



Christ the King Lutheran Church & School

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People Helping People Become All Christ Calls Them to Be

Summer Learning 2020 - Ready for Kindergarten!

Dear Kindergarten Families,

At the beginning of summer, families often ask, "What can I do to help my child be ready for school in August?". This is always a valid question, but in the age of COVID-19 and the disruption to learning as we *knew* it, this question may be even more relevant as we head into the summer of 2020. The K - 8 faculty of CTK Lutheran School has put together a list of things families can consider doing to help their child be as ready as possible for school in August. In this document you will find some resources for summer learning and enrichment in the areas of family devotions, language arts, math, and social-emotional learning.

CTK Lutheran School faculty stands ready to provide guidance and support for our incoming students and families. Mrs. Stacey Schottey, your child's teacher for kindergarten, will be contacting you in early June with an invitation to develop a relationship with you and your child and answer questions you may have about summer learning or getting ready for kindergarten.

Family Devotions

- [Family Devotions](#) 3 times per week or you may [subscribe to them](#) and they will be emailed to you

Language Arts (Reading/Writing/Discussing)

- **The Facts on Reading**
 - **Kids who read, succeed.** The amount of time that students spend reading for pleasure is a key predictor of students' academic achievement. (Gallik, 1999)
 - **It takes practice.** Reading, like playing a musical instrument, is not something that is mastered once and for all at a certain age. It is a skill that continues to improve through practice. ("Becoming a Nation of Readers," 1985)
 - **Role models matter.** Children who see adults reading daily or weekly tend to read more and have higher reading scores than those who don't. (McCormick and Mason, 1986)
- **Tips for reading with younger children**
 - Establish reading routines that include a time of day and reading spot
 - Set reading goals such as number of books, minutes, or pages
 - Help your child select books at his/her interest level
 - Read to your child to model accurate, fluent reading
 - Ask and answer questions about the book (Where does the story happen? Who are the characters? What was the problem in the story?)

- **Readers...**
 - Make predictions before and during reading
 - Ask questions as they read
 - Make connections (to self, others, world, and other texts)
 - Talk about what they are reading
 - Read aloud to friends and family members
- **The Writing Connection**
 - Encourage your child to keep a reading journal (Entering summer that can be: draw my favorite part or character. What did I learn? What do I still want to know? Then try to label the drawing, first and maybe last sound. Drawing the “taking away” relieves the pressure to have letters/sounds/spelling figured out)
 - Encourage your child to keep a journal of summer activities (draw and label activities, write sentences if ready, caption photographs)
 - Write at least once a week
 - Encourage beginning sounds, vowel sounds, ending sounds focusing on writing what you hear instead of spelling things “right”
 - Practice capital and lowercase letters
 - Practice sight words
- **Mrs. Schotkey’s Summer Read Aloud Suggestions:**
 - Create a reading routine with a time and place for consistency and anticipation
 - Choose a reading challenge, BINGO board, library program, Pinterest activity, etc. to increase excitement about reading

Mathematics

- **Skills to Review from VPK for Success in Kindergarten**
 - Count from 1 to 30 without skipping numbers
 - Match a number to a group of five or fewer items (“I see three cats.”)
 - Recognize and name basic shapes (square, circle, triangle, rectangle)
 - Understand *more than* and *less than*
 - Arrange three objects in the correct order (like smallest to biggest)
- **Additional Resource** - [Khan Academy](https://www.khanacademy.com/) (This free site provides age/ability appropriate math enrichment.)

Social-Emotional Learning

Social-emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

There are five core competencies in SEL:

Self-Awareness - recognizing one’s feelings and emotions and expressing them accurately and productively

Self-Management - successfully manage and regulate emotions, especially difficult ones such as anger

Social Awareness - appreciating the thoughts, feelings & perspectives of others, being in *someone else’s shoes*

Relationship Skills - forming and maintaining friendships, communicating, and working through disagreements

Responsible Decision Making - making choices with potential outcomes for one's self and others in mind

Developmental SEL Milestones for Kindergarten Students

- Display a greater sense of empathy and morality
- Establish and maintain positive relationships
- Control of impulsive behaviors
- Identify and manage emotions
- Adopt resiliency
- Function independently
- Understand different viewpoints and opinions
- Develop a sense of identity

Activities to Develop Social Emotional Skills

- Be a good example for your child
- Take time to talk with your child about his/her day or interests positive and negative
- Work with your child to find solutions to problems with others without owning the problem
- Discuss calming techniques with your child while they are calm as a reference for when they are not
- Talk with your child about his/her feelings
- Discuss everyday situations with your child - conversations/observations of others, etc.
 - Ask your child to explain what he/she observed
 - Ask your child how other people might have been feeling.
 - Ask your child why he/she thinks so. (questions above)
- Play *Feelings Charades* to help your child learn about body language
- Teach your child about personal space - what's appropriate and what is not
- Give your child choices and discuss potential consequences

Bottom Line on Summer Learning

- Spend time reading - listening to your child read and reading to your child and discussing what is read.
- Encourage your child to write/draw about his/her experiences.
- Challenge your child to think mathematically - age-appropriate math facts, estimating, math story problems, patterns, etc.
- Help your child develop social-emotional awareness - help your child think about others
- Take the time to read or listen to a family devotion on a regular basis

Additional Resources

- [Parents & Educators](#) (5toThrive.net is a Christian resource offering a variety of parenting/teaching podcasts)
- [Coming in to Kindergarten](#) (provides families with what can be expected as a child enters first grade)
- [Grace Talks](#) (these 3 - 5 minute video devotions are great for adults)