



Summer Blast

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Reading

Math

Writing

Art
Puzzles

and more!



Welcome to Summer Blast!

Dear Family,

Welcome to *Summer Blast: Getting Ready for Kindergarten*. Kindergarten will be an exciting and challenging year for your child. There will be plenty of new learning opportunities. Your child will need your support as he or she moves through the kindergarten year.

Summer Blast was designed to help your child prepare for the year ahead. The activities are based on today's standards and provide practice with essential skills for the upcoming grade level. Practicing reading, writing, and math skills will help your child get off to a great start for the upcoming school year. Since your child is developing his or her skills, it is important that you work through the activities in this book with him or her. With your help, this book will help your child BLAST off to kindergarten!

Keep these tips in mind as you work with your child this summer:

- ◆ Set aside a specific time each day to work on the activities.
- ◆ Have your child complete one page each time he or she works, rather than an entire week's worth of activity pages at one time.
- ◆ Keep all practice sessions with your child positive and constructive. If the mood becomes tense or you and your child get frustrated, set the book aside and find another time to practice.
- ◆ As your child is developing his or her reading skills, help him or her with the directions for the activities. If your child is having difficulty understanding what to do, work through some of the problems together.
- ◆ Encourage your child to do his or her best work and compliment the effort that goes into learning.

Enjoy spending time with your child during his or her vacation from school, and be sure to help him or her prepare for the next school year. Kindergarten will be here before you know it!

What Does Your Rising Kindergartener Need to Know?

- 1 Begin sounding out simple words.
- 2 Identify and say rhyming words.
- 3 Recognize and name some upper- and lowercase letters.
- 4 Follow reading from left to right, and turn pages in order.
- 5 Use illustrations to retell stories, including important details (characters, setting, problem and solution).
- 6 Ask and answer questions about important details in a book.
- 7 Participate in conversations, offering opinions, ideas, and feelings.
- 8 Name and write numbers 1–20.
- 9 Count to 100 (by 1s and 10s).
- 10 Describe characteristics of shapes seen in their world (2-D and 3-D).



Things to Do as a Family

General Skills

- ◆ Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep. Children this age need between 9–11 hours of sleep each night. Even in the summer, establish a nightly bedtime routine that involves relaxing activities such as a warm shower or bath or reading a story.
- ◆ Help your child become organized and responsible by setting a good example for him or her. Have places to keep important things. Make to-do lists of your chores or errands. When your child sees you taking the time to organize and set aside time for these things, he or she will recognize that organization and responsibility are important to practice.

Reading Skills

- ◆ Create an alphabet book with your child. Go through old magazines, newspapers, advertisements, etc. to find an image for each letter of the alphabet. Help your child cut out the images and glue them into an alphabet book of their very own.
- ◆ Set a reading time for the entire family at least every other day. Have your child read familiar words or letters. Point to words that he or she may already know (or words that are similar to ones he or she already knows) and have him or her sound them out.

Writing Skills

- ◆ Since children this age are just learning to write, introduce writing as a fun activity instead of a boring task or assignment. Have your child practice learning the shapes of letters through sensory activities. For example, you could pour an impressionable substance (this could be salt, flour, sugar, pudding, shaving cream, etc.) into a cookie tray and let kids get their hands messy while learning to write individual letters.
- ◆ Supply your child with writing tools that better fit his or her hands to help develop his or her fine motor skills. Normal-length pencils are often too large and are awkward for smaller hands to hold. Golf pencils, broken crayons, and small markers work especially well and will make writing more comfortable.

Mathematics Skills

- ◆ Help your child practice counting, whenever possible. You can do this in everyday situations like counting the number of stairs or steps, counting how many silverware pieces are at the dinner table, etc.
- ◆ Involve your child in grocery shopping. Ask him or her to help solve basic mathematical problems. For example, “I have two apples in my hands. You have two apples in yours. How many apples do we have altogether?”

Table of Contents

Introduction

Welcome Letter	4
Helpful Family Resources	5

Weekly Activities

Week 1 Activities	13
Week 2 Activities	23
Week 3 Activities	33
Week 4 Activities	43
Week 5 Activities	53
Week 6 Activities	63
Week 7 Activities	73
Week 8 Activities	83
Week 9 Activities	93

Appendices

Appendix A: Activity Cards	103
Appendix B: Answer Key	119
Appendix C: Parent Handbook	123



