

Topeka Collegiate
Pre-Kindergarten
Summer Enrichment



We are so excited that you will be joining Pre-Kindergarten at Topeka Collegiate School in the new school year! Early childhood is such an amazing and important time for learning and development! These early years, when the brain is still forming, offer the perfect opportunity to begin building a foundation of knowledge and success that can continue throughout their lives. Plus, young children are so eager to learn! Little ones learn best through playing and doing and through this are able to build not only the academic areas, but the social and emotional areas as well. In Pre-K at TCS, we will fill our days with opportunities to explore and grow through play and hands on learning. You can help kick-start their learning by doing the same at home this summer. Included in this packet are a number of activities for you and your child to explore before the start of Pre-K. Please complete as many as you can this summer. There are a few pages that we would love for you to return at the start of the school year. These include three name writing pages (one for each month), three self-portraits (one for each month), a counting book, and a reading log. More detailed instructions can be found inside. It is also important to remember that learning should be fun. All of the activities listed have been chosen because they are fun and exciting for young children. If your child is not enjoying an activity, modify it to best meet your child's needs. Most importantly, HAVE FUN!

Name Writing

Enclosed is a sheet of paper for your child to practice writing his or her name. Please have your child write his or her name, to the best of his/her ability on the appropriate page each month (June, July, August) and bring the sheet with you at the beginning of school. In class, we will learn to write names using Title Case. This means that they will learn to write their names beginning with a capital letter and using lower case letters for the others. As with any Pre-K activity, writing names should be exciting for children and make them feel proud. It should not be a stressful or pressure activity. Allow your child to do the best he/she can! :D The following list includes fun name activities for name recognition/spelling and name writing to practice throughout the summer! Enjoy!

Name Recognition/Spelling:

- Type name on computer or other device
- Make name necklaces with letter beads
- Make name puzzles (<http://happyhooligans.ca/2011/09/20/easy-homemade-name-puzzle/>)
- Spell name with ABC blocks
- Spell name with letter magnets
- Glue things onto printed name - dried beans, cereal, yarn, stickers, etc.
- Cut or tear paper into little pieces or squares and glue onto printed name.
- Form name with play dough, pipe cleaners, Wiki Sticks, etc.
- Search for magnet letters in a sensory tub full of noodles, rice, etc.
- Spell name with foam bath letters in the pool or bathtub.

Name Writing:

- Write name with sidewalk chalk
- Paint name with paintbrush
- Trace name with glitter glue
- Finger-paint name
- Paint name with water onto sidewalk, fence, brick wall, etc.
- Write name with finger (or stick) in a thin layer of sand, salt, sugar, etc.
- Write name with finger in shaving cream
- Write name with finger in pudding (and eat it!)
- Rainbow write name - trace name with one color, then trace over with a different color, then another, and so on.
- Write name in dirt

*All of these can be used to practice drawing shapes and writing other letters and numbers as well!

Literature Connections

We all know that reading is extremely important for so many different reasons! Young children should be read to each and every day to help promote early literacy skills and an overall love of reading! Please do your best to read to your child everyday this summer! Attached is an ice cream cone chart to help keep track of your reading. Each day that you read, your child may color and cut out one scoop of ice cream (if your child would like to cut these shapes, great! Otherwise, this job can be for an adult or older sibling!). After coloring and cutting he/she may tape or glue the ice cream scoop to the ice cream cone found on the same page. At the end of the summer he/she should have a HUGE ice cream treat! Here are a number of fantastic books for early childhood along with activities to extend your child's learning. Also included is a list of favorite authors to check out as well!

