



# the discovery center

July 2023

## EVEN MORE EASY WAYS TO HAVE FUN THIS SUMMER!



### Activities To Share—Have a fun-filled summer!!! ☀️☀️☀️☀️Debbie

1— Painting with ice cubes is a nice, messy outdoor art activity. First, help your child add food coloring to water in ice cube trays. Make lots of different colors. Then insert popsicle sticks and freeze. Your child can paint on paper with the frozen cubes and watch the colors blend as the cubes melt.

2— Make a long, long, paper clip chain. How many paper clips long is a sheet of paper? A teddy bear? Your child?

3— Cut refrigerator biscuits into a variety of shapes. Your children can create imaginative designs by placing three or four shapes close together on a baking sheet. Bake as directed.

4— Save socks that have no mates. They have lots of uses— sock puppets; filling and emptying in the sand box; balls (roll one up inside the other).

5— Pack a picnic lunch for days when you have lots of errands. Enjoy it with your children at a park or playground.

6— Let your child wash fresh vegetables for dinner.

7— Layer sliced strawberries and yogurt in an ice cream cone for a special treat.

8— Pound nails part way into the flat surface of a tree stump, or the rind of a watermelon and let your child practice hammering them.

9— Use a chain link or picket fence for weaving. Supply your child with strips of cloth, paper, yarn, string, crepe paper streamers, etc. See what kinds of designs he can create. It's fun; you might want to join in!

### Summer Book List:

*A Summer Day* —Douglas Florian

*Jabari Jumps* —Gaia Cornwall

*The Summer Visitors*—Karel Hayes

*Amy Loves the Sun* —Lillian Hoban

*City in the Summer* —Schick

*One Hot Summer Day*—Nina Crews

*Ice Cream* —William Jaspersohn

*Carl's Summer Vacation*—Alexandra Day

*In My Treehouse* —Alice Schertle

*July* —James Stevenson

*A boy, a dog, and a frog*—Mercer Mayer

*On a Summer Day* —Lenski

*Make Mine Ice Cream* —Melvin Berger

*Summer Noisy Book* —Brown

*My Awesome Summer by P. Mantis*—Paul Meisel

*Arthur's Camp-Out* —Lillian Hoban

*Three Days on a River in a Red Canoe* —Vera Williams

*Home Field* —David Spohn

*Splash, Anna Hibiscus!*—Atinuke and Lauren Tobia

*Norman Plays Second Base* —Gault

*Summer days and Nights*—Wong Herbert Yee

*And Then Comes Summer*—Tom Brenner

*The Relatives Came*—Cynthia Rylant

*Harry By The Sea*—Gene Zion

*Blackout*—John Rocco

*Summertime in the Big Woods (My First Little House Books)*  
—Laura Ingalls Wilder

## Can Playing Prepare Children For Academic Success?

Imagine yourself standing just inside the doorway of a typical early childhood classroom. To your right, a group of children are playing with cars and trucks. Across the room a little girl has just taken a tub a Legos from the shelf. In front of you, two boys are about to make pretend birthday cakes with playdough. And to your left, a group is gathered around the sand table, digging and pouring. It all looks like fun, but will it help them get ready for elementary school? The answer is YES! The connection between play and later school success is strong, but often underestimated. It's sometimes easier to see how play supports physical or social/emotional development than how it builds a foundation for academic skills. But it does. And here are only a few examples:

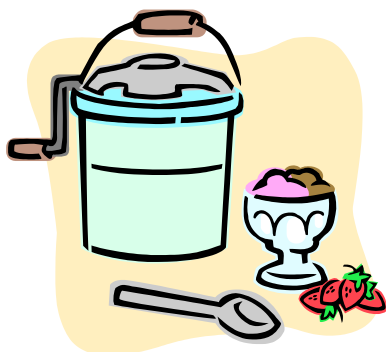
***Cars and Trucks— Figure-Ground Discrimination—the ability to pick out and concentrate on one item and separate it from the background.*** Arranging cars on a play mat in preschool, for example, builds a foundation for later being able to see a letter as part of a word or word as a meaningful part of a sentence. ***Visual Tracking—the ability to follow the movement of an object with one's eyes and guide it with one's hand.*** Practice in driving a toy truck along a road made of blocks helps to develop the coordination needed for guiding a pencil along a piece of paper. ***Grouping—the ability to figure out what characteristic several objects have in common.*** A child sorts through all the vehicles, searching for metal racing cars, rather than, say, plastic or wooden ones is preparing for mathematical set theory.

***Shelf Toys (Legos, pegboards, beads, etc.) - Seriation—the ability to determine what comes next in a series.*** A child creating a predictable sequence with blocks or beads is practicing a valuable math skill needed for understanding number patterns. ***Constancy—the ability to understand that a particular characteristic such as color or shape stays the same, even when other characteristics change.*** A child stringing beads soon discovers that round beads are always round no matter what their color or size. That paves the way for understanding that "A" and "a" are all the same letter. ***Control of muscles in fingertips.*** Toys that must be fitted together, arranged, and taken apart offer opportunities for strengthening and developing the muscles that will eventually be used in writing.

***Playdough—Matching—the ability to recognize how things correspond.*** A child who cuts a playdough shape with a cookie cutter and fits the shape back into the corresponding space is practicing a pre-reading skill that will enable them to discriminate differences and similarities among letters. ***Representation—the ability to see that one object can stand for or symbolize another.*** Knowing that a piece of playdough can represent a piece of pizza helps develop the idea that letters on a page can also represent real life.

It all sounds pretty serious, and that's for a good reason: Play is a young child's most critical pathway to learning. It is important that you provide plenty of time, materials, and support for play!

## July is National Ice Cream Month



Who can resist this cool treat during the summer (or anytime for that matter)! Celebrate America's favorite dessert with family or friends by hosting an ice cream social. Make your own or purchase a few flavors of your favorite ice cream. Invite each guest to bring a beloved topping. Set up an ice cream bar with dishes, napkins, spoons, ice cream, and toppings. Hold contests for the most creative, the tallest, the prettiest sundae, etc. Check out this website: [www.food.com/recipe/homemade-ice-cream-in-a-bag-34257](http://www.food.com/recipe/homemade-ice-cream-in-a-bag-34257) They will show you how to make delicious ice cream in a baggie! Enjoy!!!