



Dear ECC Families,

I received a document from the NYC Department of Education with some learning at home early childhood instructional resources. I have gone through it and picked out some activities that could be beneficial for some of our families at Trinity.

As you go through some of these activities please remember that children love to play—anytime, anywhere, and with almost anything. As they play, they're learning about the world around them and practicing important skills. The activities provided are meant to be fun and engaging.

Children thrive on routines. Following a predictable routine is a helpful way for children to feel safe and know what is expected of them (e.g. washing hands before breakfast, reading a book before nap, or playing outside after lunch). Routines help you and your child move confidently through the day and encourage positive behavior. At the same time, be flexible and responsive to your children's needs. You know your child best!

Blocks/Construction

Draw and Build. Look outside with your child at the area near where you live. Select a building or structure that looks interesting to both of you. Draw a picture of the building/structure together. Talk about what you see as you draw together. Hang the picture at your child's eye level, or place it on the floor near where you will build, and then use materials you have available to build the building/structure together. For example, you might use blocks, connecting blocks (e.g. Duplos, Legos), cardboard boxes, pots and pans, cups, or other household items to build together.

Dramatic Play

Play Store. Gather objects to buy and sell and take on roles of cashier and customer. Discuss what the customer is buying and why, how many items they are buying as well as how much the items cost individually and together.

Let's Eat. Pretend to eat together in a pretend restaurant, at a tea party, or create a pretend picnic together. Think with your child about what items you will need and work together to find or make them. After setting up the play scene, pretend to eat with your child.

Take a Trip. Take a pretend trip with your child. Consider where you will go, how you will get there, and how you feel about going on this trip together. Work together to find or make the things you need for your trip. After preparing for your trip, pretend to go on the trip

together.

Art

Create a Mural. Consider taking apart a large cardboard box, several smaller boxes, or using pieces of paper and attaching them together. You could use tape, glue, staples, or other materials you have on hand to secure the pieces together. Use any writing or drawing tools you have available such as pens, pencils, markers, crayons, or paint to create a picture. Invite family members to join in the fun.

Then and Now. Compare and contrast a baby picture of your child with how the child looks now, highlighting how the child has changed since they were a baby. Use the baby picture to create a drawing of your child as a baby or use materials you have available to create a representation of your child when they were a baby. If you do not have a baby picture of your child, discuss how your child has changed in the past few years and create an image together without referencing an actual photograph.

Shakers. Make shakers with your child out of empty water bottles or other containers. After finding a good container, think about what materials to add to make noise. Consider trying water, beads, other small objects, or anything you can find! Which material is loudest? Quietest? Work with your child to describe the sounds each shaker makes. For an extra challenge, try putting them in order from quietest to loudest.

Science/Discovery

Breathe. Place a light object (e.g. cotton ball, feather, piece of paper, round pencil, small ball, etc.) on one end of a table and see if you and your child can blow it to the other side. Repeat with other objects of differing weights.

Ramps. If available, use a cardboard tube (e.g. paper towel tube) or a flat surface such as a book, to create a ramp. Invite your child to tilt the ramp to various angles and roll a small toy car, ball, or other round object through the tube/down the ramp. Talk with your child about how quickly/slowly the objects roll depending on how they angle it.

Toys and Games/Math Manipulatives

Practice Measuring. Measure and cut a piece of string or ribbon as long as your child's arm. Invite them to look for objects that are the same length as this piece of string then compare the string to each object. Consider making a string as long as your own arm too and doing this activity with your child.

Find Shapes. Notice the shape of objects around you. Ask your child to find and count the sides and angles and then name the shape.

Patterns. Clap a simple pattern, and invite your child to clap it back to you (e.g. two slow claps followed by 3 faster claps). Take turns creating the pattern.

Writing/Language Development

Morning news. When you start your day, make a plan for what you and your child will do together. Jot these things down in a list. Check off each item as you complete it.

Letter Hunt. Look for letters where you live. Point them out to your child. Pay special attention to letters that are especially relevant to your child such as the first letter of their name as well as those of close family and friends.

Make a Menu. Share with your child a list of the foods you are serving for a meal. Invite your child to draw these items to create a menu. Add the words that match the pictures below each picture. If your child is ready, they can do their own writing. Celebrate any mark your child makes. Marks, scribbles, and creative spelling are all essential steps in learning to write.

Keep a Journal. Talk with your child about the activities they did each day. At the end of the day take a few minutes to reflect using open-ended questions such as, "What did you like best? Why? Was anything difficult or challenging? Why?" Jot down your child's thoughts about these activities and invite them to add pictures to the journal as well.

It is my hope that some of these ideas will help you throughout the days you are home with your children and the staff looks forward to the day we welcome the children back to school!

Wishing you all health in the days ahead,
Mrs.Gallegos