



Preschool At Home Learning – Family

Here's What You Get!

- 1 Tub of Dough
- 1 Pair of Dough Scissors
- 1 Box of 16 Crayons
- 1 Blank Notebook
- 1 Number Sequence Puzzle
- 1 Book

Dear Families,

This kit of hands-on learning tools is a great way to support your child as you work with them at home. The featured materials included in the kit are meaningful and engaging – perfect for curious minds! The materials and usage suggestions range in complexity so that your child can review and practice skills already learned, as well as develop and master new skills. Mastering these important skills will make the transition to the next level more successful. As you work with your child, watch their confidence and independence grow!

Suggested Activities:

Scented Dough

- **Build strength in hands and fingers!** Playing with dough will enhance your child's fine-motor skill development, building-up strength in their hands and fingers. Encourage your child to do activities that pat, roll, fold, and pinch the dough.
- **Trace!** Write or print out large outlines of shapes, letters, and numbers. Then, have your child roll lines of dough to trace the figures.

Discuss with them the difference between straight lines and curved lines that create these figures.

- **Build 3-D shapes!** Find pictures of 3-D objects such as balls and cubes, and have your child recreate the shapes with the dough.
- **Pinch!** With a pile of dough in front of them, have your child pinch off small pieces using their thumb and each finger, one at a time. This is also a great time for your child to identify each finger. (thumb, pointer, middle, ring, pinky)
- **Smash!** Have your child roll five small dough balls. Next, have them count the balls aloud as they “smash” them with either their fist or thumb. Repeat this with more or less balls, depending on your child's ability to count.

Dough Scissors

- **Scissor strength!** When your child begins to learn how to cut, it's important they use the correct fingers and have the strength to move the scissors by opening and closing them with control. This may take a lot of practice. Have your child hold the scissors correctly, using their thumb and pointer finger. Count as they open and close the scissors. Do this several times over several different days to see how the number they are able to complete grows!
- **Roll and cut!** Show your child how to make “snakes” of dough by rolling it out in long tubes. Have your child hold the dough up in the air with one hand and cut off pieces with the other.

Preschool At Home Learning – Family (continued)

- **Flatten and cut!** Have your child make a flat piece of dough. Next, have them pick up one edge and cut the flat piece. Once they master this skill, have them cut straight lines and curved lines.
- **Work on halves!** Task your child to create a shape out of the dough. Next, ask them to cut it down the middle. Explain that something cut in half is enough for two people. Example: Child makes a “dough pizza”. Now they have half for themselves and half for a friend.
- **Cut shapes!** After flattening out a large piece of dough, have them cut simple shapes like circles and squares.

Crayons

- **Draw pictures!** (Be an illustrator) Let your child feel free to draw anything that their heart desires! After the picture is finished, ask your child to tell you what they drew. If you wish, you can write what they say on the back of the picture. Later you can ask them to explain the picture to see if their story changes or stays the same!
- **Practice early writing lines!** Have your child practice drawing early writing lines such as straight lines, curves, and zigzags. This will help to build their writing skills for when they use a pencil.
- **Guided drawing!** Have your child draw something you wish in a specific color. Example: Draw a brown cat next to a green bush. This will not only help your child learn positional words (next to, on top of, below, etc.), but it will encourage them to follow directions.
- **Color recognition!** Crayons are the perfect tool to learn about colors. As your child selects a crayon to use, ask them what color it is. You can also hold the crayons up to use as color flash cards.

- **Rainbow write!** Whether your child is practicing writing letters, numbers, shapes, or lines, have them trace over it in several different colors. Not only will this help with their writing and drawing practice, but they will also create rainbow art!

Blank Notebook

- **Create a timeline!** Each time your child writes or draws in this notebook, mark the date in the corner of the page. Have your child write or draw in page order. At the end, you and your child will have a cherished timeline of how much their writing and drawing skills grew!
- **Create a flip-journal!** On the front cover, write the title: “Writing”. Flip the journal over, and on the back cover, write the title: “Art”. Depending on what skill your child wants to work on, you can flip to that side of the journal.
- **Create a shapes journal!** On each page, draw a different shape. Then, have your child draw the shape, or add to the shape to create a picture. Example: You draw a square. Your child adds a triangle to the top to create a house.
- **Create a notebook of short stories!** Have your child tell a story as you write it down on the bottom half of the page. Next, read the story back to your child. Finally, have them illustrate the story.
- **Create collage pages!** Have your child collect pictures out of old magazines and glue them on a page. Sort each collage page according to the main color of the objects or the type of objects in the pictures. You can even use real pictures of relatives or friends that your child doesn't see often so that they can remember those people.

Preschool At Home Learning – Family (continued)**Number Sequence Puzzle**

- **Number order!** Put the puzzle together in numerical order. Then have your child touch each number as they say the number word aloud. Then, have them count backward in the same fashion.
- **Cereal numbers!** After the puzzle is put together, have your child take cereal or another small object and place that amount above each number in a line.
- **Number movements!** For a fun way to review numbers and counting, get in some movement! Point to a number and have your child do a movement that number of times. Example: Point to the number 3 and tell your child to touch their nose three times while counting.
- **Number copy!** On a piece of paper or in their notebook, have your child look at a number, identify it, and write it several times. You may need to write the first one for them to copy.
- **Mystery number!** Remove (or hide) one number in the puzzle. Have your child put it together and see if they can identify which number is missing.

Book

- **Enjoy a book discussion!** Talk with your child about books. Explain to them who an author is (the person who writes the words) and who an illustrator is (the person who draws the pictures). Explain and show your child what the cover of the book is, and practice holding the book right-side up. Also, explain to them that books are read one page at a time, and from front to back.
- **Take a picture walk!** Before reading the book, discuss the pictures. Pictures are great clues to what the words might be on the page. Discuss what is happening in the pictures, as well as what could happen later in the story.

- **Read aloud!** When children hear adults read, it sets the stage not only for what reading is, but how it sounds. Whenever possible, read in the voice of the character. This makes the story more engaging.
- **Discuss what was read!** Just reading a book is good, but discussing the story is golden. Ask your child simple questions to encourage their comprehension or understanding of what was read, such as, “What happened?” or “Why did that happen?” Reading comprehension is an important skill that will be focused on throughout all grade levels.
- **Re-read!** After listening to a story more than once, children begin to know the story by heart. After reading a story to your child a couple of times, have your child discuss what will happen next. Eventually, your child will be able to tell you the story as they flip through the pages.