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## School to Home Communication

The research is clear that family involvement is strongly linked to student success. Support for student learning at home improves student achievement in school. Educators should not underestimate the significance of this connection.

The activities in this book create an opportunity to create or improve this school-to-home link. The activities span a week at a time and can be sent home as a week-long homework packet each Monday. Simply clip together the strip of fun activities from the front of the book with the pages for Days I to 4 for the correct week.

Most of the activities can be completed independently, but many encourage feedback or interaction with a family member. The activities are simple and fun, aiming to create a brief pocket of learning that is enjoyable to all.

In order to make the school-to-home program work for students and their families, we encourage you to reach out to them with an introductory letter. Explain the program and its intent and ask them to partner with you in their children's educational process. Describe the role you expect them to play. Encourage them to offer suggestions or feedback along the way.

A sample letter is included below. Use it as is or create your own letter to introduce this project and elicit their collaboration.

## Dear Families,

I anticipate a productive and exciting year of learning and look forward to working with you and your child. We have a lot of work to do! I hope we-teacher, student, and family-can work together as a team to achieve the goal of academic progress we all hope for this year.

I will send home a packet of homework each week on $\qquad$ .
There will be two items to complete each day: a single task on a strip plus a full page of focused practice. Each page or strip is labeled Day I (for Monday), Day 2, Day 3, or Day 4. There is no homework on Friday.

Please make sure that your student brings back the completed work
$\qquad$
that these are brought in on time as we may work on some of the lessons as a class.

If you have any questions about this program or would like to talk to me about it, please feel free to call or email me. Thank you for joining me in making this the best year ever for your student!

Sincerely,

## Name

Phone

Email

| Day I | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Take off a shoe. <br> Walk around your <br> home and find things | Have an adult fill a <br> resealable plastic bag <br> halfway with paint. <br> Seal it, removing the <br> that are shorter than <br> air. Tape the bag to <br> a glass door. Use <br> gour finger to "draw" <br> triangles on the bag. Make a | Have an adult place <br> pieces of masking <br> tape with written <br> numbers from I to IO <br> on a rug. Jump from <br> one number to the <br> next in order. | Count to see if you <br> have more windows <br> or more doors in <br> your home. |
| list. |  |  |  |  |


| Day I | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Write numbers from <br> I to 9 on the sections <br> of a beach ball. Toss | Lay out eight pretzels. <br> Push some to one <br> side and some to the <br> the ball with a friend. <br> other. Tell what you <br> need to do to make <br> both sides equal. | Choose a favorite <br> toy. Mark its length <br> on a sheet of paper. <br> Find three toys that <br> are longer than <br> your toy. Mark their <br> lengths too. | A tape measure is <br> just a long number <br> line. Lay one out and <br> have an adult tell you <br> some numbers to find <br> on the number line. |
| When you catch it, <br> tell what the sum is <br> of the numbers your <br> thumbs are touching. |  |  |  |  |


|  | Day I | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\left\lvert\,\right.$ | Use an upside down cardboard box to make a mailbox. Have an adult cut a slot in the side. Use the box flaps to make "envelopes." Count out a number of envelopes as you place them in the slot. | Cut out two clouds from paper or felt. Use counters or blue marbles for raindrops. Practice putting raindrops on the clouds. Tell which cloud has more and which has less. | Cut off two sections of the end of an egg carton. Use fish crackers or marbles to show different numbers from 0 to 10 in your "ten frame." | Choose a number from I to IO and use two different colors of plastic interlocking blocks to build the number. How many ways can you show the number? |


|  | Day I | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $$ | Have an adult cut out four different shapes from paper. Talk about what makes the shapes similar and different. | Explore the number 8 with a box of eight crayons. Group the crayons in different combinations to see the ways that numbers add up to 8 . | Use toothpicks to make shapes. Make sure the toothpicks touch end to end to form closed figures. What shapes can you make from three toothpicks? Four? | Make "Sumflowers." Write a sum in the center of a coffee filter. Write numbers around the outside that add to the sum. Cut between the numbers. Fold in the "petals" to show adding to the sum. |



There are some cows in the barn. You see 8 legs. Draw the cows.

Complete the piece of the hundred chart.



## Answer Key



Week I, Day I (page I7)
A. 2, 3; B. Answers will vary. C. 4,
D. Check students' matches. E. right pencil

Week I, Day 2 (page I8)
A. 4 gum balls; B. Check students' tracings.
C. 2 cows; D. I2, I4; E. Check students' graphing.

## Week I, Day 3 (page 19)

A. 3; B. I, 2, 3, 4; C. $3-1=2$;
D. Students should draw 4 objects.
E. right square


Week I, Day 4 (page 20)
A. 2, 5; B. 5; C. right side; D. 3;
E. orange, blue

Week 2, Day I (page 2I)
A. circle; B. 6 ducks; C. 3, 1, 2;
D. $12 ; E$. 10,12

Week 2, Day 2 (page 22)
A. 2 circles, 2; B. triangle; C. 3 circles;
D. giraffe; E. 4, 6, 8, 10

Week 2, Day 3 (page 23)
A. 19; B. Answers will vary. C. 7, 7 objects; D. I and 4; E. +, +, +

