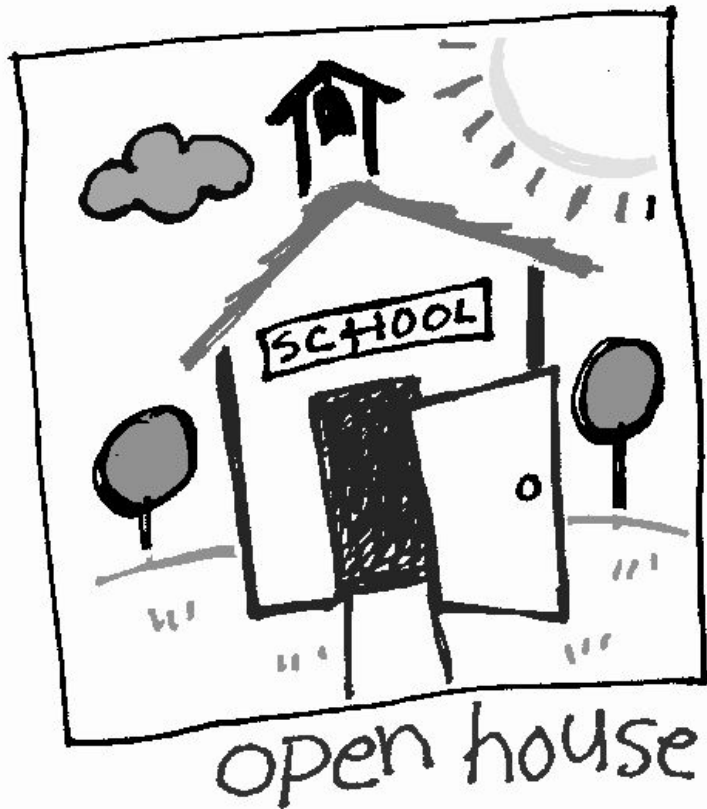


Office of Early Learning
Virtual Open House
7.21.2020



Strong Schools | Strong Students | Strong Staff | Strong System



Office of
Early Learning
www.atlantapublicschools.us

Director: Sydney Ahearn, Sydney.Ahearn@apsk12.org
Coordinator: Dr. Shana Weldon, sjweldon@apsk12.org

AGENDA



Welcome



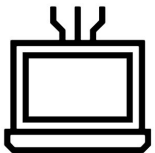
Pre-K, Virtually



Curriculum, Instruction, More



Technology, Supplies, More



Getting Set Up for Success



Q & A

Housekeeping

- ❑ We will be recording, so please turn your camera off if you prefer.**
- ❑ Please use the chat function to communicate and ask questions.**
- ❑ If your question is personal (or unrelated), please also feel free to use email!**
- ❑ Thank you for helping us maintain a positive and kind community!**

Looking Forward to Fall



Pre-K, Virtually

- ❑ **Our goal is to provide a robust early learning program that balances the unique developmental needs of young learners with the virtual environment.**
- ❑ **We know that there will be challenges, but hope that through consistent communication and strong relationships, we will be able to work through them.**
- ❑ **In addition to your teachers and school-based teams, our Office of Early Learning team is here to support you, whether with instructional needs or ‘life’ needs.**
- ❑ **Every school operates slightly differently - and every teacher brings their own flair! - but our Pre-K program will be largely consistent across the district.**

The First Three Weeks

Key Dates	Interaction	Key Activities
<p>Pre-Planning August 3 – 7, 2020 August 10 – 14, 2020</p>	<p>Mostly Virtual some in person activities may be needed in small or limited groups for staff</p>	<p>Focus on Planning for the Virtual Model</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with Families • Team building • Teacher Planning • Teacher Professional Development • Safety and Yearly Planning
<p>Runway for Return to Learning August 17 – August 21, 2020</p>	<p>Mostly Virtual some in person activities may be needed in small or limited groups for parents to pick up needed supplies and materials for the 9 week period</p>	<p>Focus on Student Wellness & Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess Student Learning • Social Emotional Learning Support • Health & Wellness Checks • Student Supply Distribution • Emergency Contact Information Submissions
<p>Day 1: First Day of School August 24, 2020</p>	<p>Virtual Learning for all students <i>(for at least the first 9 weeks of school or until we have entered minimal/moderate spread)</i></p>	<p>Focus on Student Learning and a Strong Start</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students Engage with Curriculum • Additional Student Assessments • Get to Know You Activities • Learning Expectations

The delayed start gives us the opportunity to offer additional robust professional learning and planning time for teachers, prepare and distribute materials and supplies to families, and begin engaging students.

