



Links to Learning

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."



Here's what your child experienced this month.





Links to Learning

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.

APRIL – BEGINNER	
🗨️ Language and Literacy	📖 Science and Social Studies
COMMUNICATION	SCIENCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaks using a variety of vocabulary Understands and uses plurals Begins to add "ed" to make past tense of words Follows two-step directions Speaks in a clear, audible voice Verbally states first and last name 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explores rainbows Explores animal-connected textures (bunny fur, crab shell, snakeskin) Describes texture Explores insects
LITERACY	SOCIAL STUDIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognizes first name in print Acquires new vocabulary through shared reading experiences Answers questions about a story Retells a familiar story in own words Connects events in story to own life Identifies the beginning of a story 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talks about keeping the classroom and environment clean
WRITING	DIVERSITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holds a crayon or other writing utensil correctly Draws an arc on paper Makes scribble marks that resemble some letter forms on paper "Reads" own writing aloud 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies age Identifies characteristics of self (hair color, gender, eye color)
123 Mathematics	🎨 Creative Expression
NUMBERS AND NUMBER SENSE	MUSIC AND MUSICIANS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counts from 1–20 Understands the number concepts of one to five Counts items in groups of 1–5 Uses fingers to represent numbers 1–5 Tells which is one and which is many 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claps an ABAB rhythmic pattern with music (hand-knees-hand-knees) Sings familiar songs Moves body expressively with music Identifies music as fast or slow
GEOMETRY AND RELATIONSHIPS	ART AND ARTISTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Names shapes and colors (primary and most secondary) Does simple matching of color, shapes, and objects Matches shapes regardless of orientation (e.g. triangle and upside-down triangle) Matches simple 3D shapes to simple 2D shapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates 3D art using various materials Paints on a vertical surface (fence, classroom wall, easel) Creates art using basic shapes
PROBLEM SOLVING AND REASONING	DRAMATIC PLAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completes 3- to 10-piece puzzles Repeats simple ABAB patterns Explains everyday occurrences using simple reasoning Uses picture references and deductive reasoning to determine who is and is not present at school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engages in pretend play connected to the weekly story Dramatizes movements of different animals

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APRIL – BEGINNER (continued from front)

 Wellness	 Social-Emotional
FINE MOTOR SKILLS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strings large beads • Puts small objects in openings with increasing control • Squeezes and manipulates Play-Doh • Uses safety scissors • Removes and adheres stickers to paper • Laces lacing cards with support 	SELF-HELP SKILLS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removes shoes • Attempts to put shoes back on • Uses an open cup with control • Begins to follow bathrooming procedures • Expresses needs and wants
GROSS MOTOR AND BALANCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tries to balance on one foot • Kicks a ball without falling • Throws a ball at a target • Tries to catch a ball • Does simple exercises 	SOCIAL INTERACTION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labels some emotions in self and others (happy, sad, angry) • Initiates play interactions with peers • Begins to take turns when asked • Maintains attention to an activity for 5 minutes
HEALTH, SAFETY, AND NUTRITION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies a variety of foods • Talks about the importance of exercise • Accepts water as a drink option • Follows some playground safety rules 	Citizens of the World <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced to new Spanish vocabulary • Reviews previously acquired Spanish vocabulary • Explores animals from around the world