



Sample Family Engagement Package

Early Childhood Education Division | August 05, 2020

Dear Preschool Families,

Welcome to the **“Pre-K At-Home Learning for Families”** series designed to support children’s learning and early literacy during times when children are not able to attend in-classroom preschool on a regular or full-time basis. Along with the Centers for Disease Control, National Pediatrics Association, and the Tennessee Department of Health, we believe that in-classroom learning is best for children. Preschool “at-home-remote learning” options are temporarily implemented when local governing bodies make the decision to implement a modified instructional program approach. The temporary preschool “at-home-remote learning” options provide continuity of learning for children until programs work their way back to providing full-time in-classroom preschool. Whether your child attends in-classroom preschool daily for part of the day, some days a week, or not at all during the temporary period, families will receive “At-Home Learning Engagement Packages” to support their children’s learning.

First, we want to thank you for all the ways you already support your child’s learning. This series of at-home learning supports will take the guess work out of what you need to ensure your preschooler is engaged in the types of learning experiences that best prepares him/her for kindergarten.

This **Getting Started** letter has an accompanying [video](#) that will walk and talk you through:

- Orientating you with the **“At-Home Learning Engagement Package”**
- Setting up a learning space for your child to complete daily lessons,
- Creating and following a daily schedule,
- Establishing daily learning routines,
- Organizing learning center materials,
- Preparing simple instructional materials, and
- Checking in and connecting with your child’s teacher

In the Orientating you with the **“At-Home Learning Engagement Package”** segment of the video, you will become more familiar with what is included in the package. You will also gain a better understanding of what you need to do each day to support your child’s learning for the given instructional period covered.

In the **Setting up a Learning Space** segment of the video, you will learn ways to set up a simple, child-friendly work space that will provide a space for learning to occur and materials to be easily accessed and used. Setting up a space requires little time and will give you great peace and confidence knowing all that your child needs for successful learning is already set up and in one place. Learning to use with materials in a designated work space and keeping work spaces organized are important school readiness skills to practice!

In the **Creating and Following a Daily Schedule** segment of the video, you will use the ready-made schedule cards included as part of your At-Home Learning Engagement Packet you receive from your child’s teacher. Simply cut apart the cards, red arrow shape, and attach sticky-back magnets (for posting the schedule on a refrigerator, dishwasher, or other metal surface) or glue to a poster chart. Your child will enjoy tracking the day’s activities by moving the big red arrow beside the next

scheduled activity. For more specific information on what your child will do during each scheduled activity, continue onto the next section that covers establishing daily learning routines.

In the ***Establishing Daily Learning Routines*** segment of the video, you will gain ideas for helping your child establish daily routines that mirror in-classroom routines. These include such things as:

- Being counted as “present” on the Attendance Chart,
- Selecting learning center to work and play at,
- Tracking completed activities with the daily schedule,
- Connecting with teacher and classmates during small group lessons,
- Listening and interacting to stories read and learning moments demonstrated,
- Transitioning between activities, and
- Learning care for self, others, and materials.

Established daily learning routines also help children to become better at transitioning between one activity and the next. They become more comfortable with the rhythm and flow of their day. At the end of the day, they feel a real sense of accomplishment. All of which are important kindergarten readiness and life skills to obtain.

In the ***Organizing Learning Center Materials*** segment of the video, you will be given ideas for ways you can organize your child’s learning center and other instructional materials that will enable your child to easily access and use them independently. Boxes, trays, gift bags, and/or baskets you have around your home can be used to organize learning center materials.

In the ***Preparing Simple Instructional Materials*** segment of the video, you will quick, simple, step-by-step demonstrations of how to prepare of the few instructional materials needed that are included in the “*At-Home Learning Engagement Package*.” For example, you will see how to create a pictorial daily schedule, attendance chart, name and photo cards, and a learning center chart. All of which will be used daily throughout coming weeks. After these initial materials are created, “preparing instructional materials” will consist of ensuring materials included in the learning engagement packet are set out in the learning space set up for your child that allows for easy access and use.

