SPOTLIGHT ON ACTIVITIES
Good-Bye Pre-K, Hello Summer!

May 10 - Two or more people can play "I Spy." This is a way to discuss objects in nature that are living and non-living. For example, someone says "I spy something that is living." The other person makes a guess. If wrong, another clue is given, and a new guess is made. The game continues until the object is identified or the players give up.

May 12 - As you read *Kindergarten Rocks!*, have your child describe and draw new things that they will learn in Kindergarten.

May 19 - Sing this rhyming song with your child and recite the tongue twisters.

TWO LITTLE SNICKER SNAKES
(Tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")
Two little snicker snakes, peeking thru the grass.
One named Kevin and one named Cass.
Slip away Kevin, slip away Cass.
Come back Kevin, come back Cass.
Two little snicker snakes, peeking through the grass.
One named Kevin and one named Cass.

TONGUE TWISTERS
Try saying these four times **FAST** - then try them very slowly.

She sells seashells by the seashore.

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. How many peppers did Peter Piper pick?

May 26 - Bumpy, shiny, smooth or tiny - rocks make for some interesting explorations! Help your child develop descriptive language with rocks. In the beginning, your child may need help finding the descriptive words, but with practice and guidance the language will build. Here are a few to get you started: smooth, rough, hard, bumpy, dirty, sparkly, scratchy.

May 29 - Using water and an old paintbrush, encourage your child to "write" letters on the sidewalk or porch. Be sure to tell your child to ONLY do this with water.

Make mud paint by mixing water with dirt until you have a paint-like consistency. Give your child an old paintbrush or have her use her finger to draw pictures or write letters on the sidewalk or driveway. Give her some water to rinse it away when she finishes. You and your child can also use old toothbrushes, sponges or rags to paint. Explore the different textures and patterns you can make.

Special Tips for Parents

Visit www.georgiastandards.org to find the Kindergarten Georgia Performance Standards, so you can know and focus on what your child will be learning next year in Kindergarten.

Visit the website, www.katiedavis.com, the author of *Kindergarten Rocks!* for additional books she has written.

May 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Play "I Spy" outside with your child. (see activity above)	11 Count the number of bears (or another object) in your home and put them in size order.	12 Read *Kindergarten Rocks!* by Katie Davis. (see activity above)	13 Make a Pre-K memory book. Your child can draw pictures about favorite memories from the Pre-K year.	14 Collect materials and create a space for playing school. Some items might be paper, pencils, books, etc.	15 Move like a monster by taking big steps and moving slowly. Make monster noises.	16 Go to the public library, and sign up for a library card. Check out some favorite books, and read together.
17 Go outside, and walk barefoot in the grass. Ask your child how it feels. Does he like it? Look to see what might be in the grass.	18 Measure and record you child's height and weight. Record again each month and then compare.	19 Learn and recite the songs and tongue twisters listed above.	20 Start a bedtime routine by having your child pick out his/her own clothes to wear the next day.	21 Have your child draw a self-portrait and discuss what he/she might look like as a Kindergartner.	22 Explore this—How many body parts can you move while standing in one place?	23 Have your child practice saying his/her full name, address, and phone number.
24 Collect rocks with your child. Discuss whether rocks are living or non-living objects. Count them.	25 Arrange the rocks you collected yesterday in order by size. Which one is his/her favorite?	26 Describe the rocks in your collection. (see activity above)	27 Have your child draw pictures of the rocks in your collection. Be sure to include details about the places you found the rocks.	28 Play catch, and count the number of balls caught. Can you come up with other games?	29 Paint outdoors with water. (see activity above)	30 Let your child pick out a new toothbrush and teach correct tooth brushing. Make a chart to remind your child to brush each day.
31 Make a family calendar. What will you be doing for the rest of the summer? Camp, vacations...						

SPOTLIGHT ON ACTIVITIES
All About Family

June 7 - Recommended seeds/plants for young children:
~ Nasturtium, sunflower, and zinnia seeds sprout and grow very quickly.
~ A cherry tomato plant will bear fruit if watered and fertilized regularly. Try planting in a container if you don't have a garden.
~ Herbs such as basil, rosemary, and mint are very fragrant and can be used in cooking.
~ Math skills are apparent throughout the gardening process:

- counting the seeds
- measuring the correct distance between plants
- determining on the calendar when the seed will sprout
- measuring the height of the plants as they grow

June 21 - Playdough Recipe

1 ½ cups salt
3 cups all purpose flour
3 Tablespoons cream of tartar
3 Tablespoons vegetable oil
3 cups water
Food coloring

Mix the salt and flour together; then add 3 tablespoons of vegetable oil, 3 cups water, and a few drops of food coloring or extract for scent. Combine all ingredients in a pan and cook over low heat, stirring constantly until all ingredients are well-mixed and the dough begins to pull away from the sides of the pan. The dough will look very lumpy but will mix smoothly after about 10 minutes of cooking. Remove the dough from the pan and knead it for 2 minutes or until it is thick. This playdough will keep for 3 to 4 weeks in an airtight container.

