## Week 6

# Independent 

# Study Packet 

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5 MORE Days of
Independent Activities in
Reading, Writing, Math, and Other Fun Stuff

# Helpful Hints for Students and Families 

## Materials You Will Need:

- Pencils
- Extra paper or a notebook/journal (everything can go in one place)
- Colored pencils, markers, or crayons for some of the activities



## Directions \& Tips



- You may complete the activities in any order.
- Check off each of the activities when you finish them on the menu.
- Make sure an adult signs the activity menu page before you bring it back to school.


## Activity Menu

|  | Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 | Day 5 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Reading | Reading Shield | Storytelling Cards | Alphabet Train | Get Ready for Reading: All About the Letter D | M Book |
| Writing | My Animal Habitat | Fill It Up Shape Writing | My Family Tree | Four Seasons Activity Placemat | About Me: <br> My Favorite Toy |
| Science | Craft an Underwater Viewer! | What to Wear <br> Weather <br> Worksheet | Different <br> Textures | Plant Life Cycle Flash Cards | Create a Weather Mobile! |
| Math | Play the Fish for Numbers Game! | Jungle Board Game | Making Wind Chimes | Preschool <br> Math: All <br> About the <br> Number 10 | Cut-Out Graph: Sea Creatures |
| Other Fun Stuff | Hopped Up Hide and Seek | Doctor and Nurse Paper Doll | Get Revved <br> Up About <br> Preschool <br> Physics | Paper Castle | Tin Can Phone |

## Parent/Guardian Signature:

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## Day 1

| Reading | Design your own reading shield. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Writing | Write and draw all about <br> an animal home. |
| Science | Create your own <br> underwater viewer. |
| Math | Practice counting while <br> fishing for numbers. |
| Other Fun Stuff | Play hide and seek-in a new way! |


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## Reading Shield



Name: $\qquad$

## My Animal Habitat

Circle a habitat. Choose an animal who lives in that habitat. Draw a picture of your animal in their habitat.

$\square$
$\qquad$ animal to live in the $\qquad$ .

## Craft an Underwater Viewer!

Let your child explore and investigate underwater life, just like a marine biologist. Nearly all children love the water and the beach, and this craft allows them to think about marine life and imagine how organisms interact with their environment. They'll get to bring the beach into their own home while honing their observational skills.

## What You Need:

- Fish bowl, or large glass dish pan
- Coffee can, rinsed and dry
- Duct tape
- Plastic wrap
- Rubber band
- Sand
- Water
- Pliers
- Natural objects (seashells, twigs, bark, small pebbles)


## What You Do:

1. Help your child remove both ends of the coffee can. Push down any sharp edges with the pliers and use duct tape to smooth over the edges. This is the underwater viewer.
2. Have your child tightly stretch a piece of plastic wrap over one end of the can. Secure it in place with a rubber band.
3. Fill the glass container with a couple of inches of sand. Then, add in natural items such as seashells and twigs.
4. Carefully cover the sand and objects with water. The water should be at least 5-6" deep. Allow the sand to settle in the bottom of the container.
5. Ask your child to describe what they see before they look through the viewer. Encourage them to describe shapes, colors, and whatever else they might observe.
6. Ask them to consider how the different organisms interact with each other in the ocean.
7. Place the plastic end of the underwater viewer about two inches into the water. Have them look inside the can and see if the objects look different. Challenge them to explain the differences between seeing objects above water and seeing them underwater.

Helpful tip: You might want to do a little research about marine life before beginning this project. Introduce your child to some interesting sea creatures and plant life that inhabit the oceans.

## Play the Fish for Numbers Game!

Is your child struggling with number recognition? Sometimes all it takes to learn something new is a little incentive - that's business talk for, "turn it into a fun game and they'll practice for hours." Here's a great way to go fishing for numbers that will feel more like play than counting practice!

## What You Need:

- Construction paper in various colors
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Magnet
- Paper clips
- Dowel to form the handle of the fishing pole
- String to form the fishing line
- Super glue


## What You Do:

1. Cut ten fish shapes, each about 6 inches long, out of the different colors of construction paper.
2. Write a different number from 1 to 10 on each fish.
3. Punch a hole in each one near the mouth area. Slide a paper clip through each hole to attach.