What Should You Expect?

WHAT TO EXPECT:

PRE-K-K VIRTUAL LEARNING



1 A WEEKLY PLAN

Teachers will send a weekly update each Friday that includes all information about the following week's meetings, linked resources, and other relevant data. While we know changes are possible, this should help you have visibility into your child's schedule and learning



2 SMALL GROUP LEARNING

Each student will be seen at least two times per week in a virtual small group setting in order to ensure individualized learning opportunities.



3 LIVE AND RECORDED

Expect to see consistent learning experiences that include both live and recorded learning opportunities



4 TIMELY COMMUNICATION

You should have updated contact information for your child's teachers! If you attempt to contact your child's teacher, you should expect a response in approximately 48 hours.



5 INDIVIDUALIZATION

Your child will receive individualized learning experiences, including teacher feedback and a customized learning path through our content management system. Your teacher will share information about your child's progress.



6 ASK FOR HELP!

You may have individual needs that we didn't anticipate! We will do our best to accommodate your needs - please communicate with us!

Schedule Overview

Pre-K Virtual Learning Sample Schedule

Our schedule is aligned with state best practices to ensure a balanced learning experience for students, considering screen time limitations, live experiences, and more.

State Expectations:

- 1 hour (max) daily whole group, can be chunked
- Daily 15-30 min. small group (*each group*)
- 2x week, 15-30 min. individualized instruction (*each child*)



Sample Student Schedule

A Day in the Life of a Pre-K Student

8:00-8:30 Breakfast

8:30-8:45 Morning Meeting (Opening Circle)

8:45-8:55 Music and Movement

8:55- 9:10 Story Time

9:10-9:20 Phonological Awareness

9:20-9:30 Intro to Literacy

9:30-9:55 Small group or Independent Learning (*Imagine*)

10:00-10:15 Stretch/Brain/Restroom Break

10:15-10:25 Intro to Math

10:25-10:50 Small group or Independent Learning (Imagine)

11:10-12:30 Lunch/ Nap time

12:30- 1:30 Individual student learning 2x/week for 15-20 mins

1:30-3:00 Student at home center time (outdoor/ free play)



Communication

- ❑ Communication will be key! Each school will use a primary tool to communicate with you.
- ❑ Make sure your teacher has updated contact information for you.
- ❑ Tell us what's working and what's not!
- ❑ Visit our blog: apsearlylearning.weebly.com (pw: apsearly)
- ❑ Twitter: @aps_oel, @SydneyAhearn, @DrShanaWeldon
- ❑ Facebook: Atlanta Public Schools Office of Early Learning
- ❑ Enrollment issues: prekinfo@atlanta.k12.ga.us or 404.802.3640

Pre-K at AVA Jr.

- ❑ While our whole district will start virtual, some families anticipate needing a virtual model for longer than 9 weeks.
- ❑ Because of the way our state funding works, if you are interested in this option, we are asking you to commit to a full year of Atlanta Virtual Academy Jr. (AVA Jr.)
- ❑ Slots will be limited, just as they are across Pre-K .
- ❑ Under this model, you'd receive the same program but would (likely) not have a home school aside from AVA Jr.
- ❑ If interested, please indicate that on EnrollEarlyATL. Once the interest window closes, we'll finalize our process for selection.
- ❑ If you want to return to your home school once we are face-to-face, we are happy to see if we have options to offer, but cannot guarantee space

Curriculum, Instruction, More



GA Early Learning Development Standards

GELDS: Domains of Learning

I. Physical Development and Motor Skills	II. Social and Emotional Development	III. Approaches to Play and Learning	IV. Communication, Language, and Literacy	V. Cognitive Development and General Knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Well Being • Use of Senses • Motor Skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a Sense of Self • Self-Regulation • Developing a Sense of Self with Others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative and Exploration • Attentiveness and Persistence • Play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receptive Language (Listening) • Expressive Language • Early Reading • Early Writing • English Language Literacy 	<p><i>Sub-Domains:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Math • Social Studies • Science • Creative Development • Cognitive Processes

Key Curricula: OWL & Second Step

OWL (Opening the World of Language) is our primary curriculum, which integrates math, science, social studies, and literacy in unit-based learning experiences. Those units are:

1. *Welcome New Friends*
2. *My Family*
3. *Our Community*
4. *Life on a Farm*
5. *Jungle to Desert*
6. *Earth and Sky*
7. *Shadows and Reflections*
8. *Make it Move*

Second Step is our social-emotional learning curriculum. This curriculum helps students learn, practice, and apply skills for self-regulation and emotional management. The five focus areas are Skills for Learning, Empathy, Emotion Management, Friendship Skills, and Problem Solving.

