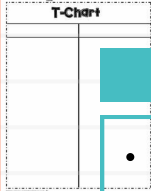




Monthly Family Activity Guide

JANUARY THEME: Compare and Contrast

Designed to help support learning and development at home inspired by the Frog Street curriculum used in the Springfield Public Schools preschool classrooms



Writers Corner

- Make a T-chart Label one side big and one side little. Encourage your child to list or draw items on that are big on one side of the chart and items that are little on the other side of the chart.
- Take a blank paper and draw capital letters (or have your child do it) on one side of the paper and lower-case letters on the opposite side. Have your child match capital and lower-case letters.

STEAM (Science, technology, engineering, art and math)

- Gather 2 pieces of paper, crayons or markers, string, scissors, a hole punch and tape. Design a small rocket ship out of paper and cut it out. Use the other paper to create a night scene (draw stars or a moon etc.). Punch a hole in the top and bottom of the paper towards the middle. Attach tape and string to the back of the rocket. Place string through the hole at the top and bottom and tie in the back. Blast your rocket ship up and down!

Math

- Gather two containers. Create a sorting game for items in your home that are opposites such as hard or soft, smooth or rough, shiny or dull etc. Label the containers and go on a scavenger hunt in your house. Have fun with it!
- Use math cubes to make a pattern. Show more or less using the cubes or pennies. Use the math cubes to measure; this pencil is 6 cubes long. Teach one to one correspondence by encouraging your child to count each block and touch it with their finger.

Creativity Station

- Make an opposite painting. Draw a line down the middle of the paper. Paint one side blue and the other side black. Draw stars and the moon on the black side to make the night sky and draw clouds or add cotton balls on the blue side. Compare and contrast what happens during the day vs. the night.
- Use different sized paint brushes to paint straight lines and observe the differences.

Outdoor

- Use outdoor materials to build a house like the three little pigs did. Use sticks, dried grass, soil or clay, bricks (blocks) and pebbles. Will your house withstand a wolf huffing and puffing on it? How can you make it stronger?

Science

- Gather supplies for an experiment. You will need a straw, an eyedropper (or a turkey baster), a paper fan, plastic bottle you can squeeze and anything else that may move air. Have your child help gather materials to experiment with such as blocks, cotton balls, feathers, tissue, paper, rocks, Legos, etc. Experiment blowing on the items with your breath and items listed above to see if they will move. What items moved, which ones did not? Why do you think you couldn't move them? How would they be able to be moved? What other items do you want to experiment with?

Calm (Social-emotional)

- Help your child learn to balloon breath. Have them raise their arms up and place them on top of their head. Inhale several breathes through their nose like they are smelling a flower while moving their hands upward as if they are filling the balloon. When their lungs are full have them release their breath with a pppbbbbb sound while bringing their arms back to the top of their head.



Sensory

- Gather two containers, fill one with dry material and the other with wet material. Ideas for wet and dry materials are oatmeal, cornstarch, sand, water with dry sponges and dry washcloths or dry paper towels. What did you notice was different between the wet material and the dry material?

What's in your bag and what to do with it!

In this month's bag you will receive:

- The book ***Big Dog Little Dog*** by *P.D. Eastman*. While reading point out the opposites on each page. You can encourage your child to act out some of the opposites while you read an example would be fast and slow or big and little.
- **30 Connecting math cubes** to make patterns with or build with. Use them to measure items in your home by connecting the blocks and holding the item up to them and then count them. Encourage your child to count by touching each block. Use them to help your child learn more and less. Count how many cubes of each color you have in your bag.
- **Art supplies** to make a rocket ship that can blast off using a pulley system that uses black cardstock, string, tape, copy of rocket ship to cut out, and stars. Follow the instructions on the Monthly Family Activity Guide on the other side of this paper.
- **Sight words on a ring** use these to help your child begin to recognize some sight words. You can open the ring up and give your child one of the words to look for in a book while you read or have them look through a book on their own. When your child hears the word have them do something fun like jump up or clap.
- **Monthly Family Learning Guide** with ideas for activities that go with the supplies in your kit.
- **Vocabulary words** here are some ideas on ways to use the vocabulary words. Find ways to use vocabulary words in conversation. Define what the word means. Say a word like make-believe and have your child close their eyes and think about a make-believe character. Have them describe their make-believe character; what does it look like, what color eyes do they have, how many legs do they have etc.
- **Foam dough** use this on your alphabet mats to form the letters. Encourage your child to use the dough to build 3d shapes (cylinder, sphere, cone, cube etc.).
- **Venn diagram** use this to help your child learn to compare and contrast. A Venn diagram has two circles that overlap in the middle to show what they have in common. You can also use with different sized objects like pom poms and sort small medium and large.
- **Family Connections letter** an overview of each week's theme with four hands-on activities.
- **Ways to teach opposites handout** to help understand the importance of teaching opposites.

***Use these items based on your own child's needs and skills. Please be aware that some items may be small, be sure to monitor your child.**