

Early Years

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A GREAT START

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Kids' World - St. Mark UMC
Ms. Susan Fennell, Director

KID BITS

Picture this

Encourage your youngster to pay attention to details with this idea. Have her recreate a family photo using her toys. For a picture of a birthday party, she might arrange her dolls around a toy birthday cake. Snap a photo of her creation, and she can compare it with the original picture.

Boo-boo kit

Taking care of stuffed animals lets your child practice empathy and compassion. Help him make a "first aid kit" with bandages, gauze, and wipes. He could use it to tend to the animals' pretend cuts and scrapes—then hug and comfort them to make them feel better.

Be positive

Instead of correcting your youngster when she gets something wrong, suggest that she try again. You might say, "That word does start with C, but it's not *cat*. What else could it be?" This approach will make her more likely to keep trying until she gets it right.

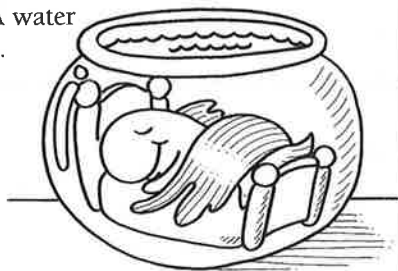
Worth quoting

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart." *Helen Keller*

Just for fun

Q: What kind of bed did the goldfish buy?

A: A water bed.



Learning with summer projects

Fun projects that boost creativity are your child's ticket to learning this summer. Here are a few ideas.

Hallway art gallery

Ask each family member to create a self-portrait by gluing "found" objects on paper. Strips of felt might be eye-brows, and bottle caps could become eyes. Hang your masterpieces to start your own art "gallery." Then, your youngster can add to it all summer while he experiments with different art supplies (watercolors, chalk).

Family talent shows

Entertain each other, and discover new skills, with weekly household talent shows. Your child might play songs on his toy xylophone or do a stand-up comedy routine with knock-knock jokes. Maybe someone else will put



on a shadow puppet show or juggle. Rehearse your routines, then enjoy watching each other's performances.

Backyard water park

Let your youngster design a "water park" in the yard. He could arrange pool noodles, jump ropes, or hula hoops to make a path. Turn on the sprinkler, and your family can get exercise by running along the path under the water. He may also include a baby pool for splashing, and a "snack bar" with healthy offerings like fresh fruit and raw vegetables. ♥

Celebrate your teacher

As the school year wraps up, your youngster can show appreciation for her teacher with a card or gift. Consider these suggestions.

- **Design a card.** Have your child draw a picture on the cover. Inside, she might write about her favorite memories from the school year.
- **Donate a book.** Your youngster could help her teacher grow the classroom library with a new or gently used book. Suggest that she add an inscription ("Story time with Mr. Frye is the best!") along with her name and the year.
- **Make a treat.** Let your child help you whip up a homemade treat like muffins or cookies. Together, write a note thanking the teacher for a "sweet" year. ♥

