

Upgrading for Parents with Preschoolers

Children's Program Plan

Literacy at Home—Part A

Word of the Day: “Printing”

Art or Special Activity

- **Cookie Sheet Slate:** Put sand on a cookie sheet that has raised edges. Children use their pointer fingers or the other end of a paintbrush to pretend to write in the sand. Gently shake the cookie sheet back and forth to erase your writing.

Books

- *Night Cars*, by Teddy Jam
- *Dear Zoo*, by Rod Campbell
- *Carlos Likes Reading*, by Jessica Spanyol
- *Corduroy Writes a Letter*, by B.G. Hennessy
- *Curious George Learns the Alphabet*, by H.S. Ray
- *Apples, Alligators and Also Alphabets*, by Odette Johnson

Pre-Literacy Skills

- **Print Awareness & Mock Printing:** Child dictates a letter. Teacher writes it down. Allow child to pretend to print something at the end.
- **Environmental Print & Mock Reading:** Make labels for objects in the room, for example, (“chair,” “table,” “door”). Place signs on the corresponding objects. Encourage children to “read” (guess) what the sign says.

Poems

- “The Alphabet Monster”
- “Postman, Postman”
- “Draw a Circle”
- “Around the World in Eighty Days”
- “Letters”

Gross Motor Skills

- **Walking:** Walk to the mailbox and mail the letter you wrote (see Pre-Literacy Skills).
- **Play “A Tisket, A Tasket”** (see appendix)
- **Pretend Play:** Set up a post office with a mailbox, a letter carrier bag, paper, stamps, envelopes, and so on.

Songs

- “ABC’s”
- “A Tisket A Tasket”
- “What Can I Do With My Ten Little Fingers”
- “Itsy Bitsy Spider”
- “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”
- “Five Little Monkeys Jumping On the Bed”

Numeracy Skills

- **Number Awareness:** During snack, bring food containers (cracker boxes or juice bottles) to the table and look for numbers on the labels.

Parent/Child Time

- **Special Book Time:** Show parents a wide selection of good children’s books that foster pre-literacy skills. Include alphabet books, rhyming books, wordless books, predictable books and those that show environmental print. Discuss how they are critical for later reading success.

Notes/Other

Fine Motor Skills: Fingerplays help foster eye-hand coordination and the fine motor skills that printing requires.

Homework: Look for signs on your way home.

The Alphabet Monster by Robert Heidbreder

I'm the Alphabet Monster
And nothing tastes better
To the Alphabet Monster
Than eating a letter.
A "j" and an "a"
And a "c" and a "k"
And the million more letters
I munch everyday.
I'm hungry now.
What shall I do?
I think I'll eat
a "y"
an "o"
and a "u"
That means...YOU!

Postman, Postman

Postman, postman
Ring my bell.
You are here
And all is well.
Postman, postman
Bring my mail.
Let me serve you
Cakes and ale.
The day was sad, but now it's better...
A friend has written me a letter.

Draw A Circle

Draw a circle, draw a circle
(Draw a circle in the air with pointer finger)
Round as can be.
Draw a circle, draw a circle
Just for me.
(Point to self)
Draw a square, draw a square
(Draw a square in the air with pointer finger)
Shaped like a door.
Draw a square, draw a square
With corners four.
Draw a triangle, draw a triangle,
(Draw a triangle in the air with pointer finger)
With corners three.
Draw a triangle, draw a triangle
Just for me.

(Point to self)

Around the World

Around the world in eighty days,
(With your finger "draw" a large circle on your child's back)
X marks the spot.
(Draw a large "X")
Comma, comma, comma, comma,
(Draw commas down your child's back)
Question mark.
(Draw a "?")
Spiders crawling up your back,
(Walk your fingers up your child's back)
Bite, bite, bite.
(Gently pinch your child's shoulders)
Spiders crawling up your back,
(Walk your fingers up your child's back)
Bite, bite, bite.
(Gently pinch your child's shoulders)
Cool breeze,
(Blow on your child's neck)
Tight squeeze,
(Hug your child)
Now you've got the "tickle-ees".
(Gently tickle your child)

Letters

Some letters go by plane,
Plane, plane.
Some letters go by train,
Train, train.
But my letter's taking a trip,
Trip, trip,
On a great big ship.