- *If You Give A Mouse A Cookie* by Laura Numeroff
 - Bake chocolate chip cookies together and point out different measurement tools. Help your child count how many chocolate chips he/she finds inside his/her cookie, or place a certain amount of chocolate chips on each-1 on one cookie, 2 on another, 6 on all cookies, etc.
- *Corduroy* by Don Freeman
 - Gather a variety of buttons and sort them by various ways. Sort by color, number of holes, etc. Make patterns with the buttons and string them together. You can also discuss what letter makes the /b/ sound as in the word button, what letter the name "Corduroy" begins with, etc.
- *Madeline* by Ludwig Bemelmans
 - Count how many girls are in the rows. Line up dolls, cars, soldiers, blocks, etc. in similar rows. Can your child make two rows of five? ...two rows of eight?...how about two rows of ten? What is the longest row that can be made?
- *Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina
 - Stack Oreos just as the peddler stacks his caps in the story. Can you stack 3, 5, 10? How many can your child stack?
- *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss
 - Make Green Eggs and Ham for breakfast one day. Think of as many rhyming words from the story, and on your own, as you can.
- *Color Train, Color Train* by Martin Kelly and Fernando Luiz
 - Make your own color train-use recycled materials (cereal boxes, etc.) for train cars, draw cars on paper, etc. Then search for things around the house of each color to put in each train car-red items in red car and so on.

There are so many great stories for children but here are a few great authors to get you started!

- Eric Carle, Dr. Seuss, Laura Numeroff, Eric Litwin, Jan Brett, Leo Lionni, Margaret Wise Brown, H.A. and Margaret Rey

Other Enrichment Activities

- Go miniature golfing! Help your child count the number of times he/she hits the ball each time.
- Go bowling! Count the number of pins knocked down, the number of pins still standing, etc. Search for numbers and letters while at the bowling alley as well!
- Play "I Spy" - say to your child, "I spy with my little eye, something...red." Your child will search for the red thing you see. When he/she guesses correctly, let him/her have a turn to be the person spying! Play this game with colors or letters (I spy something that begins with the letter H!).
- Make sock puppets and have the puppets count, play I Spy, say the ABCs and so on.
- Make play dough and use it to form letters and numbers!
- Play "Memory" (matching game); create your own in which you must match capital and lowercase letters.
- Play board games such as Candyland, Hi-ho Cherry-O, Chutes and Ladders, etc.
 - Be sure to encourage turn taking and good sportsmanship!
- Create a story together and let your child illustrate!
- Go camping (even in the backyard!). Roast marshmallows and count how long they take to cook. Count how many marshmallows can fit on the stick. Count the stars. Talk about what letters various things begin with. Can he/she think of anything else that begins with the letter M, etc. After, have your child draw a picture of his/her favorite part of camping.
- Fly a kite! You can even make your own kite. Discuss what shape a kite is and search for other shapes in outside.
- Feed the ducks! Count how many ducks you see, how many you feed, etc. Note colors, shapes, any letters, or numbers around you.

The possibilities are endless! Numbers, colors, shapes, and letters are everywhere! Search for them at the grocery store, on a walk, anywhere and everywhere! Talk about new things, make up silly songs, dance, sing, PLAY!

Allow time to explore art! Practice using glue, scissors, markers, paint, etc. to create masterpieces!

Be sure to practice good social skills as well! Practice taking turns, sharing, using kind words, and so on! Allow your child to lose occasionally in the games you play and teach them how to handle frustration! Most importantly, enjoy your summer!

Directions for Attached Documents

The following lists directions for pages included in this packet. Please return these pages at the start of the school year!

- **Name Writing** - Three pages are included for your child to practice writing his or her name. Please have your child write his/her name on the enclosed sheets once in June, once in July, and once in August. (Practice many more times throughout the summer though!)
- **Self-Portraits** - Three pages are included for your child to practice drawing him/herself! Please have your child draw a picture of him/herself on the enclosed sheets once in June, once in July, and once in August. He/she may add as much detail to as they wish, including background items if he/she chooses.
- **Summer Counting Book** - This book can be used however you and your child wish to use it. You may choose to have this be a nature counting book and collect items from nature to glue to each page. You may choose to add stickers to each page, you might stamp, draw, glue other things, the list goes on and on. Let your child help determine how you create this book and make it fun!
- **Ice Cream Reading Chart** - Cut out the attached ice cream cone. Let your child color in one scoop of ice cream each day that you read together! Next, cut the scoop out and tape or glue it onto the ice cream cone. Continue adding a scoop each day that you read and by the end of the summer you'll have one *GIANT* ice cream cone! For fun, tape the cone on the wall or door, near the floor, and build up from there to help your child see just how tall it is! (Templates from allkidsnetwork.com)

(<http://www.allkidsnetwork.com/crafts/detail.asp?fil=/crafts/food/templates/ice-cream-cone-template.gif&cat=Food&nam=Ice-Cream-Cone-Template>)

Write your name here in June!