4. Tie the string to the dowel to make a fishing rod.
5. Use the super glue to adhere the magnet to the end of the string. Let it dry thoroughly.
6. To play: Scatter the fish so that the numbers are clearly visible. Tell your child, "I'm hungry for a number 4 fish!" and watch them hunt for it; then carefully lower the "rod" until the magnet catches the paper clip and they reel it in. Repeat with other numbers until all the fish are caught for a game that's so fun, it doesn't even feel like math practice!

Vary the game by using it to practice other things, too! Write letters on the fish to work on alphabet recognition, or put a sight word on each fish. Or, for some more advanced math practice, shout out a number and ask kids to fish for something "bigger" or "smaller."

## Hopped Up Hide and Seek

This game mayseem like nothing more than a slightly tweaked version of "Hide and Go Seek," but don't be fooled. Sure it's fun, but in between all that play, it reinforces verbal instructions and listening skills. Plus, it gives kids practice with positional words, colors, and number concepts. In this version of the game, instead of hiding yourself, you'll hide a very small item, such as a penny, for your child to find.

## What You Need:

- A small object, anything from a coin to a toy car


## What You Do:

1. Begin by having your child close their eyes until you've placed the item in a well-hidden location.
2. Give simple but very specific directions to guide your
 child in finding the object. A typical game might include: "Walk three steps forward." "Turn toward the window."
"Walk five steps forward." "Walk two more steps forward." "Look up on the second shelf." "Look behind the plant." Or throw in some colors; for example, "Look next to something that is red." At first, allow them to finish each step before moving on to the next direction.
3. But once they've gotten the hang of it, challenge their memory and their listening skills, by giving multiple-step instructions: "Walk three steps forward and then turn toward the window."
4. Don't be a "Hide and Seek" hog! After playing the game a number of times, allow your child to hide the object for you to find. In the beginning, it may be difficult for them to give specific instructions, but as long as you don't gloss over their mistakes, they'll improve quickly. Be sure to follow their instructions exactly, so that they can learn from any errors that are made. For example, if your child tells you to look beside a cup but really means for you to look behind it, they will quickly understand when they see your actions that they used the incorrect word. Give suggestions as needed.

The great thing about this game is that it's portable! It can be played just about anywhere, from the park, to your own living room, to a doctor's waiting room. The skills of giving and following directions are an important part of every young child's life. When presented in a game format, they can be fun too!

## Day 2

| Reading | Practice telling a story in <br> your own words. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Writing | Fill up the shapes with words and pictures. |
| Science | Decide what kinds of clothes <br> to wear in all weather. |
| Math | Practice your numbers while <br> playing a game in the jungle. |
| Other Fun Stuff | Make a doctor and <br> a nurse paper doll. |




Cut out each card along the dotted lines. Make a story by drawing a card and adding how you think it fits.

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## FILL IT UP SHAPE WRITIMG

Fill in each shape with illustrations and words related to the topic.


## What Should I Wear?

Sometimes we have to wear certain clothes because of the weather. Look at the clothes. What type of weather would you wear these clothes in? Draw a line from the clothing to the correct picture of the weather.


Jungle Race

## 4 Game Markers

| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | | $\begin{array}{l}\text { Fold on lines and } \\ \text { tape together }\end{array}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |


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## Doctor Paper Doll

Cut along the dotted lines and follow the prompts to create your very own doctor paper doll.
Then go to page two where your doll has the chance to interview you!


Tip: For a sturdy doll, print on cover or index weight paper. (You might need an adult to help cut these out!)

## doctor

(color them in and add details!)


## Time for an Interview!

Your newly assembled doctor pig wants to interview you!
Sit down and answer their questions.

My doctor pig's name is:
a. Doctor Pig: Thank you for assembling me! How do you feel today?

You: $\qquad$
b. Doctor Pig: What are some things you eat to feel healthy?

You: $\qquad$
$\qquad$
c. Doctor Pig: What are some ways you keep your mind healthy?

You: $\qquad$
$\qquad$
d. Doctor Pig: What are some ways you keep your body moving?

You: $\qquad$
$\qquad$
e. Doctor Pig: Doctors prescribe medicine, but sometimes they also prescribe activities. In the space below, write your own (non-medicine) prescription for good health!

## PRESCRIPTION:

For: $\qquad$ I'm prescribing: $\qquad$
$\qquad$
to do every $\qquad$ hours for $\qquad$ weeks/months/years.
Positive side effects may include: $\qquad$
Signature: $\qquad$

## Nurse Paper Doll

Cut along the dotted lines and follow the prompts to create your very own nurse paper doll.
Then go to page two where your doll has the chance to interview you!
Tip: For a sturdy doll, print on cover or index weight paper.
(You might need an adult to help cut these out!)

