



**Bellevue Children's Academy**  
**Summer Study Guide and Recommended Reading List**  
**Preschool 2023-2024**



At Bellevue Children's Academy, we recommend that children reinforce what they learned during the school year by engaging in learning activities over the summer.

### **Language Skills**

#### *Independent Reading*

During the summer, encourage your child to participate in King County Library System's wonderful summer reading program. You can sign up for KCLS's summer reading program either on-line or at your local library. If you do not live in King County, Seattle Public Library and Sno-Isle Regional Library System have also offered summer reading programs in the past. Students are encouraged to read 1,000 minutes over the course of the summer. This may seem like a lot, but when you break it down, it comes out to approximately twenty minutes a day for a little over a month and a half.

Another option is to help your child set reading goals for him- or herself. Goals could include reading twenty minutes a day; reading one book a day (or week, depending upon your child's reading level and the size of the book); and/or reading out loud to at least one family member per day. You can track your child's progress with a reading log or sticker chart. For extra practice, have your child retell you the story, answer some questions about the plot/characters or draw a picture about the book. This will encourage reading/listening comprehension--important skills in Pre-Kindergarten.

#### *Phonics Review*

Your child will be bringing home their Phonics book. While much of the work was completed in class, you will find that there are incomplete pages that remain as well. To help bridge the summer months, we encourage you to make use of the remaining pages in their phonics book to keep their skills honed. Working with your child will help maintain a solid foundation before beginning their Pre-Kindergarten school year. While these concepts will be reviewed at the start of the upcoming year, students with a strong understanding of basic phonics knowledge will have more confidence as they embark on a new school year. Depending upon the book and your child's reading level, Pre-Kindergarten and even Kindergarten (and first!) grade books will often review concepts we covered this year in Preschool.

#### *Handwriting*

There are some great handwriting books available at Lakeshore Learning Store. You can also encourage writing and handwriting practice this summer by having your child:

- Trace the alphabet, both upper and lowercase
  - Lakeshore and Amazon have great "write & wipe" books that can be reused many times over the summer
- Practice correct letter formation
- Write their name
  - This can be done with pencil and paper as well as outside with sidewalk chalk. The children also enjoy using little whiteboards.
- Copy words and images
- Draw with color pencils and thin markers

## **Math Skills**

A good way to review the math concepts taught this year is to have children apply them to their daily lives, making math over the summer fun and meaningful. You may also consider picking up a math workbook from Amazon, or any bookstore, that reviews much of what we focused on this school year.

How do you and your family relax during the summer? Your activities might include playing sports, playing games, exploring your hometown, shopping, enjoying nature, or traveling. Math is our invisible friend in all those activities. If we can help our children enjoy finding and using math in the world around them, we are really helping them become mathematical thinkers, which supports your child's classroom learning.

- Addition and Subtraction concepts. Flashcards are a great way to do this.
- 2-D Shapes--the name of the shape, as well as, number of sides. Flashcards are also available for this concept.
- Practice counting--Practice counting to 30. Forwards & backwards.
- Money introduction—Coin names & values.
  - The use of manipulatives can help strengthen the understanding of all these concepts. If students use pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters to count, they are building on two skills, not just one.

### *Flashcards for addition and subtraction*

You can find boxes of flashcards for addition and subtraction at Lakeshore Learning Store, some bookstores, and sometimes at Staples in the teacher section. Your child can take turns answering questions with a parent or sibling.

For the more independent learner, Lakeshore also has self correcting puzzles for both addition & subtraction.

### *Numbers and shapes all around us*

Throughout the day, ask math questions that have to do with your child's surroundings. Have your child tell you what the speed limit is when you pass a sign and then ask him or her to add the two numbers. You also can ask them what the shape the sign is as well. Meal times are also great for this. Your child could tell you how many Cheerios, grapes, etc., he or she has on the plate before eating them. Depending on your child's understanding of math concepts, you can also ask them how many cheerios they would have left if they ate a certain amount.

## **Other Resources/Activities**

### *Crafts*

You can find many craft ideas either on-line or at craft stores such as Michael's or Ben Franklin's. If you find crafts that incorporate math, your child can have the fun of artistic expression while using his or her math skills.

### *Sensory Exploration*

Children can learn so much, and review many of the concepts introduced during this past school year, through sensory exploration. Sensory exploration is a great way to improve fine motor skills which will directly strengthen handwriting. There are many sensory ideas available online, as well as sensory kits available at Lakeshore Learning and Amazon. Both websites below have some nice ideas for you and your child to try. There are many sensory activities you can do together with materials you already have at home.

<https://taminglittlemonsters.com/summer-sensory-activities/>

- Great collection of summer themed sensory activities

<https://mindfullittles.org/tag/sensory/>

- Easy to set up sensory activities

### *Workbooks*

Spectrum and Rainbow Bridge Publishing publish a variety of excellent workbooks, but there are other workbooks available that are equally well done. To keep boredom at bay, it is best to find one or two workbooks that cover several topics. A page or two a day should be sufficient. Below are some other workbooks we recommend; they can be found at and Amazon.com:

- *Summer Big Fun Workbook Bridging Grades P & K – Highlights*
- *Summer Learning Kindergarten Workbook – Summer Bridge Activities*
- *200 Essential Sight Words for Kids Learning to Write and Read – Hippidoo*
- *Kindergarten Math Workbook – Hippidoo*

## **Website Resources**

Websites can be a fine resource for summer learning. Here are a few we recommend:

[www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)

- A great website for reading practice.

[www.kcls.org/kids](http://www.kcls.org/kids)

- Enter your King County Library card number for stories your child can listen to/read on-line.

[www.pbskids.org/games/all-topics/](http://www.pbskids.org/games/all-topics/)

- Play games with familiar characters and practice your school skills.

[www.splashlearn.com/games-for-preschoolers](http://www.splashlearn.com/games-for-preschoolers)

- Games available for both pre-kindergarten and kindergarten level depending on your child's skill level

<http://www.abcya.com/>

- Enjoy playing educational games at this site.

We hope you enjoy these ideas. Have a wonderful summer!

The Preschool Team

## **Preschool Recommended Summer Reading List**

(These are examples of books at various levels.)

### **Early Readers**

First Little Readers

-Reading Level A

Scholastic Jump\*start

-Pre-k Readers

I Can Read!

-Phonics Fun

### **Intermediate**

I Can Read (Level 1)

Splat the Cat

Danny & the Dinosaur

Pete the Cat

Danny & the Dinosaur

Biscuits and Friends

Step Into Reading:

Big Egg

Big Shark, Little Shark

Ice Cream Soup

Dr. Seuss

Hop on Pop

### **Fluent**

Pete the Cat by James Dean

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Eric Carle

Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell

Pigeon Series by Mo Willems

Fly Guy by Ted Arnold

### **Back To School**

Things I Love About School by Trace Moroney

Llama Llama Misses Mama by Anna Dewdney

Wemberly Worried by Kevin Henkes