June 22 - Talking about numbers and quantity as a part of doing activities with your child is a natural way to develop mathematical skills. Meaningful math activities can help your child develop mathematical vocabulary and concepts. Divide clay or dough into different amounts. Help your child distinguish between *all* and *some*, *whole* and *part*. Introduce the following concepts: *more*, *less*, *bigger* and *smaller*.

June 27 - With My Family
(Tune of "The Muffin Man")

Tell me what you like to do
Like to do, like to do.
Tell me what you like to do
With your family.
(Your Child) likes to rake the leaves
Rake the leaves, rake the leaves.
(Your Child) likes to rake the leaves
With our family.

Sing a verse for every person in your family—you can include people who live in your home as well as people who live in other places.

Read Aloud to Your Child Every Day…

- Set aside time before or after dinner and time before bed.

As you read:

- Let your child hold the book and turn the page.
- Move your finger along under the words.
- Point to and talk about the pictures that go with the words.
- Pause while you read, and ask your child what he thinks might happen next.
- Encourage her to ask questions about what is being read.
- Can he predict what will happen next?
- Talk about a word that is new to your child.
- At the end of the story, talk about your child's favorite parts and why she liked this particular story.
- Visit the library monthly, and pick out books with your child. Ask your child to "read" a favorite story to you.
- Think about giving books or writing & drawing materials to your child as presents for birthdays and other occasions.
- Ask your child to tell a story for you to write down. Read it back to her.
- Make a book out of your child's writing. Have him draw pictures to go with the words or scribbles.
- Read and talk about numbers in counting books, pointing and counting the objects on each page.
- Share stories about your child's life as a baby and a toddler, as well as stories about when you were a child. Share photo albums of when your child was little, and discuss how much she has changed.
- Choose books based on your child's interests.
- Choose informational books: books about dinosaurs, transportation, etc.
- Choose nursery books and point out rhyming words.
- Discuss the parts of a story - beginning, middle, and end.
- Identify letters and words that are familiar.
- Have your child read to a younger sibling.
- Have your child read a favorite book and use pictures for clues to the story.
- Describe the feelings of the characters in the story.
- Choose books from the same author. Help your child make comparisons between books.
- Discuss the conclusion, and create a new ending for it.

Some Tips for Reading Aloud

- Be enthusiastic.
- Change your voice and facial expressions.
- Make sure children are comfortable.
- Read aloud to children frequently.
- Establish regular reading times.
- Help children notice new information.
- Point out pictures as they relate to the story.
- Explain words they may not know to help increase vocabulary.
- Ask children questions before and after reading.
- Encourage children to talk about the book.
- Read many kinds of books including ones with pictures of people of different cultures, ages, and with disabilities.
- Choose books that help you teach.
- Reread favorite books.

SPOTLIGHT ON ACTIVITIES
All About Our Community

July 4 - Milk can become ice cream in five minutes!

This homemade ice cream, which is made in a bag, is a summertime delight for kids and adults alike.

What you'll need:

1 tablespoon sugar
1/2 cup milk or half & half
1/4 teaspoon vanilla
6 tablespoons rock salt
1 pint-size Ziploc plastic bag
1 gallon-size Ziploc plastic bag
Ice cubes

How to make it:

Fill the large bag half full of ice and add the rock salt. Seal the bag. Put milk, vanilla, and sugar into the small bag and seal it. Place the small bag inside the large one and seal it again carefully. Shake until the mixture is ice cream, about 5 minutes. Wipe off the top of the small bag, then open carefully and enjoy!

Tips:

To make a larger amount, try doubling the recipe. Anything larger might be too big for kids to pick-up, because the ice is quite heavy.

July 8 - Be Water Wise

How can your child help conserve water? Simple ideas include:

- Turn off the tap while brushing teeth
- Check for leaking or dripping faucets
- Help wash dishes by hand

July 19 - Homemade Bubbles

You can make a simple bubble solution at home.
2 Tablespoons liquid dish soap
1 cup water

Mix the soap and water – your child can help stir. If the mixture gets too foamy, let it sit for an hour.

