

## Summer Activities

It's been a year of much fun and growth. I'm so proud of all your children have accomplished. Please keep your child learning and preparing for Pre-4 this summer! Here are some things you can do together at home to make the fall transition back to school as seamless as possible:

- **READ! READ! READ!:** Discuss the cover of a new book, guessing what's inside. Pause to ask questions as you read about what has happened and what will happen next, as well as to find rhyming words. Ask what letters and numbers are in the book, including discussing letter sounds. These are all techniques we use in school and will prove invaluable during the next school year.
- **Chat Together!:** Have back and forth conversations with your child. Notice what you see outside while driving. Discuss nature outdoors. Talk about the fun times you've spent with family and friends this summer. The more words you can add to your child's vocabulary, the more successful next year will be!
- Practice **Independent Tasks:** Yes, we are sometimes in a rush, making it easier to zip a jacket, tie a loose sneaker, help in the bathroom, clean spilled food from the floor, etc. Please pause and allow your child to experience growth in these and similar areas. Children will learn to help themselves by making mistakes, taking time to figure out tricky tasks, and finally succeeding! Those moments of pride are worth holding back and watching rather than always jumping in to help.
- Encourage **Pretend Play:** Role playing family, super heroes, doctor, etc., all help to build vocabulary, social skills and self-control.
- **Draw and Paint:** Drawing and painting are great precursors to writing. Remember to assist with proper pencil grip. (Pre-4 uses pencils regularly.) This is a perfect time to practice name-writing, as preschoolers will be expected to add their own name to most of their work next year.
- **Play Actively Outside:** Playgrounds, obstacle courses, tricycles, catch and kicking with balls... the sky is the limit! Preschoolers need at least 60 minutes of physical activity daily. Keep those gross motor skills growing!
- Rotate **Manipulative Toys:** Continue to work on eye-hand coordination with LEGOS, playdough, small building blocks, small cars or trains with tracks, posable dolls and figures, pipe cleaners, etc. As your child is playing, encourage counting with one-to-one correspondence, as well as creating patterns with colors, shapes and sizes.
- Play **Board Games** Together: Go Fish, Hi Ho Cherry Oh, Hungry Hippo, etc. Working together teaches patience, turn-taking, self-control and many social skills.
- **Play Dates:** Play outdoors with classmates to work on social skills and to keep their bonds as friends strong. Even half an hour together at a park is beneficial!
- **Cook and Bake Together:** Ask about numbers in a recipe and on your stove. Allow your child to pour and mix. Soft ingredients can be chopped with smooth butter knives, adding eye-hand coordination.

**MOST OF ALL: READ, RELAX AND ENJOY! HAVE A HAPPY SUMMER!**

Ms. Garry