ABCs

A-b-c-d-e-f-g,
H-i-j-k-lmnop,
Q-r-s, t-u-v,
W--x--y-and-z,
Now I know my ABC's,
Next time won't you sing with me?

A Tisket A Tasket

A-tisket a-tasket
A green and yellow basket
I wrote a letter to my love
And on the way I dropped it

I dropped it, I dropped it
Yes, on the way I dropped it
A little girlie picked it up
And took it to the market
She was truckin' on down the avenue
Without a single thing to do
She was peck, peck, peckin' all around
When she spied it on the ground

A-tisket a-tasket
She took my yellow basket
And if she doesn't bring it back
I think that I shall die

A-tisket a-tasket
A green and yellow basket
I wrote a letter to my love
And on the way I dropped it

I dropped it, I dropped it
Yes, on the way I dropped it
A little girlie picked it up
And took it to the market

(Was it red?) No, no, no, no
(Was it brown?) No, no, no, no
(Was it blue?) No, no, no, no
Just a little yellow basket

(REPEAT)

What Can I Do With Ten Little Fingers

(to the tune of "One Little, Two Little, Three Little...")

What can I do with my ten little fingers?
What can I do with my ten little fingers?
What can I do with my ten little fingers?
What can I do this morning?

I can wiggle my ten little fingers,
I can wiggle my ten little fingers,
I can wiggle my ten little fingers,
I can wiggle this morning.

I can wave my ten little fingers...
I can snap my ten little fingers...
I can tickle with my ten little fingers...

The Itsy-Bitsy Spider

The itsy-bitsy spider,
Went up the water spout,
Down came the rain,
And washed the spider out,
Along came the sun,
And dried up all the rain,
So the itsy-bitsy spider,
Went up the spout again!

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!

Five Little Monkeys *(suit actions to words)*

Five little monkeys,
Jumping on the bed.
One fell off,
And bumped his head.
Mamma called the doctor,
And the doctor said,
"No more monkeys
Jumping on the bed!"

Four little monkeys ... (repeat verse)

Three little monkeys ... (repeat verse)

Two little monkeys ... (repeat verse)

One little monkey,
Jumping on the bed.
He fell off,
And bumped his head.
Mamma called the doctor,
And the doctor said,
"Put those monkeys straight to bed!"

Upgrading for Parents with Preschoolers

Children's Program Plan

Literacy at Home—Part B

Word of the Day: "Math"

Art or Special Activity

- Number Art: Teacher draws and cuts out large numbers. Children decorate by gluing on smaller foam numbers (or homemade numbers).
- Symbolic Number Awareness: Children go and find the same number of objects as the number they decorated above.

Books

- *Let's Count*, by Tana Hoban
- *One Hundred is a Family*, by Pam Munoz Ryan
- *Let's Look at Shapes*, by Lorenz Books
- *Color Zoo*, by Lois Ehlert
- *The Napping House*, by Audrey Wood
- *A Pair of Socks*, by Stuart J. Murphy
- *The Best Bug Parade*, by Stuart J. Murphy
- *The Greedy Triangle*, by Marilyn Burns
- *How Many Ways Can You Cut a Pie*, by Jane Belk Moncure

Pre-Literacy Skills

- Letter and Number Awareness: Print numbers and letters randomly on a paper or board. Can older children see the difference between the numbers and the letters? Let children trace over the letters with their fingers.
- Chant, "Name, Name, What's your name. Ask me again and I'll tell you the same," Ask each child to state their name. Repeat name together while clapping once for each syllable, for example: "Cath-er-ine" equals three claps.