In the ***Checking in and Connecting with Child’s Teacher*** segment of the video, you will learn about the scheduled live chat or meet times arranged for your child’s teacher to check-in and connect with your child and you. This time may include some additional literacy and math lessons. These check-in times are noted as “small group” activities on the daily schedule. This activity mirrors the small group time your child would experience with the teacher or another adult when attending in-classroom preschool. Your child will enjoy sharing things he/she has worked on or played with during this special connection time with the teacher.

Upon completion of the Getting Started video viewing, proceed to watch the ***Learning Centers Introduction*** video which will provide step-by-step demonstrations on how your child might work and play when engaged in any of the following learning centers: play dough, hand tools, play school, construct, and easel art.

Preparation of Instructional Materials

Prepare the following simple instructional materials for use throughout this unit and in other units throughout the school year:

Attendance Board

The Attendance Board introduced in the first week can be made using a large piece of paper that is divided into two columns or the side of a refrigerator can be used to create a magnetic attendance chart. This attendance board will be used throughout the year to take attendance during morning routines.



Learning Center Labels

The Learning Center labels introduced in the first week will stay in place throughout the year. Create labels and take photographs of each added Learning Center in your classroom. Mount and label the photograph on a piece of cardstock. Consider laminating each label for durability.

Each week, watch a new videos with your child to learn what new learning will take place during the centers that week. Look in the material package included with this document for materials to add to specific learning centers.



Daily Schedule Chart and Labels

The Daily Schedule labels introduced in the first week will be used daily throughout the year. A pictorial schedule gives students a visual plan of what their daily routine will be and lets them know what to expect. Create a picture card that represents each of your daily activities so that you can review your schedule with your child and, eventually, so your child can review and manage the schedule independently. The Daily Schedule can be created and displayed as a poster. Magnets can be used when using the refrigerator to display the daily schedule. Your child will enjoy moving the red arrow throughout the day as activities are completed.

Be sure to check with your child's teacher to see what times your child will have live chats or meets with his/her teacher. These will usually occur during the Small Group 1 and Small Group 2 scheduled activities. The teacher may also invite your child to join on occasion in for circle time or Story Time.

Name/Photo Cards

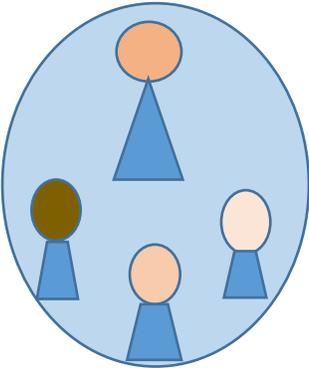
Name Cards introduced in the first week will be continued to be used throughout the year to help children learn to recognize, and eventually write, their own names. To create **Name Cards**, copy the **Name Card** template in this packet. Take a photograph of your child or use a favorite photo you already have. Attach the photograph to the **Name Cards**. Also make a **Name Card** for yourself. Write each student's name, using a **red** marker for the first letter and a black marker for the other letters. Create an additional set in which photo cards are cut apart from the written name. These will be used in upcoming name recognition matching activities.



