



Building a bridge from home to school

## TALK

**Skills to practice this month: Take turns speaking and listening and asking questions; Practice saying hello and goodbye when coming and going**

Talk to your child throughout the day; asking them questions and engaging them in conversation. Practice saying hello and goodbye when coming and going. When your child practices being polite with their words, they will be a welcome addition to classrooms, playdates, and family gatherings.

**Fish (noun) • Fish (verb) • Swim • School**

**Gill • Fin • Predator (like a shark) • Ocean**

**Fit new words into your day:** Describe each word to your child. Point out examples in books and TV shows, playing outside, or while running errands.

## SIDEWALK CHALK GAMES

### PLAY

**Get your child thinking about math:** Hop one block, walk a block, hop one block, walk a block – that's an AB math pattern. Go out ahead of your child and make five or more squares on the sidewalk, put a number in each. Have your child throw a beanbag into one and then jump that many times while counting to the number out loud. Or, put a letter in each box, play the same way except think of words that start with the letter in the box when the marker lands there. Anything can be a game that will engage your child in fun and learning.

## Do something fun together:

**Visit and aquarium.** Your local aquarium is a great place to get up close and personal with all kinds of fish and aquatic creatures. If you can't visit one in person, check out their webcams. Here are a couple examples:

• <https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams>

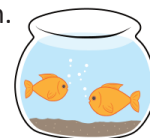
### DO

# FOUNDATIONS BLUEPRINT

June

This month, we are learning about fish.

**Facts about fish to share with your child:**



- Over 20,000 kinds of fish live in the oceans (2/3 of the earth's surface is covered by oceans).
- Fish breathe oxygen from the water through gills on the sides of their bodies; they can't breathe when out of the water. People breathe oxygen through our lungs.
- Fish are cold-blooded. That means a fish's body temperature changes to match the water temperature around them.
- Most fish are covered with scales instead of skin.
- Fish use their tails and fins to move.
- Baby fish hatch from eggs.
- Fish eat plankton, krill, or smaller fish.

## READ

**Reading Skill: Ask questions about the stories you read (for help with questions, check out the Reading Guide on the GR4K website).**

Encourage your child to tell a story about one of the pictures in each book you read. Model this for them before you ask them to do it.

### Books about Fish:

- **Mister Seahorse** by Eric Carle
- **The Pout Pout Fish** by Deborah Diesen
- **McElligot's Pool** by Dr. Seuss
- **Burt Dow Deep Water Man** by Robert McCloskey
- **Over in the Ocean In a Coral Reef** by Marianne Berkes
- **Swimmy** By Leo Lionni



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*Practice these activities/skills throughout the month.*

## MATH ACTIVITIES:

**1. Identify examples of putting together in favorite stories.** This is a first step to understanding addition and later multiplication. Start with helping your child see how things come together in stories. For example, in Goldilocks, the bears set their table with bowls and spoons and cups to have lunch. In Dora the Explorer, she puts clues together to solve problems.

**2. Explain idea of "Equal" groups of 0-10.** When you have veggies and dip for a snack, help your child divide the veggies up equally between you and your child. Talk about the word equal, explain that it means the same number.

**3. Sort objects into like categories, explain thinking using math words.** Use a variety of small objects you have in the house (cereal, small blocks or cars, beads) and scatter several pieces on the table. Ask your child to sort them into like categories (use up to five different kinds of objects; but if your child feels overwhelmed by the number, use a smaller number to start with.)

**4. Use words to describe 3 dimensional shapes in everyday objects.** Now that it's warmer, it's the perfect time for an ice cream cone. A cone is a three-dimensional object. Or to play catch, a ball is a three-dimensional object. (A circle is two-dimensional, a ball is three-dimensional – we add the dimension of depth.) Start with one shape and build on it.

**5. Build a/a/b/b size pattern and explain thinking.** Grab two pairs of shoes from two different people. Then help your child make the pattern: small/small/large/large. Look for other things that come in two different sizes, help your child see the differences and the pattern.

**6. Count to 30 using numerals on a calendar.** When you flip the calendar to June, count the numbers for your child. Touch each date as you count

it. Your child should be starting to recognize the first numbers on the monthly calendar and say them with you. You aren't looking for number recognition yet, just counting one by one.

## LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES:

**1. Recognize, name upper and lower-case letters Aa-Zz.** Put some letter cards face down on the table. Let your child turn over one and tell you the name of the letter. Make sure you use upper and lower case letters.

**2. Connect beginning sound to corresponding picture.** Show your child the letter card for "D" and have them say the letter sound. Then show them three pictures of things that all begin with "D" and ask them to say the names of each picture and repeat the sound of "D."

**3. Use question words to understand new words and phrases.** Encourage your child to talk by asking questions and not settling for a one-word answer. Ask them why they think or feel something, encourage them to describe things they see, keep them talking. Have your child draw a picture from a story you have read, ask them to tell you about the picture, write down their words below the picture.

**4. Share information from a book or experience, tell stories.** Since we're learning about fish, this is a great chance for your child to share something they learn about fish with a grandparent. Learning is best when it goes both ways so ask grandparents to share what they know about fish with your child. Does someone in your family have a fish tank? What a great chance to share! Look for fish at pet stores, outdoor stores and even the grocery store. There may even be lobsters or crabs crawling around in a tank at your local grocery. Maybe you and your child can write a book about fish together.

THINK

DO

## ART PROJECT: Paper Plate Fish

### Materials:

- Three paper plates
- 1 googly eye
- Various colors of paint
- Glue
- Newspaper or placemat (to contain mess)

### Directions:

1. Pour small pools of different colors of paint onto one of the paper plates
3. Cut one of the paper plates in half and then one of those halves into thirds (these are the fins and tail)
4. Glue "fins" and "tail" onto third paper plate and allow to dry.
5. Let your child use their fingers to paint the fish (finger prints make nice scales). Once dry, glue googly eye onto their fish.

