

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

Welcome to Kindergarten at St. Rose School. Your child is beginning an incredible educational journey and I am committed to engaging your child in a challenging and enjoyable learning experience.

A very important key to St. Rose's successful educational program is parental involvement. One of the most important things a parent can do for his/her child is to instill a love of reading. During the summer, it is especially important to set aside time to read. I am suggesting a book to read with your child and a fun activity to complete with him/her.

I invite you to read the classic story *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by bestselling children's authors Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault. This rhythmic and rhyming ABC book is sure to get your child excited about reading. I would like for you to read the book with your child and have them cut out the attached letters, and glue them to either a large piece of construction paper or a piece of poster board. Let them have fun creating a masterpiece with all the letters of the alphabet. Besides the letters, there are a variety of things that can be done. They can illustrate a picture beginning with the letter, find pictures in magazines to paste beside the letter, or simply write the letter on their own. Let them decorate the poster as they wish using markers, crayons or paint. Have fun with this project, and return it with your child on Kindergarten Orientation. Your child will share his/her project with the class during the first week of school.

I have also attached a list of fun activities, computer games, and apps that you can do with your child over the summer. These activities are a fun way to enhance your child's Kindergarten readiness skills. Please pick 6 of the fun math activities, computer games, or apps to complete with your child and log it on the attached calendar.

I am looking forward to a wonderful growth filled year with your child. Happy Learning!

Mrs. Donna Rahtelli

# Math Log

Name of Activity	Date	Parent Signature

## Summer Fun At Home

Please read, read, read, and read some more to your children. Reading aloud to them builds so many language skills (comprehension, rhyme, concepts of print such as where to begin to read, vocabulary building etc.).

Visit the library often to read, hear a storyteller, or participate in a summer program.

Don't neglect the power of your child's own name! Young children naturally like to see their name in print and have a great desire to know the letters in their name. Have children start with the letters in their own name when attempting to recognize and name letters.

You may also use the beginning sound in their name as a foundation for building sound knowledge! For example, if your child's name starts with "Pp", find other items that start with "Pp" like puzzle, pillow and popcorn.

For writing their names, let children practice (first uppercase and all the other letters lowercase) in sand, a small tray of rice, shaving cream, pudding, glitter crayons, sidewalk chalk, playdough, and anything else you can imagine!

Print is all around young children for them to notice and make literary connections! Some print is already meaningful to your children such as names of favorite cereals, restaurants, toys, stores and more! Letters and words are everywhere in your home, on the street, in the store, etc. Make it a fun learning game in which you play "I Spy" – I spy with my little eye something that starts with the letter....

Place magnetic letters on the refrigerator at your child's eye level so they can manipulate the letters to form their name, group like letters together, etc.

Create a letter scrapbook with your child. For each page write an upper and lowercase letter. Have children hunt for small objects, environmental print, etc. that begin with a certain letter.

Let your children see you writing letters, checks to pay the bills, the grocery list, anything! Give them their own piece of paper, letting them write out their own list using child writing (It is all right if they can't read it at this point – you are modeling for them uses/reasons for writing and reading which is much more important at this stage).

Create a writing toolbox to store fun writing utensils, different types of paper, envelopes, or stickers for your child to have their own materials to encourage writing.

Read, recite, sing, and act out nursery rhymes!

Engage in language play – jump rope rhymes, silly songs and finger plays and riddles.

Talk to your child about the world around him/her! When your child is familiar with the meaning of words, he/she will be more successful when her/she encounters these words in his/her reading.

Practice zipping, practice tying shoes.

To help strengthen their fine motor skills, practice cutting and tracing.

Make letters with pipe cleaners.

Sort miscellaneous objects such as buttons and coins by size or color.

Play board games together, practice taking turns.

Enjoy puzzles.

Tell a story, and have your child recite it back to you.

NUMBER FUN! Practice counting objects to 20. Write numbers 0-10 on a piece of paper.

Here are some fun sites and free apps to visit over the summer:

[www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)

[www.pbskids.org](http://www.pbskids.org)

[www.starfall.org](http://www.starfall.org)

**Apps:**

little reader

little speller

HFT videos (Have Fun Teaching)

Counting board

These are all wonderful strategies that you can use to help your child throughout the school year. Remember to make all educational experiences fun for you and your child!