Summer Learning is Easy!

It’s summer and families are focused on staying cool and having fun together. You may be planning vacations or visits with family located in different cities or states or just want to spend time together as a family this summer. Whether you are traveling or staying home, you will have opportunities to help your child learn new concepts, words and skills while having fun together.

Traveling together offers many opportunities to talk with your child, introducing many new words to her vocabulary. She will love using words like destination, agenda, expedition, journey, excursion, voyage, tour and quest. “Today’s destination on our quest for the best ice cream ever, will be Southern Craft Creamery.” Explain that destination is where you are going and quest is a search for something, in this case a search for the best ice cream. Encourage her to use these words in her play and introduce many other new words in your conversations during your trips or when running errands each day.

Math and science concepts are used throughout your day in your home or on the road.

continued on page 5
Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday

Take advantage of the sales tax holiday August 2-4, 2019 (HB7123) for clothing and school supplies. During the first weekend in August, the sales tax holiday helps families with the cost of getting children ready to return to school. It can be used to buy clothes that fit fast growing children and backpacks full of necessary school supplies. The sales tax holiday eliminates sales tax on the following items:

- Bags (e.g., backpacks, diaper bags, fanny packs), wallets, clothing, shoes with a sales price of $60 or less
- The first $1,000 of the sales price of personal computers or personal computer-related accessories purchased for noncommercial home or personal use. This includes tablets as well as desktop and laptop computers.

The following items will not qualify for the exemption:

- Accessories (e.g., jewelry, handkerchiefs, watches, or watchbands)
- Briefcases, garment bags, or suitcases
- Rollerblades, skates, skis, or swim fins
- Umbrellas

The exemption also applies to school supplies with a sales price of $15 or less. Qualifying items include, but are not limited to:

- Crayons, pencils, pens and scissors
- Cellophane tape, glue, or paste
- Composition books, legal pads, notebooks, and paper

First Day of VPK

The very first day of Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) is a huge milestone worth celebrating! No doubt, many parents will be taking a few pictures on their child’s first day of VPK. Parents are encouraged to share their excitement by downloading and printing our “My First Day of VPK” flyer from our First Day of VPK webpage. Children can pose with the flyer for pictures and parents can post photos to social media using #1stDayVPK.

The Office of Early Learning will be sharing #1stDayVPK tagged pictures on our social media pages through the beginning of September this 2019-2020 school year.

We look forward to seeing all the #1stDayVPK pictures and hope our new VPK families enjoy the adventure of the new school year!

August 2 National Ice Cream Sandwich Day       August 3 National Watermelon Day
August 4 Friendship Day       August 4 National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day
August 4 Sisters Day       August 9 Book Lovers Day       August 10 National S'mores Day
August 11 Son and Daughter Day       August 12 Middle Child's Day
August 13 Left Handers Day       August 14 National Creamsicle Day
August 15 Relaxation Day       August 16 National Tell a Joke Day       August 17 National Honey Bee Awareness Day
August 18 World Daffodil Day       August 19 National Potato Day
August 20 National Radio Day       August 21 Senior Citizen's Day
August 22 National Tooth Fairy Day       August 26 National Dog Day
August 30 Frankensteins Day       August 30 Toasted Marshmallow Day
August 31 National Eat Outside Day       August 31 National Trail Mix Day

Special Dates in August
Have you ever heard someone say, “I don’t do math!”? Does this mean that this person doesn’t cook, tell time, measure anything, use a calendar or use a phone? In order to do any of these activities, you must use math. “I don’t do math” probably means that the person does not solve equations or prove geometric theorems and uses a calculator to find percentages or figure measurements.

It has been estimated that as many as 93% of adults in the United States have some sort of math anxiety. If you are one of those 93% of adults who fear math and hope that you will never have to explain math concepts to your child, you need to realize that you use math all day long every day. Telling time, using a calendar, doing laundry, driving a car, cooking, purchasing clothes or groceries, and making a phone call all require math skills. As a parent, you can help your child feel at ease learning math skills even if you did not like math when you were in school. There are things you can do that will change math anxiety magically into math mania. Soon you will find you are teaching your child math all day long and enjoying math!

