



elmwood franklin school

Thinking beyond.

June 2019

Dear Parents of Children Entering Prep I:

Summer is a wonderful time to foster the love of reading with your child. We encourage you to spend time reading together this summer. Exposure to literature will help to establish a foundation for the reading readiness work your child will begin when they enter Prep I.

When you read together, take time to talk about the story—make predictions about what will happen next, have a conversation about a specific character and decisions they made in the story, or discuss whether you each liked the book and why. A curiosity around books and the stories within will help your child to connect with literature and begin building the skills to think critically around the themes in literature.

Enclosed in this folder, you will find suggestions for summer activities to incorporate a little learning into your day in a way that is conversational and fun. Free drawing is always a favorite! When young children spend time with a crayon or marker in their hand, they begin to build fine motor skills that they will continue to develop while they are in Prep I. You can also suggest that your child draw a picture about a book read, a summer adventure, or one of their favorite things. We would love to see some of your child's artwork in September!

We look forward to seeing your child this fall in Prep I and cannot wait to hear about all of your summer adventures.

Sincerely,

Sarah Duddy
Head of Lower School

Summer Fun for Our Friends Coming to Prep !

We hope that you have a FANTASTIC summer and we cannot wait to see you in September. Here are some fun ways to keep the GROWING GOING!

This a VERY important assignment. **GET MESSY!**
The benefits are **ASTOUNDING!**

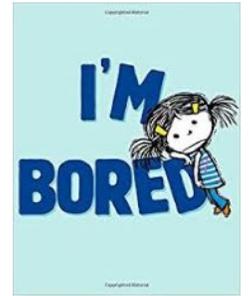


Yes, getting messy is, well, messy, but look at all of the beauty that results from it. It develops and **strengthens communication skills, language development, gross and fine motor skills, curiosity, imagination, problem-solving, focus, and concentration.** Find something gooey and make a **BEAUTIFUL MESS!**

Great Supplies to Stock Up On!

Using a variety of mediums encourages children to express themselves in a positive and fun way.

- blank paper (lines confine)
- chalk
- regular crayons (not jumbo)
- broken crayons
- playdough and clay
- shaving cream
- Wiki Sticks
- slime
- paint
- glue (sticks and liquid)
- scissors
- bingo dabbers
- pom poms
- wipe-off boards and markers
- magnetic letters, numbers, and shapes



You might hear this phrase this summer but have no fear! Grab a container and popsicle sticks (paper works, too) and write an activity on each stick. When your child says they are bored, have them go to the "I'm Bored Jar" and pick a stick. Coming up with activities together is a great way to encourage conversation and give your child ownership. **Have fun NOT being bored!**



Play is the highest form of research.

Here's a list of **HYSTERICAL** books that will have them begging for more!



Title	Author
Creepy Pair of Underwear Creepy Carrots	Aaron Reynolds
I Want My Hat Back	Jon Klassen
Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus	Mo Willems (Everything by this author is great!)
The Book With No Pictures	B.J. Novak
I'm Bored	Michael Ian Black
Duck! Rabbit!	Amy Krouse Rosenthal
Click, Clack, Moo Cows that Type	Doreen Cronin
Press Here	Herve Tullet
Unicorn Thinks He's Pretty Great	Bob Shea
Wolfie the Bunny	Ame Dyckman
Frog on a Log	Kes Gray
I Am Not a Chair	Ross Burach
Dragons Love Tacos Dragon Loves Tacos 2	Adam Rubin
This Book Just Ate My Dog!	Richard Byrne
Stuck	Oliver Jeffers



Does your child have a library card? Check out buffalolib.org for information on how to sign up for one. The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library's summer reading program theme is **A Universe of Stories**. Call your local branch for more information.



Check out these resources:

<http://www.playcounts.com> This site has great activities that empower children through authentic learning.

fun4kidsinbuffalo.com Find a complete list of playgrounds and parks to explore.

www.naeyc.org National Association for Education of Young Children

www.cosmickids.com Fun online yoga sessions



Here are some fun and simple activities that you and your child could try this summer!



Read a book together in a silly spot	Spend time together cleaning your child's room	Have an indoor picnic	Take a trip to the library	Look through family photos with your child	Fold clothes together	Play a board game
Read about another country	Make up silly words that rhyme such as "rilly" and "tilly"	Write the number five and count five things	Talk about when you were in Pre-K or Kindergarten	Cut pictures from magazines together	Share a game that you played as a child	Have lunch outside together
Talk about characters in books you read	Show appreciation for each other	Sing while setting the table together	Go on a number search	Name things that start with the first letter of your name	Do something kind for your neighbor	Talk as you work outside
Staple paper together and make a book	Count by ones to 20 while blowing bubbles	Draw a picture/write a letter to someone and mail it	Talk about accepting differences with your child	Do a science experiment	Build a fort in your living room	Make a treasure map together
Read under a tree together	Talk about opposites (ex. What is the opposite of up?)	Count letters in your first and last names	Talk about what to do in case of a fire	Make a pattern out of something from nature	Look for living things outside	Tell each other a silly joke
Read a book about a real person	Create and play restaurant	Practice counting by lining up Cheerios	Skip and gallop together	Try out some yoga poses	Do sink and float activities	Go to a playground that you've never been to
Go on a listening walk and observe all of the sounds you hear	Talk about what happened yesterday	Sort laundry together	Play "I Spy"	Practice saying your address and phone number	Write your names using shaving cream	Have a five-minute dance party
Practice snapping, zipping, and buttoning	Go for a bike ride	Find letters on items in the grocery store	Play in the water (sprinkler, wet sponges, water table, etc.)	Wear pajamas all day	Call a relative or friend to say hi	Do something that you've never done before