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## Time for an Interview!

Your newly assembled nurse bear wants to interview you!
Sit down and answer their questions.

My nurse bear's name is:
a. Nurse Bear: Thank you for assembling me! How old are you?

You: $\qquad$
b. Nurse Bear: How are you feeling today?

You: $\qquad$
c. Nurse Bear: What is something you do to feel healthy?

You: $\qquad$
d. Nurse Bear: What is something that comforts you when you don't feel well?

You: $\qquad$
e. Nurse Bear: What do you do to comfort a loved one when they don't feel well? You: $\qquad$
f. Nurse Bear: In the space below, draw a picture of us doing something healthy together:

## Day 3

| Reading | Find the missing letters in <br> the alphabet train. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Writing | Write the names or draw pictures <br> of each person in your family. |
| Science | Learn all about different materials <br> in this fun activity. |
| Math | Make your very own set <br> of wind chimes! |
| Other Fun Stuff | Discover physics in <br> this fun project. |



## ALPHABET TRAIN




Cut out the picture squares at the bottom of the page with the help of a parent. Then paste them on the train next to the correct beginning letter sound.


My Family Tree


## Different Textures

Goldilocks seems to know a little bit about texture: what she likes, what she doesn't, what's too hard, what's too soft, and obviously-what's "just right." This activity gets your child experimenting with their favorite textures among fabric and other materials that are smooth, rough, soft, or slippery-and then they'll compile them to create a masterpiece of recycled textured materials. Their very own texture book stimulates their sense of touch and improves their reading readiness with sight words, too.

## What You Need:

- Paper
- Stapler
- Fabric with different textures
(fleece, burlap, corduroy, felt, silk, satin, lace, wool, cotton, etc.)
- Variety of other textured materials (corrugated material, bubble wrap, sandpaper, foil, feathers, plastic, cellophane, etc.)
- Glue
- Marker


## What You Do:

1. Locate an assortment of textures from the above materials list, and place them onto the work surface so that your child has plenty of options to
 choose from. Encourage them to set aside a variety of textures that they like.
2. Next, have them glue each kind of texture material onto a different piece of paper. Let it dry.
3. Sit with them and go through the pages of their book. Ask them to touch each texture, and use a few words to describe how each page feels. Help them write their words next to each material.
4. Stack the pieces of paper on top of one another and staple them together.

Now, your child has their very own interactive book! As they flip through the pages, they'll get to know the different textures while they practice reading the words they chose to describe them.

## Making Wind Chimes

Stir crazy kids on your hands? Keep 'em busy with this colorful craft activity, and sneak in some math and fine motor skill practice without them even realizing it! This beaded wind chime is fun to make, and it gets kids experimenting with patterns, an important part of early math.

## What You Need:

- Multi-colored beads
- Small brass bells
- Buttons
- Yarn, cut into 7-9 pieces at least 6" long
- Paper tape
- Scissors
- Cardboard, pre-cut into a circle
- Hole punch


## What You Do:

1. Help your child wrap a small piece of paper tape to one end of each piece of yarn to help make lacing easier.
2. On the opposite end, help them tie a bead in place.
3. Help them punch holes in the cardboard circle where the laced wind chimes will be attached. Make sure to punch one additional hole in the center.

4. Have your child create different patterns while they thread each string. Encourage them to play with various textures by using different sizes of beads and bells.
5. Ask them to leave at least 2" on the top of each piece of yarn bead-free.
6. Help your child tie on and knot each of the threaded pieces of yarn to the holes in the cardboard disc. Leave the hole in the center open.
7. After all of the strings are tied in place, thread one more piece of yarn through the center hole and knot it from below.
8. Hang the finished wind chime up and enjoy breezy jingles!

## Get Revved Up About Preschool Physics

You don't have to be able to fully grasp Newton's Laws of Motion to teach your child the fun of how force, energy, and mass affect the movement of objects.

Experiment with planes, angles, and inclines using everyday objects around you. Hardcover books quickly become ramps when propped against a stack of more books. Use small cars or other wheeled toys to test them out. Try different inclines and objects and compare the results.

## What You Need:

- An open space
- Hardcover books of varying sizes
- Small wheeled vehicles or toys (different sizes and weights)
- Marble or small ball


## What You Do:

1. Arrange a stack of books and prop another book against them to form an incline, with the book that is propped up resting on the top book of the stack.
2. Demonstrate the fun to your preschooler by releasing a vehicle down the slope. Allow them to try it a few times on their own.
3. Change the angle of the incline by adding or taking away books from the stack. What happens?

