Rising to 1st Grade: Summer Activities

Reading/Writing (Required)

Read the following stories: **Rain School** by James Rumford, **Library Lion** by Michelle Knudsen, and **Poppleton** by Cynthia Rylant. Though some students may be able to read these independently, parents may read all the books to their child. Think about what all the books have in common. We will talk about the books and the themes the first few months of school.

Parents, please read to your child every day. It helps them with language, vocabulary, imagination, and it is a special time of connection between you and your son or daughter.

Reading Activities - Choose two:

1. Create a painting or a model about one of these books. Write a list of what you used to make the painting. Explain why you chose that particular book. Students may dictate answers to an adult. Write one-two sentences about the picture/model (Who/what is in the picture? Where is it? What is happening?) This should be completed with as much independence as possible, please.

2. Choose a book you have not read before from home, a bookstore, or the library. Answer the following questions in writing:
   - What do you notice (see) on the cover?
   - What do you wonder about the story? (What are you curious about)?
   - What is the title?
   - Who is the author?
   - Is there an illustrator? What is the name?

After reading the story, write about your favorite part (What was your favorite part and why?). Students may dictate answers to an adult. Create a movie poster about the story: include the main character, smaller pictures of different events in the story, words to describe the story). You can either make it a black and white poster with black and white decorations around the edges, or make it colorful with decorative trim.

Create a mini book for us to read at school (5-7 pages long - basically a page per week of summer vacation). You can either take photographs of your favorite characters or events or draw a picture. For each page, please write 2-3 sentences which connect to the photo/drawing. Create a story from start to finish. Decorate a cover and create a title and include the author - YOU! :) 

Be creative with photographs - maybe you can make your characters out of Legos, play-dough, pipe cleaners, shaving cream. Use your imagination.

4. Create a summer scrapbook. Ask your parents to take 5-7 photographs of you during the summer. Use different art scraps to create your scrapbook. Under each photo, describe where you are, who else is in the picture, and what you are doing.

5. Choose any book you have read during your year in kindergarten. Reread the story by yourself or with an adult. Now, write a different ending or add another chapter. Draw 2-3 pictures or create a movie. You can choose friends and act it out.

Math

Card Games (you can google directions for these if you need to):
- War
- Go Fish
- Odd and Even (stack cards in an even pile or odd pile)

Computer Games:
- Flash Interactive – Fuel the Brain
- Tens Frames Fun Flash – You Tube
- Mathdrills.com (math facts and fluency)

Puzzles: Not only are they fun, but puzzles also build problem solving and cognitive abilities. Have your child make their own puzzle by drawing a picture on tag board. Outline puzzle pieces on finished drawing, cut them out and have you or your child put the puzzle together.

Water Balloon Math: This water balloon learning activity is the perfect game for a hot summer day. It’ll give kids the chance to cool off with a burst of water while they learn a little math in the process. Make waterproof “targets” that have numbers on them (2 - 20, or higher if your child is ready for that). Then give your child addition or subtraction problems. They simply calculate the problem and throw the balloon to the correct answer target.

Make 3-D shapes using marshmallows and toothpicks. Count the angles and vertices. Take a picture of your creations.
Make Ice Cream in a Bag – follow a recipe (find on google), paying attention to the measurements. Find someone to share the ice cream with!

**Grocery Store:**
- You Drive Me Crackers - While in the grocery store see how many different shaped crackers you can find. Predict before you go. Will there be more squares, ovals, rectangles or circles? What other shapes do you see? See which one has more, less.

- Go on a 3-D shape scavenger hunt - Look for cubes, cylinders, cones, rectangular prisms and spheres.

Please bring the projects the first day of school - please not before, especially on Meet and Greet/Supply day. If your model is too big to bring in, you can take a photo and share that instead. Movies can be sent to me on the first day of school to share.

We are excited to see what creativity you are going to bring to first grade! Happy summer!