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| At-Home Ideas for the Week of April 13th-17th |
| I hope you all had a restful Easter weekend. While lesson planning, I found this Easter Bunny dance and freeze song and thought the kids might like to start with it Monday morning:  <https://youtu.be/nZFRg1GucZ8>  **Monday:**  **Literacy Activity of the Day:** Read “Alphabet Rescue” by Audrey Wood. If you do not have this story at home, the following is a YouTube link of Jenn reading it: <https://youtu.be/vrwi8zpoRrY>  At school we have been working all year on your child recognizing their name in print. To continue this practice, write your child’s name in print multiple times on a paper and mix in a sibling’s name or parents’ first names on the same paper. Have your child circle their name with a red marker, the sibling’s name with a blue marker, parents’ names with a green marker, etc. To extend this activity, your child could practice writing their own name on a paper along with one other name (with your help and guidance) and you could circle your child’s name.  **Gross Motor Activity of the Day:** Yoga Capital Letters: <https://youtu.be/lbXwC_MTbSg>  **Art Activity of the Day:** Tear strips of scrap paper (any will work, even newspaper, junk mail flyers or magazines!). If your child owns scissors and would rather cut, that is a great alternative. After your child has finished cutting/tearing strips of scrap paper, have your child glue the strips of paper to make the first letter of their name (For example, I would glue my strips of paper in a capital J for Jenn).  **Math Activity of the Day:** Play the game “high/low” with a deck of cards. Your child and you each have a stack of cards, face down (with the J, Q, K, A removed). You each flip over a card and have your child tell you who has the highest number/who has the lowest number.  **Science Activity of the Day:** Loud vs Quiet: Gather a tin container (coffee can) or metal bowl with a lid. Gather items that can be quiet or noisy from inside or outside of the house.  Quiet items ideas: Tissue paper, kleenex, construction paper, straw, sticker, pom pom, sock, leaf, blade of grass  Noisy items ideas: Coins, earring, rock, toy car, cookie cutter, marble  Have your child make predictions about which items they think will be loud or quiet. Place object in the container and shake. Ask your child “was your prediction, right?” To further extend this activity, you could chart their predictions or chart the outcomes. |
| **Tuesday:**  **Literacy Activity of the Day:** Read “LMNO Peas” by Keith Baker. The following is a YouTube link for the read aloud: <https://youtu.be/dq-kAfdTC58> After reading the story, have a scavenger hunt for letters. Pick a letter and ask your child to look in your pantry/food cabinet for that letter. Start with the letters of your child’s name and move on to other letters beyond that.  **Science Activity of the Day:** Make your own bubbles.  Materials needed: plastic straw, plastic cup, water and dish soap.   1. Poke a small hole in the cup towards the top of the cup. The hole needs to be big enough to stick a straw in. 2. Pour ½ part water, ½ part dish soap into the bottom of the cup. You don’t need very much, in total about 1 inch. Make sure the liquid is lower than the hole. 3. Stick the straw in the cup. Tilt the straw so it is into the bubble liquid and blow. Bubbles should appear.   **Gross Motor/Math Activity of the Day:** Have a feather or cotton ball race. Have your child lay on their tummy and blow a feather or cotton ball across the floor to see who wins. To add math into this activity, you could measure how far your child can blow the cotton ball/feather (this can be done with a ruler, blocks, toys, cheerios, etc.) This is a great activity to include siblings in on.  **Fine Motor/Art Activity of the Day:** Using shaving cream or whipped cream, have your child practice writing their name using their pointer finger, with the first letter of their name capitalized. If your child is interested, they can practice writing other letters or simple words such as “Mom” or “Dad”.  If this activity is of interest to your child, here is a website to print tracing letters. We use the standard block printing font and you can type in whatever your child is working on and it will generate a tracing page for them:  <https://www.kidzone.ws/tracers/easter-s/index.asp> |
