

Summer 2026 ACTIVITIES

Remember to praise with your smiles, words, claps, fist bumps, high fives, and hugs.

NEWBORN TO 12 MONTHS

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| <p>Purpose: These activities help infants notice and explore the changes that occur during the summer season through talking, listening, and observing. Parents and caregivers encourage early communication and conversational turn-taking by responding to their baby’s sounds, gestures, and expressions. Activities also support listening skills, visual attention, and early language development through everyday interactions and play.</p> | |
| <p>Explanation (Why It Matters) Reading, singing, and talking help babies build early language and listening skills that support later reading development.</p> <p>Counting, patterns, and movement activities help develop problem-solving, spatial awareness, and early thinking skills.</p> <p>Talking about seasons and positional words helps babies build vocabulary and learn about the world around them.</p> | <p>Math Materials (Using common household items) Stacking & counting: plastic cups, containers, empty boxes Tapping rhythms & patterns: wooden/plastic spoons, pots, pans Supervised Crawling tunnels: Pillows, blankets, or boxes Positional activities: stuffed animals or toys Movement and dance activities: scarves, towels, or socks Patty-cake and fingerplay songs: Hands and laps Rhythm and movement activities: Music (phone, tv, or radio)</p> <p>Reading Materials: Using common household items) Children’s books, family photos, magazines, or flyers to point out summer objects and colors Music from a phone, television, or radio for alphabet and sing-along songs Stuffed animals or puppets for storytelling and conversation practice Blankets or pillows to create a comfortable reading space</p> |
| <p>Reading Music and Sounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sing “We Know the Sounds of the Alphabet” and emphasize letter sounds as your baby listens. ● Repeat simple sounds and pause to encourage your baby to respond. <p>Talk About Summer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Name things that change during summer: Weather, Clothing, Flowers blooming, Outdoor activities <p>Read Together Books about summer: Summer Supper (Rubin Pfeffer), One Hot Summer Day (Nina Crews), The Relatives Came (Cynthia Rylant), I See Summer(Charles Ghigna)</p> <p>Tips for reading with infants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Point to pictures as you read. ● Use an expressive voice. ● Let your baby touch and look at the pages. ● Repeat favorite words and sounds. | <p>Math Counting and Patterns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stack blocks together and count from 1–5. ● Play patty-cake to introduce simple patterns. ● Tap spoons or sticks to the rhythm of songs while your baby listens or taps along. ● Sing songs at different speeds: Fast, Slow, Regular <p>Position and Movement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage crawling through tunnels to practice following directions and understanding position in space. ● Sing and dance to “Dance” by Bino and Fino while practicing: Left, Right, Front, Back, Sit, Stand ● Include movement songs such as: “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes |
| <p>Knowledge Enhancement Talk with your baby about how the neighborhood changes from spring to summer by pointing out warmer weather, flowers, trees, and outdoor activities. Describe the different clothing people wear during the summer season.</p> | |

Summer 2026 ACTIVITIES
TODDLER, 12 MONTHS TO 24 MONTHS

Keep it short and fun-just one or two activities a day is perfect!

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| <p>Purpose</p> | |
| <p>Explanation Reading Activities Reading, singing, and talking with your child builds early language skills and helps them connect spoken words with printed text. Repetition, pointing to words, and simple stories strengthen vocabulary, memory, and early reading readiness.</p> <p>Math Activities Counting objects, recognizing numbers, and simple adding or taking away helps toddlers understand quantity and patterns. These hands-on experiences build early problem-solving skills and support number sense in everyday life.</p> <p>Knowledge Enhancement Talking about the world around your child helps them build vocabulary and make sense of their environment. These conversations strengthen observation skills, attention, and early understanding of how things work.</p> | <p>Materials (<i>No-cost, common household items</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Plastic cups, blocks, or empty containers for counting and stacking ● Toys such as cars, trucks, or stuffed animals for counting and simple subtraction ● Paper and marker or pen for making homemade number or word cards ● Books already in the home or borrowed from the library ● Family photos, magazines, or newspapers for pointing out words and pictures ● Household items like spoons, socks, or buttons for sorting and counting ● Flashlight or phone screen for highlighting words or pictures during reading ● Hands, fingers, and everyday conversation for counting and word practice |
| <p>Reading</p> <p>Practice Letter Sounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sing “We Know the Sounds of the Alphabet” throughout the day. ● Practice letter sounds for X, Y, and Z using simple words such as x-ray, yellow, and zoo. ● Show flashcards with letters & matching words or pictures. ● Repeat words often to build sound recognition & vocabulary. <p>Make Simple Sentences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create short sentences using family names, objects, and familiar words. <i>Ex. The shirt is yellow. The zebra is running.</i> ● Read the sentences together throughout the week. ● Keep sentences short and easy to understand. ● Help your child find objects or pictures that match the sentences. <p>Read Together Daily</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read short board books and point to words as you read. ● Talk about new vocabulary words from the story. ● Re-read favorite books often to build word recognition. ● Create simple personalized stories using your child’s name and daily activities. | <p>Math</p> <p>Number Recognition and Counting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expand your child’s recognition of five new numbers. As you increase numbers be sure to review the previous set by using the flash cards with the numbers for the child to count out blocks, etc. to represent the number on the card. ● Ask questions along the way. You and the child can count the number of items together. You will identify the number for the child by saying “This is number 5”, etc. Quickly, present the number 3x a day for five days. ● You and the child can count cars and trucks to represent the number. Try subtracting objects, putting them off to the side, and recounting the ones left. Ask questions such as “What if we took four of these trucks and put them in the box. How many trucks do we have left?” |