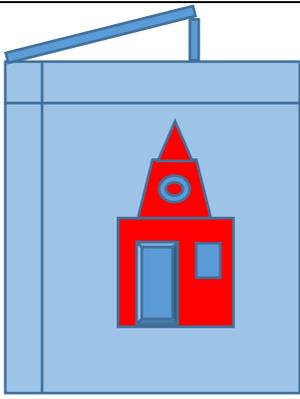
Misha

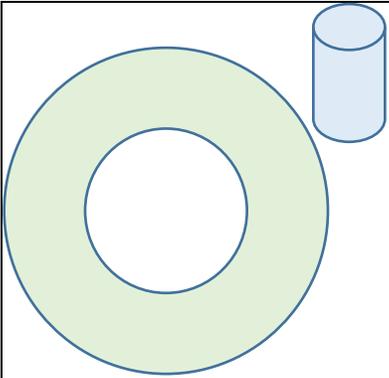
Name and Photo Labels

Daily Schedule Labels

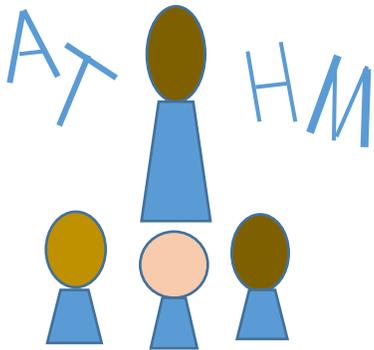
 <p>Circle Time</p>	

<p>Play Dough</p> <p>Hand Tools</p> <p>Construct</p> <p>Play School</p> <p>Learning Centers</p>	

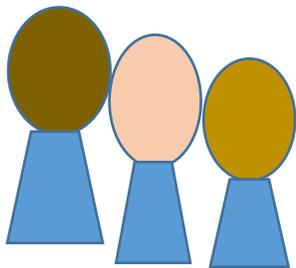
 <p>Story Time and Songs</p>	



Lunch

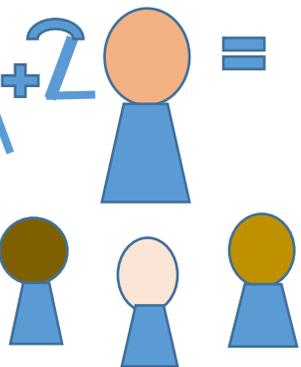


Small Group 1 with Teacher



Free Play with Friends

$1 + 2 = 3$

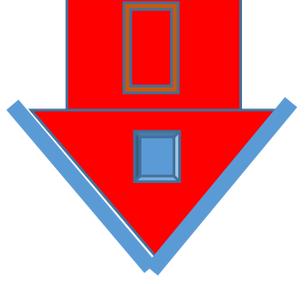


Small Group 2 with Teacher

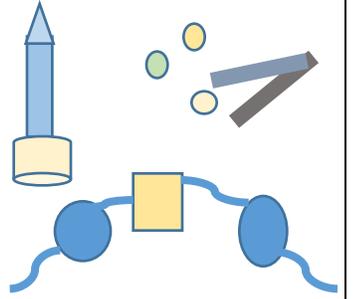
Extra

Learning Center Labels

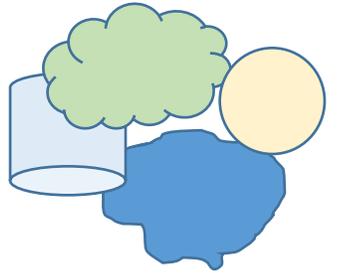
Play School

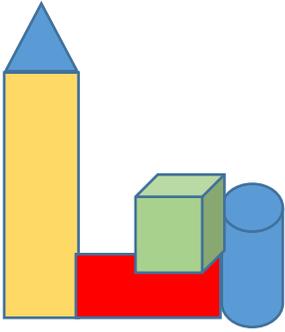


Hand Tools

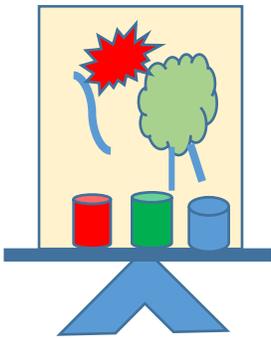


Play Dough





Construct



Easel Art

Extra

Materials included in Week 1 At-Home Learning Engagement Package:

- Play dough
- Tongs
- Crayons
- Glue
- Pencils
- Buttons, beans, or counters
- Books

Materials included in Week 1 At-Home Learning Engagement Package:

- Water color paint set
- Crayons
- Scissors
- tape
- 3 inch by 1 inch cut paper strips (15) for the week
- 10 stickers
- 20 sheets of copy paper cut in half
- Books
- Play dough
- Letter cards or papers for play dough work

Instructions for joining live class teacher and class meetings

(Insert step-by-step instructions with screen shots to ensure families know how to join the live sessions)

Scheduled days and times for live class teacher and class meetings

(Insert days and times to ensure families know when their child is scheduled to join the live sessions with his/her teacher and classmates)