Key Elements of Literacy and Numeracy:

Literacy:

- ❑ Read Alouds
- ❑ Phonological awareness
- ❑ Alphabet knowledge
- ❑ Writing
- ❑ Small group instruction



Mathematics:

- ❑ Small-group guided math
- ❑ Hands-on learning
- ❑ Sing-alongs
- ❑ Manipulative practice
- ❑ Problem solving
- ❑ Numerical concepts



Social Studies & Science

- ❑ Social studies and science will be embedded throughout the week, as well as in small groups on Fridays
- ❑ Social Studies explores community, social emotional learning, and same and differences in our culture
- ❑ Science is inquiry based with S.T.E.A.M focus



Imagine Learning

- ❑ Digital content management system, with a math and literacy component (as well as Spanish for our two DLI classes)
- ❑ Adaptive learning environment
- ❑ Provides lessons and related games
- ❑ Work can also be assigned to students
- ❑ Identifies possible small groups based on skill and need



Technology, Supplies, & More



Technology

- ❑ If you need assistance with a device or WiFi, please fill out [this survey](#) or visit <http://tinyAPS.com/?PreKTech>.

- ❑ What does your device need to work for virtual learning?
 - ❑ Camera and microphone
 - ❑ Internet access
 - ❑ Ability to download apps (e.g. Zoom, Seesaw, Imagine Learning, Google Classroom, MyBackPack)
 - ❑ Ability to use Imagine Learning (inc. most Androids and iPads - specific devices can be checked [here](#))

Supplies

❑ What supplies do I need?

- ❑ Schools will likely send out suggested supply lists that may support virtual learning.
- ❑ **Please** submit a request for supplies [here](#) through the Empty Stocking Fund - use 9999999 as your student number

❑ Will the district provide any supplies?

- ❑ Yes! We are working to finalize the list of supplies we will send home with students, but it will likely include some essential supplies (e.g. paper, crayons, pencils) and manipulatives (e.g. counters, building blocks, etc.)
- ❑ As we do in the classroom, we also expect to leverage ‘found materials’ to support learning like leaves, paper towel rolls, cheerios, and similar.

Getting Set Up for Success



Focus on the Main Thing:

Talk

Listen

Play



Setting Children Up for Success



Young children will have lots of questions about COVID and its potential impact on the world. While there are still a lot of unknowns, it's important that we share what we can and provide space for children to talk about their feelings.

Acknowledging these Challenging Times

- ❑ **Talk to your children about COVID-19!**
 - ❑ It is important that adults acknowledge children's feelings of stress, fear and uncertainty, but also remain calm.
 - ❑ Here are some resources that offer ideas and examples from the [CDC](#), [NASP](#), and the [AACAP](#).

- ❑ **Help make what's going on more concrete for children.**
 - ❑ [This is a great experiment](#) helping to visualize a virus and emphasizing the importance of handwashing
 - ❑ [Here](#) is a Brainpop lesson about COVID

- ❑ **Resources:**
 - ❑ Visit secondstep.org/covid19support for some resources
 - ❑ Visit Mind Yeti on Youtube for some good breathing and relaxation efforts
 - ❑ Check out [these](#) resources from the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence

Additional Resources to Manage Anxiety and Stress

Check Out these Apps (free in your phone's app store):

- Calm
- Mindshift
- Breathe
- Welltrack
- Moodpath
- Tide
- Youper



KEEP CALM
AND
NO DRAMA

Do:

- Go on walks
- Play outside
- Cook together
- Take lots of breaks
- Laugh, play, dance, and sing together

Best Practices for Remote Learning (*For Most Children*)

- ❑ Identify a workspace - let children personalize it, if possible.
- ❑ Set a daily schedule for yourself and your students (including meals and snacks)
- ❑ Get ready for work (e.g. get dressed, follow a morning routine)
- ❑ Create a 'tool box' with materials needed (could include snacks)
- ❑ Limit social media distractions
- ❑ Establish regular check-ins (and systems) with the people you care about
- ❑ Communicate!
- ❑ Provide choice, be flexible and patient, and focus on less-stress!

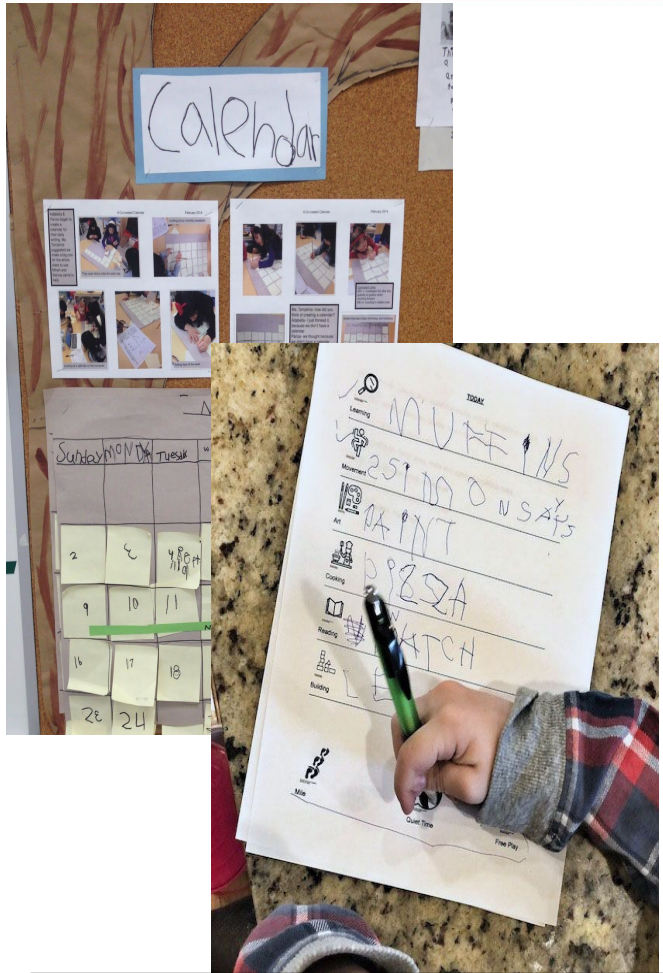


Setting Up Schedules & Routines



Set up a Schedule: Routine and consistency help children feel a sense of stability, which is particularly difficult during these challenging time. For many, a 'normal' school schedule may not be possible, but we encourage the creation of whatever routine is possible.

Tools to Support Schedules and Routines



Create a daily schedule and/or calendar *with* your child



Create a visual cue system for when you can help/when you can't be interrupted.



Use timers and songs to help children transition. For example a 3 minute 'clean up' song can help children focus on the task at hand.

Tools to Support Schedules and Routines

❑ Setting up Home Jobs/ Chore Chart:

- ❑ Encourage families to watch this video about [classroom jobs](#)
- ❑ Ask children to brainstorm a list of jobs they can do around the house - for example: table helper (setting the table), lights monitor (turn off lights around the house), librarian (putting away books), and more
- ❑ Make a chore chart or job chart - older students can do this themselves.
- ❑ Track success with stars or stickers!



A Note on Pre-K/Kinder Readiness

Pre-K and K teachers agree - the most important skills you can give your child are social-emotional.

- Taking turns and sharing
- Identify emotions in words
- Practice calm self down
- Taking responsibility (e.g. for mistakes or accidents)



Additionally, physical skills can also be helpful!

- Hygiene and restroom etiquette!
- Putting on shoes and clothing
- Opening food items and drinks independently
- Cutting, gluing, folding, and more
- Skipping, jumping, leaping, hopping



Questions



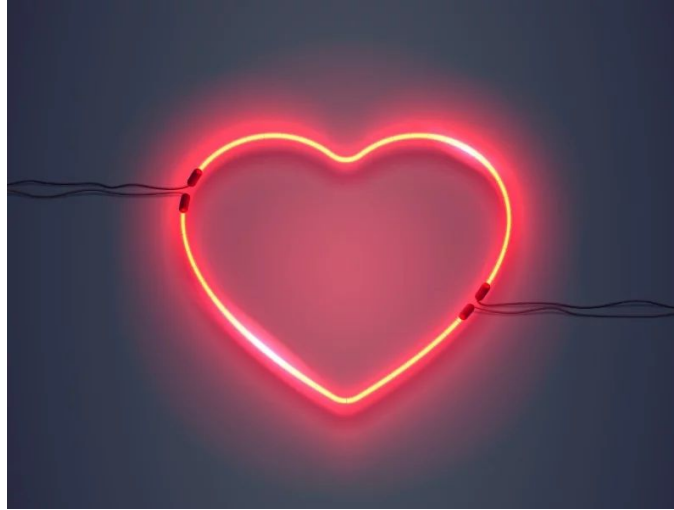
FAQs

- ❑ **Where can I find additional information about programs that *will* be face-to-face in the fall?**
 - ❑ DECAL is committed to supporting families in finding the setting that works right for them.
 - ❑ Visit qualityrated.org or call the hotline 1-877-255-2454.

- ❑ **Can you hold my seat for the first nine weeks (or however long virtual learning happens)?**
 - ❑ Unfortunately, we are not able to hold spots, per our state guidance. This is to ensure that we don't have 'empty' slots, while others are waiting on waitlists.
 - ❑ However, we are more than happy to connect when face-to-face instruction resumes to try to find you and option that works for you.

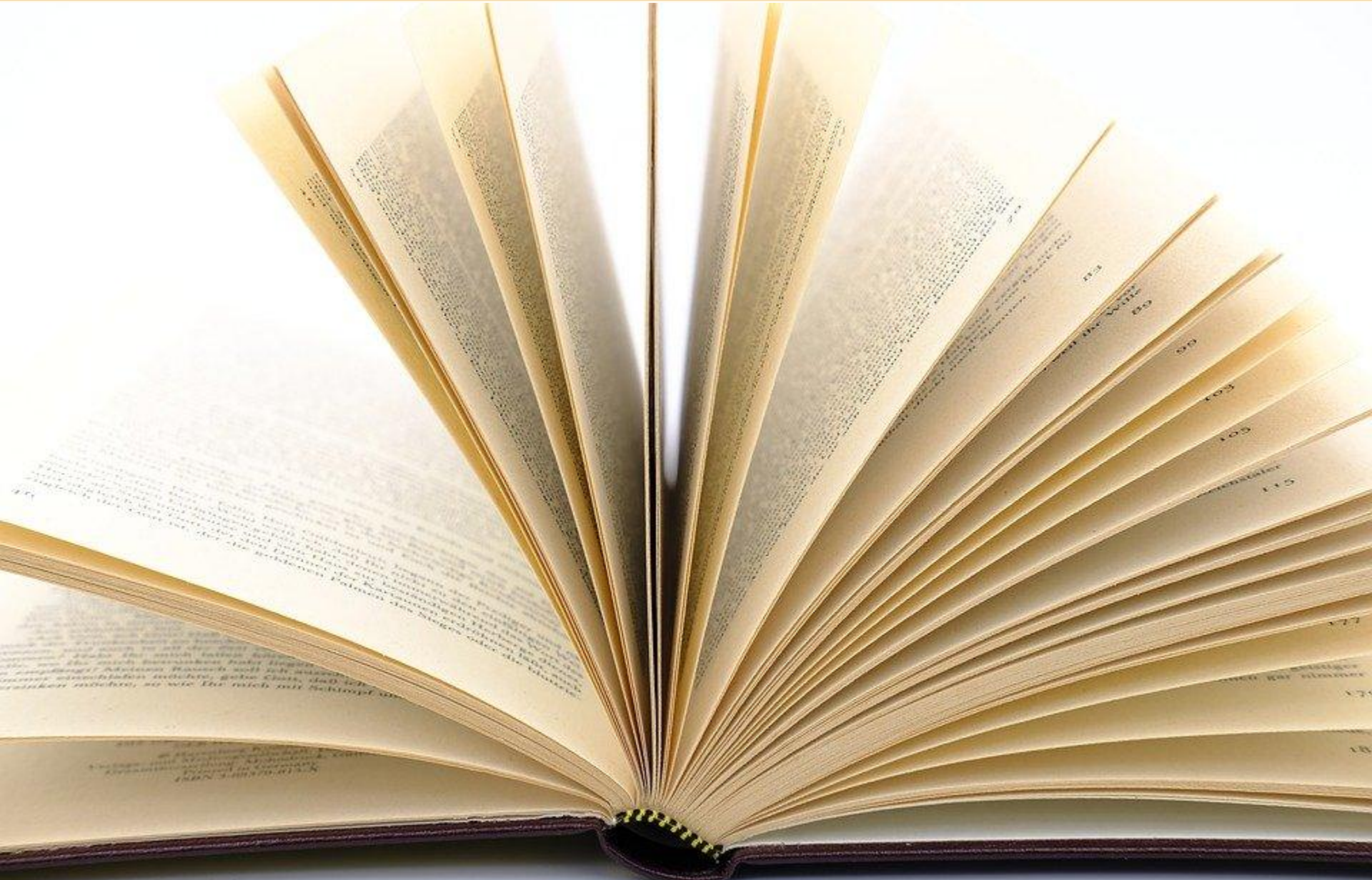
- ❑ **Who do I call if I'm not happy about my experience?**
 - ❑ Your teacher, the Office of Early Learning, your school