Poems

- "1,2, Buckle My Shoe"
- "1,2,3,4, Mary at the Kitchen Door"
- "Hickory Dickory Dock"
- "The Moon is Round"
- "Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed"
- "How Many How Much," by Shel Silverstein
- "Now We Are Six," by A.A. Milne
- "Halfway Down," by A.A. Milne
- "Inch Worm," by Danny Kaye

Gross Motor Skills

- Bean Bag Toss: Draw several shapes onto a large piece of paper. Children throw bean bags onto the shapes. Older children call out a shape and aim for that one. Younger children throw while teacher labels the shape they "land" on.

Songs

- "Five Green and Speckled Frogs"
- "Five Little Ducks"
- "Inch Worm"
- "This Old Man"
- "One, Two, Three, Four, Five, ... Fish Alive"
- "Bringing Home My Baby Dinosaur"
- "The Grand Old Duke of York"

Numeracy Skills

- Counting: Count objects, for example, crackers, cars, or pencils.
- Math Language and Math Concepts: Use math language and concepts, for example: "If I *add* one more cracker it *equals* two," "This one is *larger than* this one," and "You have *more than* she does."

Parent/Child Time

- Show parents good children's books that deal with math concepts, including: shapes, patterning, estimation, prediction skills, quantity and size concepts. Discuss Math strands and how they are important.
- Note: Parents receive a number puzzle and a number game to take home and use with their children.

Notes/Other:

Snack: Make a simple pattern with your snack, for example: cheese, cracker, cheese, cracker.

One, Two, Buckle My Shoe

One, two,
Buckle my shoe.
Three, four,
Shut the door.
Five, six,
Pick up sticks.
Seven, eight,
Lay them straight.
Nine, ten,
A big fat hen.
Eleven, twelve,
Dig and delve.
Thirteen, fourteen,
Maids a-courting.
Fifteen, sixteen,
Maids in the kitchen.
Seventeen, eighteen,
Maids in waiting.
Nineteen, twenty,
My plate's empty.

1,2,3,4, Mary at the Kitchen Door

1,2,3,4,
Mary at the kitchen door.
5,6,7,8,
Eating cherries of her plate.

Hickory, Dickory Dock

Hickory, dickory dock,
The mouse ran up the clock.
The clock struck one,
The mouse ran down,
Hickory, dickory dock.

Hickory Dickory Dock,
The bird looked at the clock,
The clock struck two,
Away she flew,
Hickory Dickory Dock

Hickory Dickory Dock,
The dog barked at the clock,
The clock struck three,
Fiddle-de-dee,
Hickory Dickory Dock!

Hickory Dickory Dock,
The bear slept by the clock,
The clock struck four,
He ran out the door,
Hickory Dickory Dock!

Hickory Dickory Dock,
The bee buzzed round the clock,
The clock struck five,
She went to her hive,
Hickory Dickory Dock!

Hickory Dickory Dock,
The hen pecked at the clock,
The clock struck six,
Oh, fiddle-sticks,
Hickory Dickory Dock!

The Moon is Round

The moon is round as round can be,
(Trace a circle on baby's face)
Two eyes,
(Touch baby's eyes)
A nose,
(Touch baby's nose)
A mouth,
(Touch baby's mouth)
Like me!
(Pat baby or point to self)

Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed

(Suit actions to words)

Five little monkeys,
Jumping on the bed.
One fell off,
And bumped his head.
Mamma called the doctor,
And the doctor said,
"No more monkeys
Jumping on the bed!"

Four little monkeys ... (repeat verse)
Three little monkeys ... (repeat verse)
Two little monkeys ... (repeat verse)

One little monkey,
Jumping on the bed.
He fell off,
And bumped his head.
Mamma called the doctor,
And the doctor said,
“Put those monkeys
Straight to bed!”

How Many How Much by Shel Silverstein

How many slams in an old screen door?
Depends how loud you shut it.
How many slices in a loaf of bread?
Depends how thin you cut it.
How much good in a day?
Depends how good you live ‘em.
How much love inside a friend?
Depends how much you give ‘em.

