

Week of June 4 – Make Some Music!

Singing helps children explore new words and sounds, and dancing is a great way to express yourself. Read *Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae and make up some silly dances. Check out story time at the local public libraries. Ask your child about his or her favorite song – have a sing-a-long!

Week of June 11 – Go Green!

Get outside and check out all the green stuff around us. Plant something and watch it grow. Head to Urbana's Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings. It's fun to go for breakfast and sample fruits and vegetables you've never tried. Read and try *Eating the Alphabet* by Lois Ehlert

Week of June 18 – Get Messy!

Take art outside! Even on a rainy day, you can have fun with art outside – draw with markers on card stock, then stick it in the rain to see what happens. Watch what happens when sidewalk chalk gets wet. Or, finger paint with mud on old newspapers! Read *The Rain Came Down* by David Shannon, and sing "Rain Rain Go Away" or "Mr. Sun".

Week of June 25 – Move It!

Run around, go to the park, hit the pool – it's important that kids get plenty of chances to get out and move around! Set up a backyard obstacle course, or just try out a new park. Turn on some music and just start dancing! Some kids will do "Ring Around the Rosie" and "London Bridges" for hours.



Week of July 2 – Celebrate America!

Talk about the colors and shapes on the American flag. Then create your own family flag. Have your child pick out, cut and glue construction paper.

Read *Hurray for the 4th* of July by Wendy Watson. Sing "Yankee Doodle Dandy".

Week of July 9 – Explore Outdoors

Let's go outdoors! Take a "Listening Walk". First read the book, *The Listening Walk* by Paul Showers. Take a walk. Close your eyes and listen to all the sounds around you. See if you can guess what is making some of the sounds. Look for signs of summer.

Week of July 16 – Play a Game

Play a board game – try Candy Land or Chutes and Ladders, preschoolers love Memory and Picture Bingo, too. Find a new place to read together – outside, on the kitchen floor, in the bathtub. Read a book with repetition, like *Jump Frog Jump!*, by Robert Kalan; *Caps for Sale*, by Esphyr Slobodkina or *Silly Sally*, by Audrey Wood.

Week of July 23 – Rhyme Time

Read a poem or book and let your child guess the next rhyming word. This works really well with Dr. Seuss books like *Hop on Pop* and *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish!* When you are in the car, shout out things you see and have your kids come up with words that rhyme – like "store" and "more". Don't worry if they come up with nonsense words – the idea is to get the rhyming sound.

Week of July 30 – Following Directions

Choose a recipe and read it together. Have fun making and eating your creation together. Play "Simon Says" – to make it more fun you can change it to "Spiderman Says" or "The Princess Says". Don't worry about winning or losing, just use the game as a way to listen and follow directions. Other fun games to work on listening and following directions are "Red Light, Green Light" and "Follow the Leader".

Week of August 6 – Back to Bedtime

Begin working on back-to-school routines – regular bedtimes and waking up. Talk about why it's important to get enough sleep and discuss how your child gets ready for bed. At bedtime, read *The Going to Bed Book* by Sandra Boynton, *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown, *Kiss Good Night* by Amy Hest, or your favorite going to bed books. Have your child make up words for *Good Night*, *Gorilla* by Peggy Rathmann. Snuggle and sing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"!

Week of August 13 – Get Ready!

Talk about going to school. Come explore around MMO – we'll try to have the playground open a few days before school starts. Come meet your teachers on August 17 between 9 and 10:30.

Ideas to keep you and your kids busy this summer -- from MMO!