

Dear Families,

Attached, please find some activities that are fun and educational. You may enjoy these with your children on the extended spring break. We will stay in contact with you through our **One Call Now** system and through our website at xeniamemorial.org. You may email us at preschool343@aol.com with any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you for your cooperation, understanding, and patience as we all work together to support the health and safety of the members of our families and community.

Sincerely,

Anne and Dixie

Here are some fun and engaging activities from the website PBSKids.org – Enjoy!

1. “I spy the number...” To promote number recognition, play “I Spy” at the store. As you walk down the aisle, call out a number and see if your child can find it. Then, take turns and have them call out a number for you to find.
2. Go on a shape hunt. As you are walking around your neighborhood, riding the bus, or driving in the car, search for different shapes and patterns. For example, doors are rectangles, stop signs are octagons and street lights are circles. (Also check out this [Magical Shape Hunt game](#) from Peg + Cat!)
3. Use laundry to promote matching and sorting. [Parenting Minutes: Early Math](#) shows how laundry time can turn into learning time. By matching socks, your child will be practicing shape, color and size comparison. Break down the large pile of laundry into “shirts,” “pants,” “pajamas” to practice sorting skills.
4. Counting opportunities are everywhere. Whether counting the number of steps in a staircase, Cheerios in a bowl or dogs in the park, help your child learn to count in whatever language you speak at home.
5. Make comparisons. “Is there more water in this cup or that cup?” or “Which book is heavier?” are all simple ways to compare two objects by weight, size and height.
6. Chart the weather for a week. Practice making a small paper calendar. Have your little one draw a picture of the daily weather. Ask them to compare the different weather days.
7. Look at a map. We are always on the go. Have your child help in navigating to the next soccer practice, post office visit, or grocery store trip. Use a computer, phone or paper map. Point out the starting point and destination. Take it a step further and [map your neighborhood](#).
8. Take a family survey. At the end of the day, take a survey of how the day went for each member of the family. Before watching something together, survey members to see what they want to watch. These simple activities will get your family talking, while also promoting data collection, counting and comparison skills.

Stephanie Murray, 8 Easy Ways to Add Math into Your Daily Routine, February 5, 2020

I Spy:

“I spy with my little eye... a dump truck,” says one player, and the other gets to shout, “There!” when she finds it. Then you switch roles. This game helps kids notice their surroundings and use vocabulary. You can incorporate letters, words and numbers as your child starts to learn them.

Rhyme Time:

One player says a word (bat, for example) and challenges the other to come up with as many rhyming words as he can (cat, hat and so on). If anyone repeats a word, the game starts over. This game is great for memory, and rhyming is an important early literacy skill that helps kids become strong readers. Tip: Remind your child that rhymes have the same ending sound.

Name that Opposite:

Name a word that has a clear opposite and ask your child to figure out what the opposite is, such as night and day, dark and light, tall and short. This helps kids expand their thinking and remember vocabulary.

Twenty Questions:

Pick an object, but don't tell your child what it is. Have him ask yes-or-no questions until he figures it out. This one requires a little support, but preschoolers can get the hang of it surprisingly quickly. Start with teams so you can show your child the kind of questions to ask, and be sure to give him a chance to be the "thinker" while you ask the questions. As your child gets older, try making the game harder by moving on from objects to concepts, like traffic.

License Plate Game:

Children who are starting to learn addition can have a blast adding up the numbers on each license plate they see and remembering which car had the highest total. Or try the reading version: come up with silly phrases based on the letters in the license plate. For example, DLR-211 becomes "dogs love running!"

Storytelling Relay:

Start telling a story and, after a minute or so, hand it off to your child to add the next part. She can then pass it on to a sibling or other companion or back to you. Things get interesting – and silly – quickly! This game encourages kids to pay attention; follow the story; understand the concepts of beginning, middle, and end; and be creative.

Car Bingo:

With just a bit of advance planning, you can make a simple "bingo card" with a grid of things you commonly see on your car (or bus) rides. Take a pencil along so your child can mark off each one as he finds it on the route. This one helps kids engage with their surroundings, focus and learn new words.

ABC Game:

Pick a category (food, animals, fictional characters and more) and then the players take turns going through the alphabet naming items that fit into that category. For example, food: Apple, Bread, Carrot and so on.

Suzanne Buffard, 8 Brain Building Games to play in the Car, August 14, 2018

On the Internet

Lunch doodles with Mo Willems every day at 1:00 go to:

<https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/mo-willems/>

33 National Park Tours

https://totallythebomb.com/heres-33-national-park-tours-you-can-take-virtually-from-the-comfort-of-your-home?fbclid=IwAR0Pc3gie-4fo2ioSdceMICoMvzUz7ehJ8z9_91p06xAzVrmhpNq_Uxn348

This looks amazing but you need to have Google Earth on your computer for it to work

Study Hour on WDPR 88.1 Dayton's Classical Radio Station

They will play one hour of soothing classical music each morning at 9:00AM beginning March 23.

On Facebook

Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden has a daily safari tour at 3pm.