Don’t allow your math anxiety to affect your child’s view of math. Be excited when your toddler starts to count his toes and fingers because you have been counting them for him as you wash his hands and feet. Measure his height as he grows and delight in how tall he is on each of his birthdays. Tell him how smart he is when can count to 20 or knows that when he has 5 cookies and eats one, 4 cookies are left.
Math Magic continued...

Talk about math every day with your child as you cook, do laundry and drive your car.

Cooking:
Ask him to help you cook and talk about math as you cook.

“I need 2 cups of flour to make cookies, help me measure 2 cups of flour.”

“Get 4 apples out of the bag for you and your 3 friends to have for a snack”

“Let’s turn the oven up to 350 degrees to bake the bread.”

“Which pot is big enough to hold the chicken?”

Laundry:
Let’s see how many shirts and socks we can put in the washer.”

“I need to measure ¾ of a cup of laundry detergent. That is less than a full cup.”

“Let’s match the socks that go together to make a pair. How many pairs of socks do we have?”

“Are some pants longer or shorter than your pants? Let’s put them beside each other to find out which are longer and which are shorter.”

Riding in a car or bus:
How much space does the car need to park? Let’s see if this parking spot is big enough for the car.”

“The sign says the speed limit is 30 mph. My speedometer says I am driving 40, so I am driving too fast. That means I have to put on the brake to slow the car down.”

“Grandma’s house is 5 miles past the stop sign. How many miles do we need to go to get to grandma’s house? Let’s count the miles until we get there.”

Play math games, card games and board games, make patterns, do puzzles and build with blocks with your child. Candyland, Chutes and Ladders, Checkers and other board games teach your child to count, follow directions and think logically. Go Fish, Old Maids, Memory, Match and other simple card games help him learn colors, shapes, directions and order.

He will learn math skills, concepts and words by doing all of these fun activities with you. Use words such as short, shorter, long, longer, big, small, and little when you are getting your child dressed, building with blocks together or putting puzzles together. Top and bottom, inside and outside, curved and straight are words to include when you are describing something to him or asking him questions about objects or toys. All of these are words used in simple math concepts such as size, shapes, comparisons and directions.

Use math magic to have fun with your child. He won’t even know he is learning math and you will find that you may cure your math anxiety.
Summer Learning continued...

Discuss how far you travel each day or how long it takes you to get to the next stop on your trip, even if it is only a trip to the grocery store. Ask your child to look for numbers or shapes on signs as you travel. Count cars or trucks you see that are a certain color, such as all of the red ones. Talk about the weather, the clouds, the sun and the moon with your child.

Ask your child to be a tour guide and tell about the places you pass in your own neighborhood or city. When you get home, ask her to draw pictures about what she saw or did on your trip and you can help her write words to describe what she observed.

Summer is a great time to plant seeds with your child and watch the plants sprout and grow. Help her measure the plants and make a chart to keep track of the growth. Tell her that this is what scientists do when they are researching plant growth. Grow some plants outside and some inside and see which grow faster. Talk about what plants need to grow and what people need to grow.

Ask your child to help you plan and cook meals or snacks during the summer. Many math and science skills and concepts are used in cooking and preparing food. Make a letter lunch together and use fruits and vegetables to make a pattern for snack.

Read books with your child daily. Visit the local library and check out books about the places you visit or would like to visit, growing plants from seeds, how to make ice cream and other books your child finds interesting. Find cookbooks for kids and try some of the recipes at home.

Visit the Office of Early Learning’s Summer Learning page for more information on summer learning activities for you to do with your child. (http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/parent-resources/2019-summer-learning). Also check out the activities on the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards Families page. You can find activities to match the standards for your child’s age.

If your child will be starting kindergarten this year, find information on making the Transition to Kindergarten easier for you and your child. (http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/families/transition-to-kindergarten)