You can also make bubble blowers and wands from materials around your home. Some suggestions:

- Fly swatters
- Twist-ties—bend them into loops
- Plastic rings from milk jugs
- Cookie cutters
- Wire coat hangers—you will need to bend and shape it for your child

July 25 - Buckle Up
(Tune of "A Hunting We Will Go")

The wheels go round and round
We drive the car in town
We buckle up
In case we stop
So we'll be safe and sound.

Tips and Additional Activities

When Shopping With Your Child…

- Have your child find a letter from their name on a product label.
- Try simple activities such as reading logos of favorite foods and stores.
- Before you go to the store, involve your child in making a shopping list. You can ask your child to check the cereal boxes to see if any are almost empty. A four or five year old can check on the supply of milk, extra rolls of toilet tissue, and other items. You can consult this list together as you shop. Let your child mark off the items on the list.
- Ask your child to make comparisons (smallest, shortest, heaviest, same as, etc.) of cans and bottles.
- Let your child pick out one vegetable or fruit and identify the beginning sound of its name. What other foods begin with that sound?
- Cut out coupons, and help your child match the coupon to the food item. Let her give them to the cashier.
- Estimate how many radishes (carrots, etc.) are in a bunch and then count the number.

When Riding in the Car With Your Child…

- Play "I Spy" using words found on billboards and signs.
- Have your child draw a pictorial journal of trip events. You can add dictation about each picture if necessary.
- Keep sing-along or storybook tapes in an activity bag or backpack. Drawing materials, large dice, card games, puzzles, and books also make great additions.
- Before a long trip, gather information and read about the destination to help your child look forward to the journey. Map out points of interest along the way together.
- Look at a clock. Have your child tell what time the trip begins and when they think they will arrive at their destination. Check the time when you arrive.
- Games like "I Spy;" searching for animals, letters and numbers; counting colored cars, matching sign shapes, finding silly-named streets, looking for out-of-state license plates or inventing rhymes amuse away the miles.
- When your child's attention begins to wander, switch to another game or take a break. Plan frequent stretch-and-bend stops to satisfy wiggles. And don't forget that favorite pillow or stuffed animal!

When Cooking With Your Child…

- Point out key words on the recipe as you go along. Identify and name initial sounds and letters of the words. Have your child measure. Talk about changes in consistency, color, and shape; then pour and stir.
- Have your child identify numbers and words from recipes.
- Prepare simple recipes together:
  - Mix margarine with green food coloring to cook green eggs and ham.
  - Melt cheese and add chopped tomatoes for queso to eat with tortilla chips.
  - Dice apples, celery, and pecans for Waldorf salad.
  - Heat chicken broth and cook rice for chicken soup.
  - Boil chopped vegetables in beef broth or tomato soup for vegetable soup.
- Consider referring to Eric Carle's Pancakes, Pancakes or Tomie De Paola's Pancakes for Breakfast as pancakes are cooking in the morning.
- Experiment with food from different cultures by cooking, eating out or sharing with friends. Try Asian, Hispanic, Japanese, Chinese, Cuban, etc.
- Let your child practice listening skills by making a snack according to your verbal directions. Provide the ingredients for a simple snack. Give your child instructions such as, "Put the bread on a plate. Spread peanut butter on top of the bread. Place 10 raisins on top of the peanut butter."
- Help your child put bread in the toaster. Count together to see how long it takes before the toast pops up.
- Sample foods that taste sweet, sour, salty, and bitter (ex: sugar, pickles, salt) and describe and help your child determine to which category they belong.
- Create a hot and cold snack.

When Playing Games With Your Child…

Provide simple card games such as *Go Fish*, *Concentration* or *Crazy Eights*. These games allow children to identify numerals, match numerals or objects, and practice memory skills. They also develop fine motor skills by picking up and handling the cards. For young children, incomplete decks of cards are just as much fun as complete decks—just be sure that every card has a match.

- Use dominoes to help your child learn to count the dots and to relate those dots to the numerals they represent.
- Play simple box games with your child and other family members that teach taking turns and sharing such as *Chutes & Ladders* and *Hi Ho Cheerio*.
- Choose games that are appropriate for the age of the child. With commercial games, look for the age recommendations on the game box. Remember, noncompetitive games (such as hand games or jumping rope) are best. Young children hate to lose.
- You and your child can count the number of steps when walking up a set of stairs, count the number of apples in a bag or count the number of toys on the shelf.
- Play games that require counting: *Hide and Seek* ; *Mother, May I ?* ; *Red Light, Green Light*; and *Hop Scotch*.
- As you play games with your child, extend their mathematical thinking by asking simple questions:
  Do you have more red cards or more black ones? How many matches did you get? How many cards do you want to deal us?