4. Experiment with different surfaces and compare them. Does the vehicle move faster or slower when the book cover is textured? What kind of book cover makes for the slickest ramp?
5. Continue trying different books for the ramp itself. Does a short book make the vehicle move faster or slower than a longer book?
6. Use a variety of vehicles and toys. Does the truck move faster or slower than the car? Why?
7. Now try the marble. How does a spherical shape move differently down the ramp than a vehicle with wheels?
8. Finally, you and your child can try some races. Lay a piece of string across the floor to represent the finish line. Set up your inclines ... and go! No matter whose car crosses the finish line first, with this activity you've introduced your child to the fascinating world of physics!

## Day 4

| Reading | Learn all about the letter D! |
| :---: | :---: |
| Writing | Create your own four seasons placemat. <br> Use these lards to put the cycle in order. |
| Science | Practice counting to ten! |
| Math | Make your very own castle. |
| Other Fun Stuff |  |



## AedOing ALPHABET FUN About the Letter D

Trace the dotted lines on the letter D. Then write your own D next to it! Repeat.


Write the letter $\mathbf{d}$ in the space below.


All these objects have the letter $\mathbf{d}$ in their name. Circle the $\mathbf{d}$ in the name, then color in the object.


# The Four Seasons 

Winter • Spring • Summer • Autumn

$\{$ Which season is it now?


Color the seasons on this placeman.
Then, write the name of each season
in the box next to the picture.

$\square$

Which season is your favorite?

$\square$

## PLANT LIFE CYCLE

## HOW DO PLANTS GROW?

Cut out the flash cards with the help of a parent. Then, paste them in the correct sequence on the next page.


## PLANT LIFE CYCLE

## HOW DO PLANTS GROW?

Paste the cut flash cards in these boxes in the correct sequence.


## Preschool All About

Trace the dotted lines on the number IO. Then write your own IO next to it! Repeat.


There are IO clams below. Can you find them all?


Color in the fun art below. There is a number IO in each drawing. Can you find them all?



D

## Castle Pop-Up Directions:

1. Color and cut out the castle.
2. Fold dotted-line A into the castle, make sure to crease the fold well! Then unfold the sheet.
3. Fold dotted-line B into the castle, and then unfold.

4. Fold a sheet of construction paper in half, hamburger or hot dog style.
5. With a gluestick, glue only the underside of the green section of the castle cutout!
6. With your folded construction paper facing you like a book, fit the castle into the crevice made by the fold, making sure the paper is tucked tightly into the crevice of the construction paper.

7. Fold dotted-line C into the castle, DO NOT unfold the eet..
8. Now fold dotted-line D, so that when you look at the paper folded, the castle illustration is face out.

9. When the 'book' is open wide, the castle cutout should be creased facing the opposite way of the construction paper. The castle will collapse forward into the book when closed.


## Day 5

| Reading | Learn about the letter M. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Writing | Write or draw all about your favorite toy. |
| Science | Create your own weather mobile. |
| Math | Cut out the creatures and glue <br> them on the graph. |
| Other Fun Stuff | Make your very own phone! |
| Mat |  |



## Busy M Book

Help finish the " $M$ " book! With the help of a parent cut out the pictures that start with the " $M$ " sound. Then glue them in the book to complete the " M " book.




## My Favorite Toy:

Draw your favorite toy!


## Create a Weather Mobile!

Do you have a budding meteorologist in the family? Treat them to this art activity inspired by the weather. Your child will combine natural materials, household items, and basic art materials to create a hanging weather mobile. They'll practice science as they learn about the seasons, and get a chance to practice their motor skills. The end result is a cool piece of art that you can hang anywhere in the house!

## What You Need:

- Two sturdy sticks
- Yarn
- Cardboard
- Paper
- Cotton balls
- Glue
- Scissors
- Watercolor paint
- Paintbrushes
- Crayons
- Hole puncher


## What You Do:

1. Take a trip outdoors with your child and help them collect two sticks that are about the same length.
2. Search your house for reusable paper or cardboard materials. These can include (but are not limited to) cereal boxes, cracker boxes, shoe boxes, or blank sides of posters.
3. Ask your child to name the four seasons. Once they have named all four, discuss what types of weather you might see and feel during each season.
4. Invite your child to create a summer sun drawing. Encourage them to decide what shape the sun is, and then draw it using crayons.
5. Cut out the sun shape, and draw the same sunny picture on the back. Then punch a hole near the top of the summer sun.
6. Next, ask your child to create a cloudy day creation for the mobile by drawing a cloud shape on the cardboard.