Week 1

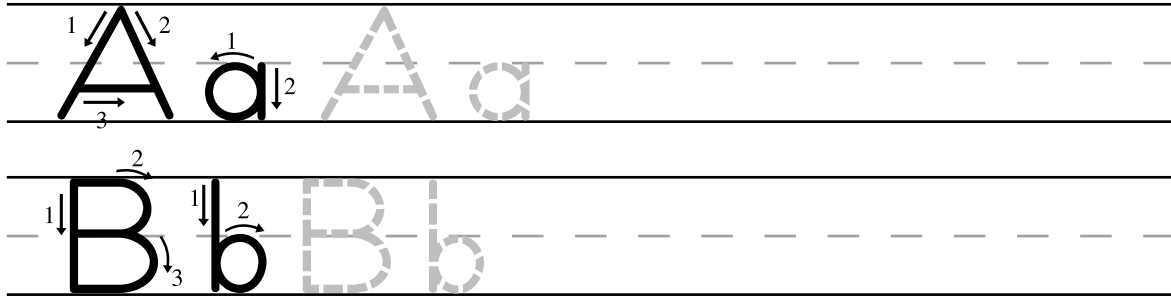
This week, let's blast through summer learning loss by:

- ◆ practicing with letters of the alphabet
- ◆ reading and responding about pirates
- ◆ illustrating yummy treats
- ◆ creating dotted letters
- ◆ matching colors to numbers
- ◆ counting to ten
- ◆ saying shape names
- ◆ connecting the dots
- ◆ playing rhyme games



Practice A and B

Directions: Trace and write the letters.



Directions: Color the *Aa*'s red. Color the *Bb*'s blue.

A

a

b

b

a

B

C

B

A

X Marks the Spot

Directions: Listen to an adult read the story. Then, talk about the questions.



"Argh!" yells Captain Max.
"Where is my treasure box?"



"Try the map," says Polly.
"X marks the spot!"



Just then, the wind blows. The
X on the map is gone.

"The X isn't a treasure. It's a
crumb!" says Polly.

"Argh!" cries Max.



- 1 Who is in the story?
- 2 Where does the story happen?
- 3 What happens in the story?

Favorite Treat

Directions: Draw a treat. Trace the word.
Share your drawing.

treat

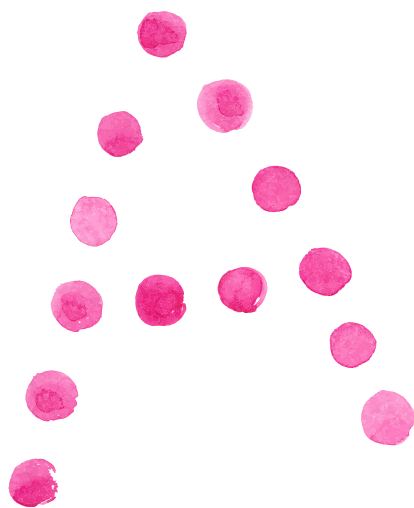
Talk About It!

What did you draw? Why did you draw that? What details can you add?

Dot Art

Materials

- ◆ white paper
- ◆ paint
- ◆ a cotton swab (or a pencil with an eraser tip)



Directions

- 1 Write the letter your name begins with on a sheet of paper. Write it as large as possible.
- 2 Talk about words that begin with the letter.
- 3 Dip a cotton swab in the paint. Tap the cotton swab along the lines of the letter to form dots. Make dots on all the lines of the letter.
- 4 Allow the paint to dry. Then, share your art with a friend.
- 5 You may wish to repeat these steps for other letters in the alphabet.

House Number Match

Directions: Color the picture.

Color Code

1 = red

3 = blue

5 = brown

2 = yellow

4 = green

6 = black



Crazy Counting

Directions: Count.

- 1 Count to 10 in a "baby" voice.



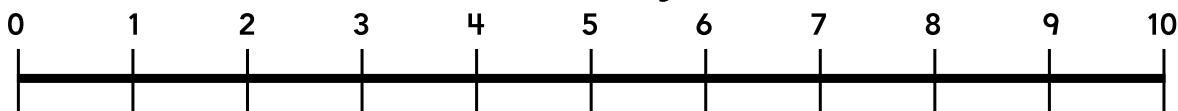
- 2 Count to 10 in a "scary" voice.



- 3 Count to 10 in a "silly" voice.

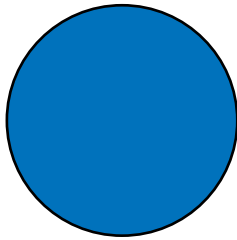


- 4 Point to the numbers as you count.



Shapes Everywhere!

Directions: Touch each shape. Say its name.



