on</li> <li>• Separates easily from parents</li> <li>• Engages in clean-up routines including clearing spot after eating</li> <li>• Verbalizes need for a diaper change or bathrooming</li> <li>• Expresses needs and wants</li> <li>• Accepts changes in routine with proper preparation</li> </ul>
GROSS MOTOR AND BALANCE	SOCIAL INTERACTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throws a bean bag at a target</li> <li>• Stacks large objects</li> <li>• Sits with legs criss-crossed</li> <li>• Walks along a straight line</li> <li>• Begins to attempt pedaling on tricycles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to show empathy towards the feelings of others</li> <li>• Shows varied feelings</li> <li>• Labels some emotions in self (happy, sad, angry)</li> <li>• Initiates play interactions with peers</li> <li>• Begins to share toys when asked</li> </ul>
HEALTH, SAFETY, AND NUTRITION	🌍 Citizens of the World
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coughs into elbow</li> <li>• Follows simple hand-washing procedures</li> <li>• Recognizes and responds to fire alarm (and other disaster alarms, if appropriate)</li> <li>• Talk about the importance of exercise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduced to new Spanish vocabulary</li> <li>• Reviews previously acquired Spanish vocabulary</li> <li>• Explores animals from around the world</li> </ul>