| **Wednesday:**  **Literacy Activity of the Day:** Read “Silly Sally” by Audrey Wood. If you do not have this story at home, the following is a YouTube link of Jenn reading it. Discuss and point out the rhyming words in the story. <https://youtu.be/O807FMIeJZs>  **Fine Motor Activity of the Day**: Use adult sized clothing to practice zipping, buttoning and snapping.  **Cognitive Activity of the Day:** After reading the story, discuss with your child the sequence of events in the story. Scaffold it by giving hints if needed (Ex. “After Sally met the pig and danced the jig, which animal came next? It rhymes with frog?”)  **Gross Motor Activity of the Day:** Walk like “Silly Sally”! Have your child take 5 steps backwards, then lay on the couch upside down. Walk like “Neddy Buttercup”! Have your child walk forwards 5 steps, then sit on the couch right side up.  **Math Activity of the Day:** This story has a pattern to it. See if your child can identify what the pattern of the story is. If they are struggling, discuss with them and give hints (Ex. Tell your child “Silly Sally went to town, walking backwards, upside \_\_\_\_\_\_” They should say “down!” Continue through the story in this manner) Once your child has identified the pattern of the story, give them two snacks (grapes, cheerios, cherry tomatoes, cut up banana, etc). Have your child eat the snack in a pattern (Ex. grape, cheerio, grape, cheerio). |
| **Thursday:**  **Literacy Activity of the Day:** Read Dr. Seuss “ABC’s”. If you don’t own the story, the following is a read aloud: <https://youtu.be/CrmX7I88VQk> Ask your child to point out the letters they know while reading the story.  **Science Activity of the Day**: Color Mixing-Items needed include food coloring or paint in primary colors (red, blue, yellow). Encourage your child to mix two primary colors together and to predict what color will be made when mixing. Ask your child if their predictions were correct? The following color mixing song is a good add on to this activity:  <https://youtu.be/IwfZvRuE7s8>  **Gross Motor Activity of the Day:** Have your child do jumping jacks and with each jump, say the next letter in the alphabet (Ex: Jump “A”, Jump “B”, Jump “C”). Repeat with touching toes, clapping hands, running back and forth in the yard, etc.  **Math Activity of the Day:** Shape tap. Call out a shape to your child and have them walk around the house (or you can do this while on a walk outside) and tap the items that match that shape. If your child has moved beyond recognition of the Teaching Strategies Gold basic shapes (circle, square, rectangle, triangle), begin to discuss characteristics of those shapes and 3D shapes.  **Fine Motor Activity of the Day:** Thread dried macaroni or dried cereal on yarn to make a necklace. |
| **Friday:**  **Literacy Activity of the Day:**  Grab any story your child has at home. It could be their favorite book, or one that hasn’t been read for a while. Before reading the story today, sing the following song:  “Author, author what do you do? I write the words in the book for you. Illustrator, illustrator what do you do? I draw the pictures in the book for you.” Your child should recognize this song from our classroom. Here is a YouTube link that describes author and illustrator as well:  <https://youtu.be/un5c1zS2fgs>  While reading the story, point that print runs from left to right and point to each word that is being read. As your child sits with you, see if they recognize any letters you have been working on this week in print. As they do, you can begin to work on sounds if they are interested. (Ex. “S makes the ssssss sound, like a snake!”)  **Math Activity of the Day:** Play “Roll and Build”. Roll a dice and count out the same number of blocks as the dice. Add the blocks to a tower. Have your child continue to count the number of blocks added to the tower, as well as the number of blocks rolled on each dice. Is the tower taller or shorter than your child? For children that can count high, this may be fun to extend into higher numbers and have them count each block.  **Gross Motor Activity of the Day:** Set up an obstacle course in the house. Have your child jump over the stuffed animals, crawl through the chair, walk around the pots and go under the table. This could be transitioned outside as well if the weather cooperates.  **Science Activity of the Day:** Water Displacement Activity  Materials: Cup, bag of dried beans (or other small manipulatives like Legos), water   1. Fill the cup with water ¼ of the way full. You can mark the line on the cup if you choose to. 2. Once the cup is filled ¼ of the way, start adding beans to the water. As more beans are added the water will slowly start to rise. It will take some time, patience is key. 3. Ask your child how many beans did it take before the water began to rise? Would something besides beans make the water rise faster? Would cotton balls make the water rise?   **Fine Motor Activity of the Day:** To continue building finger strength, have your child use items around the house that need to be squeezed. For example, squeezing water from a sponge, clipping clothespins onto the edge of a can or cardboard, picking up soft items with tweezers or tongs and moving the items from one bowl to another. |