Write your name here in July!

Write your name here in August!

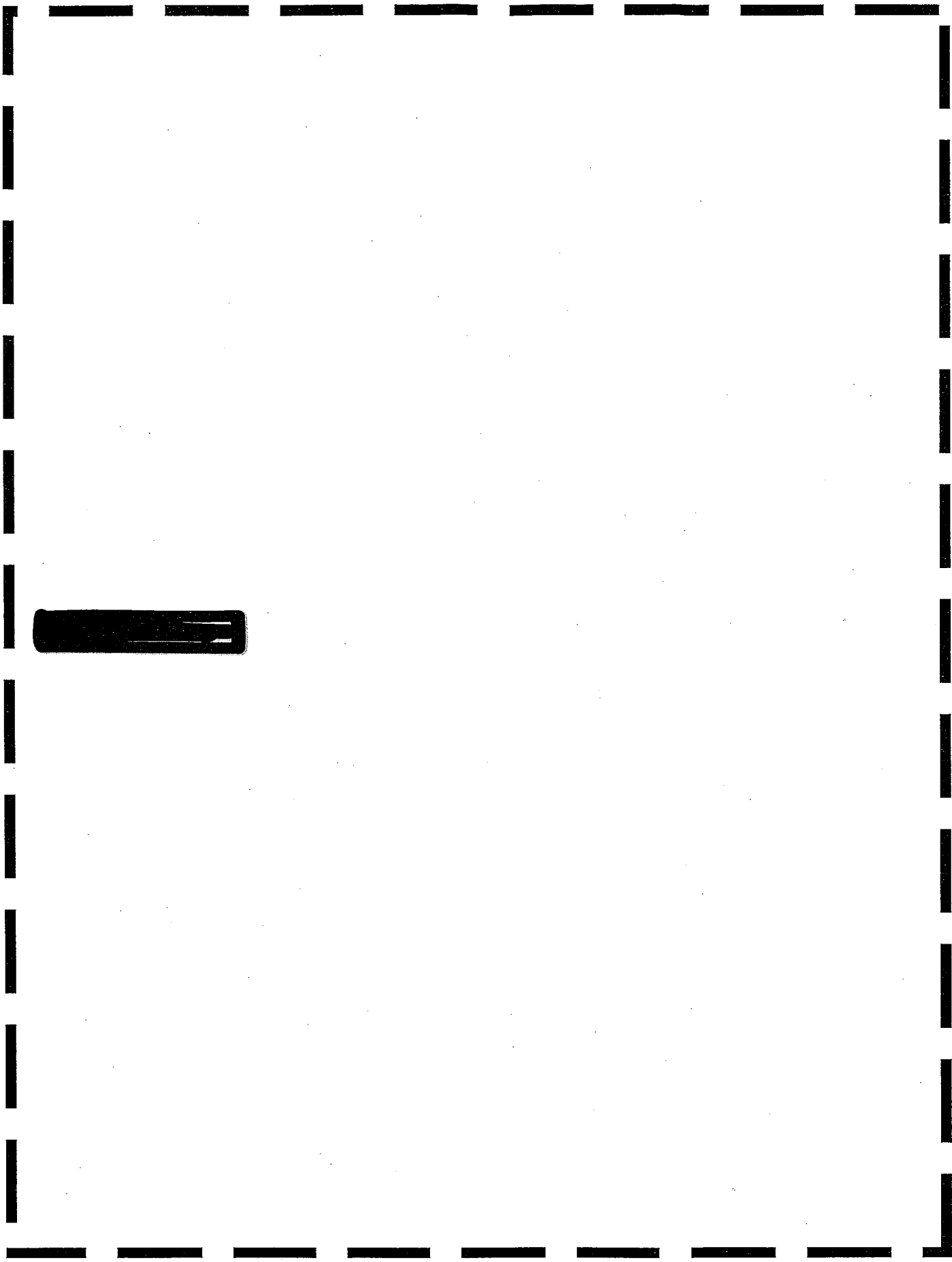
Draw a picture of yourself here in June!

Draw a picture of yourself here in July!

Draw a picture of yourself here in
August!

My Summer Counting Book!

Name: _____



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