Now We Are Six by A.A. Milne

When I was one,
I had just begun.
When I was two,
I was nearly new.
When I was three,
I was hardly me.
When I was four,
I was not much more.
When I was five,
I was just alive.
But now that I am six,
I’m as clever as clever.
So I think I’ll be six,
Forever and ever.

Halfway Down by A.A. Milne

Halfway down the stairs
Is a chair where I sit.
There isn’t any other stair
Quite like it.
I’m not at the bottom,
In not at the top;
So this is the stair
Where I always stop.
Halfway up the stairs

Isn’t up and isn’t down.
It isn’t in the nursery,
It isn’t in the town.
And all kinds of funny thoughts
Go running round my head:
“It isn’t really anywhere!
It’s somewhere else instead!”

Five Green and Speckled Frogs

Five little speckled frogs,
Sat on a speckled log,
Eating some most delicious grubs.
One jumped into the pool,
Where it was nice and cool,
Then there were four green speckled frogs.
(The verse is then repeated, but with one fewer frog each time.)
Alternatives include using the word bugs instead of grubs, and adding "Yum, yum!" after that line.)

Five Little Ducks

Five little ducks went out one day,
Over the hills and far away.
Mother Duck said, “Quack, quack, quack, quack.”
But only four little ducks came back.

Four little ducks went out one day,
Over the hills and far away.
Mother Duck said, “Quack, quack, quack, quack.”
But only three little ducks came back.

Continue until

One little duck went out one day,
Over the hills and far away.
Mother Duck said, “Quack, quack, quack, quack.”
But none of the five little ducks came back.

Sad Mother Duck went out one day,
Over the hills and far away.
Mother Duck said, “Quack, quack, quack, quack.”
And all of the five little ducks came back!

Inch Worm by Danny Kaye

(Can be sung in a round)
Two and two are four,
Four and four are eight,

Eight and eight are sixteen,
Sixteen and sixteen are thirty-two.

Inchworm, inchworm,
Measuring the marigold.
You and your arithmetic,
You'll probably go far.

Inchworm, inchworm,
Measuring the marigold.
Seems to me you'd stop and see,
How beautiful they are.

This Old Man

This old man, he played one,
He played knick-knack on my thumb;
Knick-knack paddywhack,
Give a dog a bone,
This old man came rolling home.

This old man, he played two,
He played knick-knack on my shoe;
Knick-knack paddywhack,
Give a dog a bone,
This old man came rolling home.

This old man, he played three,
He played knick-knack on my knee;
(Continue in the same manner as above)

This old man, he played four,
He played knick-knack on my door;
(Continue in the same manner as above)

This old man, he played five,
He played knick-knack on my hive;
(Continue in the same manner as above)

This old man, he played six,
He played knick-knack on my sticks;
(Continue in the same manner as above)

This old man, he played seven,
He played knick-knack up in Heaven;
(Continue in the same manner as above)

This old man, he played eight,
He played knick-knack on my gate;
(Continue in the same manner as above)

This old man, he played nine,
He played knick-knack on my spine;
(Continue in the same manner as above)

This old man, he played ten,
He played knick-knack once again;
(Continue in the same manner as above)

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive

One, two, three, four, five,
Once I caught a fish alive,
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten,
Then I let go again.

Why did you let it go?
Because it bit my finger so.
Which finger did it bite?
This little finger on the right.

Bringing Home My Baby Dinosaur

(Sung to the tune of "Bringing Home My Baby Bumblebee")

I'm bringing home my baby dinosaur,
(Cup hands together)
Won't my mummy hide behind the door.
I'm bringing home my baby dinosaur,
Oh, he's growing.
(Move hands further apart)

Repeat several times then,

I'm bringing home my baby dinosaur,
Won't my mummy hide behind the door.
I'm bringing home my baby dinosaur,
R-O-A-R!

The Grand Old Duke of York

The grand old Duke of York,
He had ten thousand men.
He marched them up to the top of the hill
And he marched them down again.

And when they were up, they were up;
And when they were down, they were down.
But when they were only halfway up,
They were neither up nor down!