Help them cut the shape out.
7. Glue cotton balls to one side of the shape and set it aside to dry.
8. Once it's dry, turn it over and cover the other side with cotton balls. When the second side is dry, punch a hole near the top of the cloud. You should end up with a soft, fluffy cloud.
9. To make the snow part of the mobile, hand your child a piece of white paper. Fold the paper in half, and then in half again. Use the scissors to cut small slits and shapes in the paper. Unfold to reveal a snowflake! Then punch a hole near the top.
10. Ask your child to draw a rain drop shape and cut it out. Using the water colors (after all, raindrops are water!) have them paint the raindrop. Once dry, punch a hole near the top.
11. Help your child thread a piece of yarn through each weather pattern hole, tying a knot to secure it.
12. Cross the sticks to make a plus sign and wrap the yarn around the spot where both sticks cross.

Tie securely, and add another piece of yarn tied to the middle to hang the mobile from.
13. Tie the sun, clouds, snow, and rain to one end of each stick.
14. Hang the weather mobile up, and keep the project going by asking your child to point each morning to the side that matches the day's weather!

## Sea Creature Graph

Cut out the sea creatures and arrange each kind in a column. Which row has the most? Which has the least?


## Tin Can Phone

Even in the era of the cordless and the mobile, there's a lot to be said for the oldfashioned tin-can phone. There's nothing flashy about this model, and you can't send email through the wire - er, string. But it offers something more modern versions don't: a fun project to make with a friend, and a dramatic illustration of vibration and sound waves.

## What You Need:

- Two tin cans, tops removed
- Duct tape
- A nail
- A hammer
- String
- Markers, paint, glitter, felt, or other decorations


## What You Do:

1. If the can opener left rough edges when you removed the tops, tape over them so your child won't scratch a finger. Give them the decorating materials and let them loose! They can personalize their "phones" however they'd like.
2. Turn both cans upside down and hammer a nail through the bottom of each can to make a hole in the center. Remove the nail and set aside.
3. Cut a long length of string, up to 10 feet.

4. Poke one end through the bottom of one can, knotting on the inside. Repeat with the other end of string in the other can.
5. Instruct two children to each take a can and move apart until the string is taut.
6. One child should put a can to their ear while the other talks directly into the other can. The sound will travel over the "wire."

What happened? When you speak, your voice makes vibrations. Once the string is stretched tight enough, these vibrations travel down the string and vibrate the bottom of the can on the other end, which, in turn, vibrates the air, and those vibrations travel through the air to the other person's ear.

## Week 6

> Independent Study Packet

# ANSWER KEYS 

Use these answer keys to check your work!

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## Answers What Should I Wear?

Sometimes we have to wear certain clothes because of the weather. Look at the clothes. What type of weather would you wear these clothes in? Draw a line from the clothing to the correct picture of the weather.


Anonese ALPHABET TRAIN



Cut out the picture squares at the bottom of the page with the help of a parent. Then paste them on the train next to the correct beginning letter sound.


## Answer Key

## Reading , in mix

Trace the dotted lines on the letter D. Then write your own D next to it! Repeat.


Write the letter $\mathbf{d}$ in the space below.


All these objects have the letter $\mathbf{d}$ in their name. Circle the $\mathbf{d}$ in the name, then color in the object.


# ${ }^{\text {Anewers }}$ The Four Seasons 

Winter • Spring • Summer • Autumn

$\{$ Which season is it now?


Color the seasons on this placeman.
Then, write the name of each season
in the box next to the picture.


Which season is your favorite?


## Answers PLANT LIFE CYCLE

## HOW DO PLANTS GROW ?

Cut out the flash cards with the help of a parent. Then, paste them in the correct sequence on the next page.


Trace the dotted lines on the number I0. Then write your own 10 next to it! Repeat.



There are IO clams below. Can you find them all?


Color in the fun art below. There is a number I0 in each drawing. Can you find them all?


## Busy M Book

Help finish the " $M$ " book! With the help of a parent cut out the pictures that start with the " $M$ " sound. Then glue them in the book to complete the " M " book.


## Anewers Sea Creature Graph

Cut out the sea creatures and arrange each kind in a column. Which row has the most? Which has the least?

4 4,