June 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Let your child count the number of coins in your wallet. Let them separate the coins and count each type.	2 Look at pictures in a book and then predict what will happen next. Read the story together.	3 Choose some old toys to donate to charity.	4 Make a simple instrument with kitchen items. (utensils, pots, bowls) Now play them.	5 Talk about jobs, discuss where you work, how your work helps the family, and other kinds of jobs. What jobs can your child do?	6 Listen to a new radio station today. Discuss how this music is different.
7 Plant seeds for flowers or vegetables. (see activity above)	8 Draw a picture of dad or grandfather. Include hair, eye color, etc.	9 Have your child create a story about dad or grandfather. Write it, and read it together.	10 Discuss with dad what his favorite food was when he was a child. Draw a picture of your dad eating his food.	11 Discuss with dad what he liked to play with as a child. Draw a picture of dad playing with his favorite toy.	12 During bath time, give measuring cups. How many small cups does it take to fill a cup? Talk about more and less.	13 Special Snack for Dad! Make a list and then go to the grocery store and buy ingredients for tomorrow's snack.
		These activities can be done with or about any adult male.				
14 **Father's Day** Make dad a special snack.	15 Measure and record your child's height and weight. Compare to May 18.	16 Play a simple board game. Discuss rules, taking turns, and directions.	17 Have your child put away toys, so no one will trip over them. Talk about other chores they can do.	18 Keep real "dress-up clothes" handy for your child to play with. Create a special spot to dress-up.	19 Take a walk. Find puddles and things to jump over. Count how many jumps it takes to get to certain objects.	20 Shop for playdough recipe ingredients. (see activity above)
21 Make playdough together. (see activity above)	22 Divide playdough into different amounts. (see activity above)	23 Make a playdough sculpture and tell a story about it. Add fun things to enhance sculpting (toothpicks, straws, noodles, etc.)	24 Look at the seeds you planted on June 7th. Draw a picture and measure how tall it has grown.	25 Dance with your child to music from the radio, favorite CD, Ipod, or tape. Find a scarf or piece of material to dance with.	26 Play "Red Light, Green Light" with your child. (see previous page)	27 Learn and sing "With My Family." (see activity above)
28 Go on a walk and point out the different types of workers you see.	29 Discuss tall and short. Name family members from shortest to tallest.	30 Play another board or card game. Remember to go over rules and directions.	31 Make a family photo album for your child. Include pictures of family. Talk about where each person lives.			

Pre-K Summer Book List

A Beasty Story by Bill Martin, Jr., & Steven Kellogg
Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman
Bear in a Square by Debbie Harter
Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey
Boomer Goes To School by Constance W. McGeorge
**Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by B. Martin, Jr., & J. Archambault
Chicken Socks and Other Contagious Poems by Brod Bagert
Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes
Complete Fairy Tales and Stories by Hans Christian Andersen
Corduroy by Don Freeman
Countdown to Kindergarten by Alison McGhee
Don't Forget the Bacon! by P. Hutchins
Each Peach, Pear, Plum by J. Ahlberg & A. Ahlberg
Eating the Alphabet: Fruits and Vegetables from A to Z by L. Ehlert
Franklin Goes To School by Paulette Bourgeois
Frog and Toad are Friends by Arnold Lobel
Froggy Goes to School by Jonathan London
**Fox in Socks* by Dr. Seuss
**Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss
If You Take a Mouse to School by Laura Numeroff
**Jamberry* by B. Degan
Look Out Kindergarten Here I Come by Nancy L. Carlson
Mary Wore Her Red Dress by Merle Peek
Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel by Virginia Lee Burton
**Miss Mary Mack* by Mary Ann Hoberman
My Five Senses by Aliki
Old Black Fly by Jim Aylesworth
**One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish* by Dr. Seuss
Pancakes, Pancakes! by Eric Carle
Stone Soup by Marcia Brown
The Alphabet Book by P.D. Eastman
The Cow That Went Oink by B. Most
The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper
**This is the House that Jack Built* by Pam Adams
Welcome to Kindergarten by Anne F. Rockwell
Will I Have a Friend? by Miriam Cohen
Winnie-the-Pooh by A.A. Milne
*rhyming books

