



Preschool Variety Activity Kit

Here's What You Get!

- 1 Book
- 1 Wooden Attribute Puzzle
- 1 Block Vehicle
- 3 Traffic Signs
- 1 Magnifier
- 1 Box of 16 Crayons
- 1 Blank Notebook

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:

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 to 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 children hear a story more than once, they 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.

Wooden Attribute Puzzle

- **Attribute Sort!** When children sort by attribute, they can sort in a number of ways; height, width, color, shape, etc. Give your child a task to find a specific attribute and have them sort the pieces accordingly.

 **WARNING**
CHOKING HAZARD—Small parts
Not for children under 3 yrs.

Preschool Variety Activity Kit (continued)

- **Size sort!** Have your child take the different pieces and put them in order from largest to smallest, and then mix the pieces up and have them sort from smallest to largest!
- **Color gradient sort!** Have your child take the different pieces and put them in order from darkest to lightest, and then mix the pieces up and have them sort from lightest to darkest!
- **Trace!** Using a pencil, have your child trace the different shapes on a piece of paper to arrange them in a fashion that creates a piece of art. After tracing, they can color in the shapes with crayons or markers.
- **Building!** Task your child with building using the shapes. How tall of a structure can they create? Have them try this several times to learn from their observations of what worked and did not work each time.

Block Vehicle and Traffic Signs

- **Driving school!** Explain to your child what each traffic sign means. Then, using the vehicle, have them “act out” what each sign means.
- **Build a ramp!** Using simple items from around your home, such as paper towel rolls and cardboard boxes, build a ramp to roll the vehicle off. Measure the distance each time, changing the design to make the vehicle travel the furthest.
- **Vehicle attributes!** Compare the block vehicle to a real vehicle. How are they similar? How are they different? Compare attributes such as number of wheels, number of doors, color, etc.
- **Road construction!** Using paper, tape, and crayons, have your child create roads. Use the signs at the appropriate places, then have your child “drive” the roads!

- **Push and pull!** Play vehicles create an introduction to simple machines, as well as pushes and pulls. Explain to your child that a push sends something away from them, while a pull brings something toward them. Play a push and pull game to see if your child can follow the commands you say out loud.

Magnifier

- **What is a magnifier?** Explain the parts of the magnifier to your child: the handle is where you hold it, and the lens is what you look through. Have your child practice looking at their hand through the magnifier. Show them how to move the magnifier toward and away from their eye to make things appear larger. CAUTION: Explain to your child to never look at the sun or bright lights using a magnifier.
- **Features!** Gather several items that have different textures. Have your child touch these textures and explain to you what they feel like. Next, have your child magnify the textures and explore the features of the items up close.
- **Texture prediction!** Gather several items that have different textures. This time have your child look at the texture with the magnifier first, then have your child predict or guess what the texture will feel like.
- **Patterns!** Gather several items that have a pattern. Cloth works best. Have your child compare how the pattern looks using the magnifier, and how it looks normally with their naked eye. You can also have your child draw how each looks on a sheet of paper to log their observation.
- **Nature!** After your child is familiar with using the magnifier, have them take it outside. Task them with finding different features in nature. You can ask them to find things that are smooth, bumpy, hairy, etc.

Preschool Variety Activity Kit (continued)**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.