

Schools

How to Keep Your Preschooler Motivated and Engaged Over the Summer

As you probably know, preschoolers do not need a desk or pens and paper to learn. These little ones learn through all of their senses. They play, explore and ask questions, all of which helps them become life-long learners. As parents how do you keep your children engaged and entertained during the summer months? Here are some simple ways to enjoy the hot days together and keep your children motivated, so they're ready to jump back into the school rou-

tine once the fall arrives.

Reading is the single most important thing you can do with your child. Read, ask questions as you read, and ask your child to "guess" what the ending will be or even to make up his or her own ending to the story. Making predictions is an excellent way for preschoolers to develop their listening comprehension skills. Preschoolers also love to fill in the blanks while they're reading. Repetition, rhyming and illustra-

tions are all great tools that preschoolers use to "read." Preschool children do not need to be engaged in a formal reading program, but instead should be exposed to print as often as possible to develop "reading readiness" skills.

Parents can build letter and sound recognition throughout the day very easily too. When driving in the car, ask your (older) preschooler to find things that start with a particular letter of the alphabet. Or, use the first letter of your child's name and see if he or she can find five things outside the car window that start with the same sound. This activity also works well in the grocery store. For younger preschoolers, looking for objects that are all the same color is another fun activity.

The summer is a great time to fine-tune some social skills that are so important during the preschool years. Take every opportunity to help your little one understand the people around them. Helping them become respectful individuals will help them now and long after they leave preschool. Talk to them about people's feelings - "Look at your brother and look at his frown.

What do you think he is feeling and why?" Help them identify these feelings and be able to discuss them. Have plenty of play dates and act as a facilitator; be involved just enough to encourage purposeful play and appropriate interactions, but do not intervene when it is unnecessary. Conflict resolution helps children develop social skills and learn how to get along. Allow your preschooler to work out a simple conflict without you if possible, and then praise them for the "kind words" they used or the way they compromised with a friend.

As September rolls around, you will be looking for ways to prepare your child for the school routine again. Research shows that children thrive on routine and a predictable environment. Even though summer is here and your schedules will be changing, maintaining some key routines in your preschooler's day will make each transition easy for the whole family.

* Keeping a regular bedtime is key. Even if you adjust your child's bedtime to accommodate the looser summer schedule, be sure to stay consistent. A restful child makes for a happier child




during the waking hours.

* Morning routines should stay consistent too. Your school day routine should not change in the summer, like eating breakfast, then brushing teeth, and getting dressed (of course some lazy, relaxing days are always a treat).

* Limit screen time. Even in the summer, computers, iPads, and TV time should be limited. Many experts believe that less than ten hours a week is appropriate for preschoolers.

* Encourage family time. If family dinners are the norm in your family, try to stick with that. Preschoolers count on these predictable interactions. If the school days are too hectic to plan dinner, maybe summer will allow you some extra time to create a new family ritual.


Most of all, enjoy your little wonders. They are at a fantastic age and truly just want to please you and have fun. Guide them, offer them plenty of opportunities to have unstructured free play and ask them lots of questions. Treasure these wonderful moments. ☆




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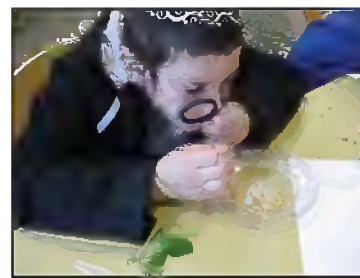
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Springtime at CJDS

Spring is an exciting time at the Charlotte Jewish Day School. While many other schools and their students are suffering from Spring Fever and winding down their year, we are celebrating

Grandparent's Day and looking forward to several out of town fieldtrips.

On Friday, May 6, about 200 grandparents and grand "friends" gathered together with CJDS students to celebrate Grandparent's Day. Musical performances, prayer, sign language and a jump rope presentation were all showcased by our multi-talented students.



A third grade student at the Schiele Museum

Mariashi Groner welcomed all of our guests and introduced this year's honorees of the Barbara and Jerry Levin Visionary Award, Patty and Bill Gorelick. "Jerry and Barbara Levin knew [that the survival of Judaism rested in the children], so they stood behind the day school here in Charlotte and when their last grandchild graduated from the day school, they created a legacy, an award that would be given to an honoree each year as the Barbara and Jerry Levin Visionary of the Year in Jewish Education." She went on to say, "When our little CJDS was still up on the hill, I don't think there were too many people imagining the school becoming a community day school. But Bill Gorelick did-



n't really worry about those little details. He knew that a Jewish Day School was an important part of a community's puzzle, and he was determined to make it happen. And, anybody who knows Bill knows that when he decides that something has to happen, it's going to happen. Thank you, Patty for supporting, advising, and cheering all that Bill does for the community." The highlight of this presentation was the speech given by Adelaide Gorelick, one of Bill and Patty's grandchildren and a 2008 graduate of CJDS. "...I have no doubt that CJDS has put me on the course of my parents and grandparents, giving to those who are in need of my giving. I am so honored to be part of a family who values tzedakah so much. I would also like to congratulate my grandparents for receiving such a huge honor from such an important school..." Congratulations to

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Barbara and Jerry Levin presenting the 2011 Barbara and Jerry Levin Visionary Award to Bill Gorelick

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