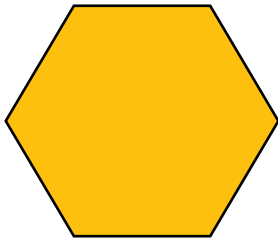
circle



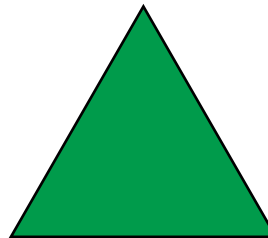
square



rectangle



hexagon



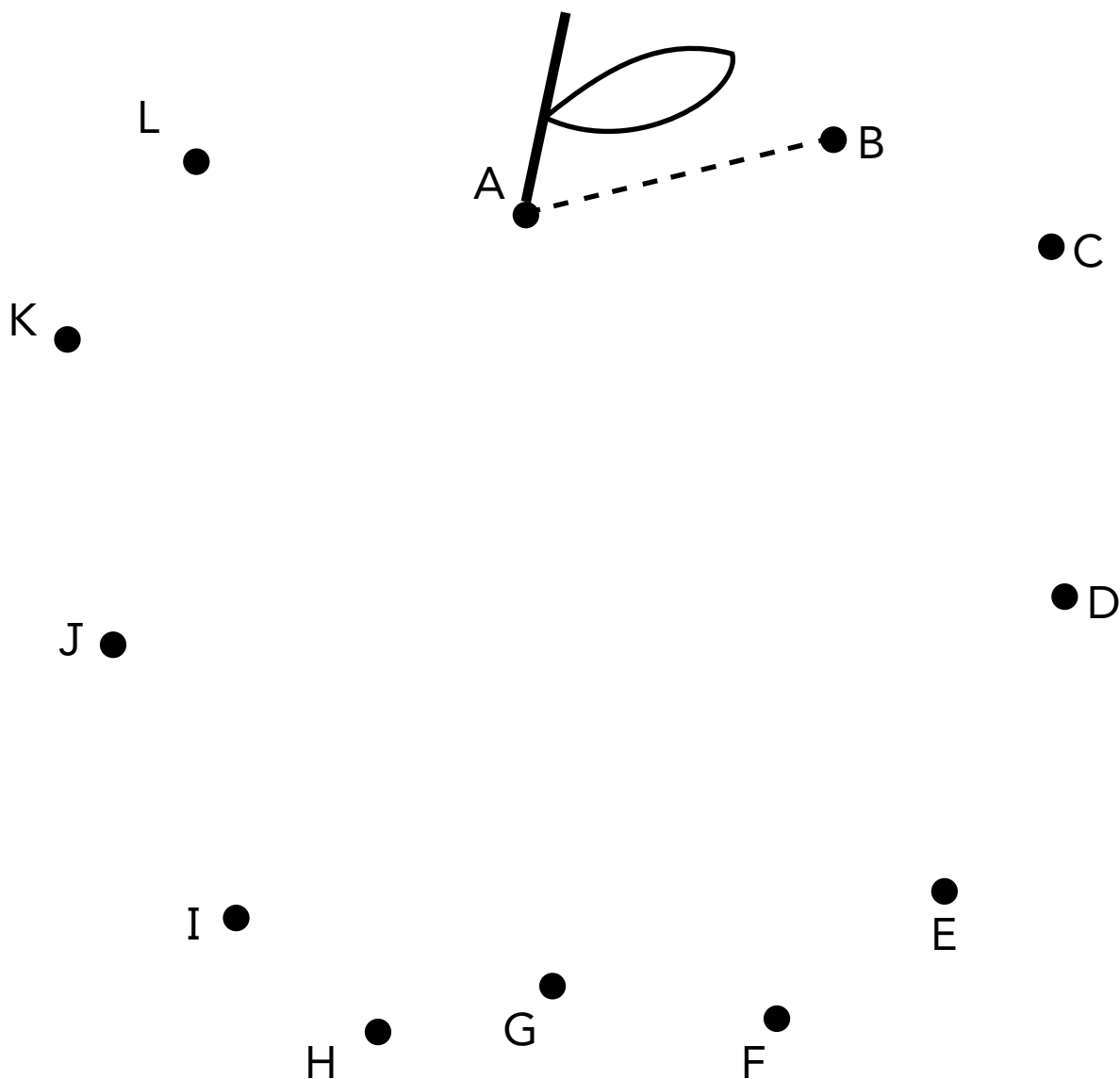
triangle



What sound does each shape's name start with?

Find the Picture

Directions: Sing the ABC song. Connect the dots. Color the picture.



Talk About It!

What different colors do apples come in?

Go Rhyme

Number of Players

2

Materials

- ◆ *Picture Cards Set 1* (page 103)
- ◆ *Picture Cards Set 2* (page 105)

Directions

- 1 Cut apart the Picture Cards Set 1 on page 103 or Picture Cards Set 2 on page 105. Shuffle and distribute them evenly to each player. **Note:** If you choose to play with more than two people, use both sets of cards.
- 2 Lay down any pairs of rhymes from the cards in your hand.
- 3 Take turns asking one another for words that rhyme with cards left in your hand.

"Do you have a card that rhymes with *fan*?"
- 4 If the other player has a card that rhymes, then the card must be given to the person asking.
- 5 Continue to play until all the rhyme pairs have been matched.
- 6 Challenge each other to think of another word that rhymes with each pair to make the game more difficult.