July 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Let your child help load the dishwasher or wash and dry the dishes.	2 Use adult clothes, and let your child dress like a teacher. Play school together.	3 Let your child help make a meal by tossing a salad or by spreading peanut butter on bread.	4 Make homemade ice cream in a bag. (see activity above)
5 Remember what you did on the 4th of July. Describe and draw fireworks.	6 Count the number of stars and stripes on the American flag. Draw and color a picture of the flag.	7 Have your child practice writing her name using upper and lower case letters.	8 Brainstorm ways to conserve water. Where can your child help? (see activity above)	9 Learn the words to 'Take Me Out to the Ball Game.'	10 Ride or walk through your community. Discuss safety and other things you notice along the way.	11 Take your child to visit a fire station. Draw pictures about the visit.
12 Discuss the importance of protection from the sun. (wearing sunscreen, hats)	13 Find 10 items in your home shaped like a circle, square, triangle, and rectangle.	14 Check on your plant (from June). How tall is it now? Does it have leaves? Have your child draw a picture.	15 Play a simple board game. Discuss rules, taking turns, and directions.	16 Go outside and look at objects that are near or far. What other things are near or far?	17 Let your child practice buttoning, zipping, and snapping her own clothes, buckling a belt, and tying shoes.	18 Go to the public library and check out books about America.
19 Go outside and blow bubbles together. Find different sized wands to experiment with. (see activity above)	20 Put an alarm clock in your child's room. Set the time and practice a morning routine.	21 Have your child re-tell one of the books checked out on July 18th. Draw pictures of parts of the story.	22 Go outside and catch lightning bugs in the evening. What else did you discover while outside at night?	23 Have your child help fold, sort, and put away clothes.	24 Talk about the city you live in. How far away is the city your child was born in?	25 Learn and sing the "Buckle Up" song. (see activity above) Talk about car safety.
26 Draw a map of your city. Include places such as home, school, and grocery store.	27 Measure and record your child's height and weight. Compare to June 15.	28 Go outside tonight and star gaze. How many do you see? Is one brighter or closer?	29 Remind your child that every place has its own rules. What are some possible rules for Kindergarten?	30 Let your child make up a story about a school bus ride. Record on paper and illustrate.	31 Discuss how police officers help the community. Plan to go by the police department.	

Transition Activity Calendar 2009

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

10 Park Place South, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30303
www.decal.ga.gov

KINDERGARTEN ROCKS! Jacket image copyright © 2005 by KATIE DAVIS, used with permission of Harcourt, Inc. All rights reserved.

August 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Have your child draw a map from your home to the school where she will attend Kindergarten.
2 Take apart a flashlight to see how it works. Go outside after dark and explore.	3 Use a ruler, tape measure or a yardstick to measure different items in your home. What is longer? Shorter?	4 Develop a personal list of words that your child can recognize on sight. Read books and discover new words daily.	5 Play simple board games to practice taking turns and sportsmanship.	6 Use materials found around the house to construct a robot. Name the robot, and write or tell a story.	7 Bake cookies and have your child measure the ingredients. Share them with friends or neighbors.	8 Create family rules, and discuss the importance of rules. Make a chart with both words and pictures to help remember the rules.
9 Discuss with your child how he feels about Pre-K ending. Talk about Kindergarten.	10 Find out what school supplies your child will need for school. Let you child help you shop for those supplies.	11 Go shopping with your child to pick out a bookbag for Kindergarten. Be sure to check what kind is allowed.	12 Visit the local library with your child to find some books about Kindergarten or going to school.	13 Read the books about Kindergarten or school you checked out. Talk about what to expect in Kindergarten.	14 Find out when open house is and plan to visit the school your child will attend. Mark your calendar.	15 Plan a back-to-school party with your family or friends. Make a list of people to attend and foods you will serve.
16 Plan what you will wear on your first day of Kindergarten!	17 Talk about what to expect the first day of school. Review rules.	18 Read the book *Kindergarten Rocks!* by Katie Davis together again!	19 Write a letter to your Pre-K teachers and tell them about school.	20 Talk about some of the things that are the same as Pre-K.	21 Talk about some of the things that are different from Pre-K.	22 Talk about what happened the first week of school. Draw a picture.
23 Let your child help make a menu for the week.	24 Talk with your child about friends in her Kindergarten class.	25 Add special school events to your family calendar.	26 Plan a time to read together every day.	27 What new words has your child learned? Add them to the list.	28 Volunteer or do something special in your child's class.	29 Visit a special place together. Talk about school.
30 Have your child practice tying his shoes.	31 Draw pictures and write a story about what you like most about Kindergarten!	Have a great year in Kindergarten !				

Some of the material in this document is adapted with permission from Learning Begins at Home, ©1994 LBAH Greater North Fulton Education 2000 Inc.
©2008 The State of Georgia. For reproduction or other purposes, contact Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning.