



Dear Families:

Welcome to the Archdiocese of New York! We are so excited that your child will be joining our Catholic school community this fall. Summer is a wonderful time to engage in reading and math activities with your child to prepare for Kindergarten in a few short months. Below are some ideas for fun and engaging activities that your family can participate in during the summer:

Let's Read!

Reading is one of the best gifts we can give our children! Strong readers become good writers and thinkers. Take advantage of these summer months to read anything and everything with your child. Visit your local library or bookstore and browse different sections. Expose your child to different kinds of writing – a favorite storybook, nonfiction, or a book of poetry. Read magazines and newspapers. Talk about the photos and illustrations. Follow a recipe in a book or instructions on a food container and work together to create a family meal. Follow the directions and ask your child to predict what step comes next. Whatever the content, reading widely and often develops curiosity and inspires children to create and dream.

Everyday Math!

Help your child explore math at home. One idea is creating containers filled with small treasures (buttons, shells, beads, ribbons, acorns, etc). Children will naturally sort these items by size, color, and shape. Play along and talk about the different groupings. Include math talk when cooking, playing in the park, and at bedtime. Ask questions such as: “We have five people eating dinner. How many forks do we need on the table?” “How many times do you want me to push you on the swing?” “How many books should we read before bed?” Children also love to measure at this age. Measure items such as the width of the bed, the size of the dog, and the length of the carpet. Building is another great math activity! Make buildings from blocks, Legos, recycled items, or boxes. Talk about sizes, shapes, widths, and heights as you build. The more kids engage with math and measurements with hands-on experiences, the more prepared they'll be to learn new math skills and concepts this fall.

Explore your Community!

New York City is one of the world's best classrooms! Take advantage of the city to visit museums or art galleries. Discuss the different colors, materials, shapes, and textures in the art. After the visit, sit together with paper and crayons to make your own art inspired by what you saw. Enjoy sunny, warm days at the park. Ask your child to find the smallest and the largest object in the park. Go on a scavenger hunt together to find sticks, leaves, or flowers. Turn an errand of running to the grocery store into a learning opportunity. In the produce section, review which foods grow in the ground and which grow on trees, or even put your child in charge of the list so he or she can cross off items and search the shelves. For a young child, even the most commonplace of activities and objects can become an amazing learning opportunity; I encourage you get creative and help your child explore!

We are so thrilled to partner with you in the education of your child, and we look forward to sharing in your child's growth and development this fall and for many years to come!

Sincerely,

Betsy Okello, PhD

Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Staff Development