Closing Notes



Most importantly, be **kind to yourself and each other! Take breaks and give your children breaks. The best thing that *everyone* can do is make sure that children (and adults!) feel loved, supported, and nurtured.**

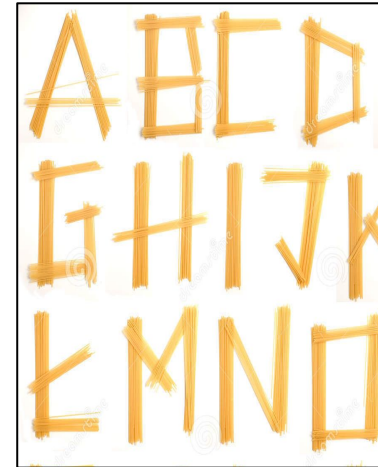
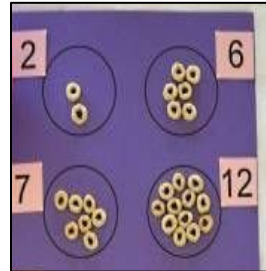
Appendix



Ideas and Skills for Activity Time

Reviewing Skills and Concepts:

- ❑ Naming letters, numbers, shapes, colors, days of the week, months of the year
- ❑ Counting and sorting, making patterns
- ❑ Understanding same/different, bigger/smaller, over/under
- ❑ Exposure to science and social studies concepts
- ❑ Writing and recognizing full name
- ❑ Talk & introduce vocabulary!



Resources:

- ❑ Found materials are great tools - magazines, cheerios, dried beans, leaves, socks, beads, earrings, spaghetti, and more can all be used for the activities above.
- ❑ Use an online whiteboard, if you don't have a supply of paper but *do* have a computer.
- ❑ Manipulatives: Toy Theater Manipulatives; National Library of Virtual Manipulatives ; Didax Educational Resources, Virtual Manipulatives by McGraw Hill
- ❑ Additional Resources

Additional Resources: Art, Music, & Movement

Visit:

- ❑ [Gonoodle.com](https://www.gonoodle.com) has great music and dancing.
- ❑ [Jarrett Lerner](https://www.jarrettlerner.com) has created lots of blank comic strips and activities to inspire kids.
- ❑ [PBS Kids Music](https://www.pbskids.org/music) has lessons, songs, and more to inspire your students.
- ❑ [Little Bins for Little Hands](https://www.littlebins.com) also has a huge number of resources and ideas!

Create and Explore:



- ❑ Ask children to invent a song about their home or family!
- ❑ Ask children to identify their favorite song. Why do they like it? What do they think inspired the song writer?
- ❑ What items at home can be used as instruments? Can they make a song?
- ❑ If they could transform their room into a private island, what would it look like? What animals would live there? What would be growing on the trees?