Knowledge Enhancement: Visit a local park and have a picnic outside. Talk with your child about the park and what they like most about playing outside.

Summer 2026 Activities

TODDLER, 24 MONTHS and Older

Celebrate every success with cheers, claps, or a silly dance to keep learning playful and encouraging.

Purpose: These activities are designed to build early literacy and early math skills through play, movement, and hands-on learning. They help children practice important kindergarten readiness skills in a fun and engaging way.

Explanation: These activities help children build early literacy and math skills by practicing letter sounds, blending words, counting, sorting, matching, and comparing through fun hands-on games and movement activities.

Materials

- paper, index cards, sticky notes, crayons, markers, pencils, tape, and scissors.
- Magnetic letters, alphabet magnets, or handwritten letter cards can support blending and sounding out words.
- Paper cups, soft balls, beanbags, or small toys can be used for toss-and-read games.
- For math activities, families can draw weather symbols on paper or use printed pictures from magazines or old calendars.
- Children can also use everyday items like blocks, buttons, bottle caps, or toys for sorting, matching, and counting activities.

Reading

Sound-It-Out Treasure Hunt

Write simple three-letter short vowel words on cards (cat, bed, pig, hop, sun) and hide them around the room. Include a few two-letter blends children already know (bl, st, cl) and one or two new blends (gr, tr).

Parents help children:

- Find a card
- Point to each letter and say the sounds slowly
- Blend the sounds together quickly to read the word
- Celebrate when they figure it out

Example:

“c-a-t... CAT!”

Blend Train Game

Draw or build a “train” with three spaces for letters. Use letter cards or magnetic letters

- Place letters one at a time while children say each sound
- Push the “train” slowly while stretching the sounds
- Move faster to blend the word together

Silly Blend and Read Toss

Write words with short vowels and blends on paper cups or cards. Toss a soft ball or beanbag onto one. When children land on a word, they: say each sound, blend the sounds together, act out or use the word in a sentence.

Ex. cat, sun, pig, **stop**, clap

Model sounding out: “s-t-o-p... STOP!”

Math

Weather Symbol Counting Walk

Create a simple set of weather cards or draw symbols on paper: sun ☀️, cloud ☁️, rain 🌧️, snow ❄️, wind 🌬️.

Place them around the room or yard.

Ask your child to:

- Find all the sun symbols and count them
- Find all the rain symbols and count them
- Say which weather symbol appears the most and which appears the least
- Can you clap once for each cloud you find?
- Can you jump for every sun?

What’s the Same?-Weather Match Game

Show 6–10 weather pictures or objects (drawings or printed cards). Some should be alike, others different. Make it hands-on by having them physically sort the cards into piles of “same weather.”

Ask:

- Which ones are the same?
- Can you group the ones that match?
- How many are in the same group?

What’s Different?” Weather Detective

Lay out 3–5 weather symbols, mixing types (sun, rain, cloud, etc.).

Ask:

- Which one is different from the rest?
- Why is it different?”
- How many suns do you see vs. how many clouds?

Knowledge Enhancement: Talk about summer flowers: Black-eyed Susan, Lavender, Daisy, Sunflower, Marigold, etc. Point them out as you walk around your neighborhood, a local park, or garden.