Additional Resources: Virtual Field Trips

Check out these great virtual field trips that students can benefit from:

- ❑ [Center for Puppetry Arts](#): check out puppet shows and learn about the ATL treasure
- ❑ [Georgia Aquarium](#), [National Aquarium](#), [Tennessee Aquarium](#): explore like you're there!
- ❑ [Panda Cam at the Atlanta Zoo](#), [Jelly Cam from Seattle](#), [San Diego Zoo](#): spending some time relaxing with animals
- ❑ [Learning about Farms](#): take trips to many different types of farms and orchards
- ❑ [Nature Conservancy](#): several ~45-minute trips to different habitats around the world
- ❑ Walk [the Great Wall of China](#) with this virtual tour.
- ❑ Smithsonian Virtual Tours - [National Museum of History](#) and more
- ❑ Tour of the [California Redwoods](#)

Resources: A Calendar of Options & Scavenger Hunts

Things to Practice						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Count a handful of pennies	Write your first name 3 times	ABC Say the alphabet to someone	Have an adult read a book to you	Practice Tying your shoes 	Find 3 circles in your house 	Have an adult read a book to you 
Look for A, B, C's in the newspaper or magazine	Tell someone a favorite story	Practice Tying your shoes 	Draw a picture of someone you love	Draw a house and cut it out 	Zip or button your coat 	Look for D, E, F's in the newspaper or magazine
Find 4 square things in your house	Have an adult read a book to you 	Write your first name 3 times	Look for G, H, I's in the newspaper or magazine	Count your fingers	Sing a Song!	ABC Write the alphabet
Find 5 blue things in your house	Count a handful of coins	○ Cut out 3 circles all different sizes	Write your first name 5 times	Sort coins by color	ABC Say the alphabet to someone 	Have an adult read a book to you 
ABC Write the alphabet	Have an adult read a book to you 	Draw a tree and a house	Count your toes	Find 5 red things in your house	Zip or Button your coat 	Write your first and last name

Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt

How many things can you spy?

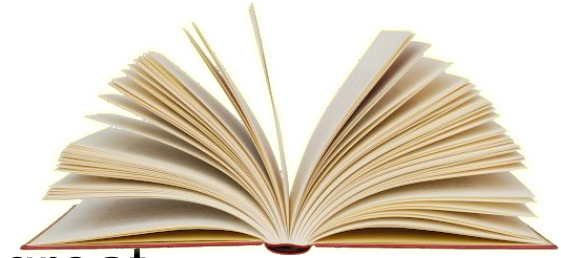


Put your children to work **finding things** around their house and neighborhoods! You can also provide choice boards with skills and ideas to practice. Let your child tell you what they want to practice and what they want to look for! Encourage them to create hunts for siblings or friends.

Story Times/ Read Alouds

❑ Some Best Practices for Reading Aloud!

- ❑ Check out this video from the [Speech School!](#)
- ❑ Talk about parts of the book, author/illustrator/etc.
- ❑ Explain vocabulary using PAT (Point, Act Out, Tell). (And then try to use those words later!)
- ❑ Ask lots of open-ended questions! (Those are questions without a yes/no or single correct answer.)
- ❑ Build connections between the book and the world, or from one book to another.



❑ Resources:

- ❑ Use a physical book! Check out some great information about [START](#) reads and reading books multiple times.
- ❑ OR use a digital book - APS (TumbleBooks), Fulton Library, local library or school system.

Additional Resources: Literacy and More



Need some more ideas about literacy? Check out the [day-by-day learning](#) experiences from Scholastic. Each day has a video, a story, and an activity or two. The Atlanta Speech School has also launched an [online preschool](#) which includes some great resources rooted in a book! Additionally, the Department of Early Care and Learning has launched [GA Pre-K at Home!](#)

Additional Resources: Exploration & STEM



Want to give students problems and challenges to explore and engineer? Check out [this calendar](#) of creative suggestions and ideas that will keep little minds and hands busy and learning. Or check out some of [these interesting projects](#) or this [giant list of ideas and resources](#).

Providing Additional Resources: Just in Time Options



Got families feeling overwhelmed and need **something** to do? Check out [this calendar](#) of livestream events, classes and more that families can access.

Post Script: Additional Resources

- ❑ Check out our online portal for families - apsearlylearning.weebly.com. You'll need a password for the 'education' page. It's apsearly!
- ❑ Check out [Wide Open School](#) for some more of each /all of the types of resources mentioned above.
- ❑ Visit [here](#) for a list of speech therapy resources
- ❑ [Read 4 K](#) is a text-based resource. Text "GEORGIA" to 70138 to sign up.
- ❑ A huge list of resources including websites, tools, and more is [here](#)!
- ❑ American Reading Company ARC is [giving away 20 free ebooks!](#)