



Summer Learning Activities for Rising Grade 1 Students

Dear (Almost) First Graders and Families,

Summertime is an opportunity to play in the water, climb trees, snuggle in bed with books, and explore God's world! We hope this list of summer learning activities helps you keep the love of learning alive this summer. As always, keep your learning projects joyful, active, and meaningful. Have fun learning and exploring together. We wish you a fantastic summer!

This handout contains resources and ideas compiled by your kindergarten teachers to help as students transition to grade 1 in the fall.

Love,

Your Kindergarten Teachers

Math Fun

- **Activity:** Practice math in fun and unique ways.
- **Purpose:** Builds foundational math skills in a fun way and keeps important math skills sharp!
- **Example:** Count objects during a nature walk, sort items by size or color, and play simple addition and subtraction games. Measure different objects in your house or outside. Count by 2s, 5s, and 10s as you do an activity such as riding your bike, going for a walk, or swimming in the pool.
- **Discussion:** Praise their efforts and make math a fun part of everyday life.

Reading Adventures

- **Activity:** Read books together daily...aim for 20 minutes of daily reading!
- **Purpose:** Develops literacy skills and a love for reading.
- **Example:** Choose a mix of Bible stories and children's books. Visit the library and let your child pick out books.
- **Discussion:** Ask questions about the stories and encourage your child to retell them. Focus on characters, settings, problems within the story, and how they were solved. Did this story remind you of another story you've read before? Draw comparisons and contrast amongst the books you read. Don't forget about the [Summer Reading Program - The Bear Creek School!](#)

Writing Practice

- **Activity:** Encourage writing and drawing.
- **Purpose:** Enhances fine motor skills and creativity, keeps our penmanship skills sharp, builds stamina in sitting with an activity for an extended period of time.
- **Example:** Have your child write their name, draw pictures, and create simple sentences about their day.
- **Discussion:** Celebrate their writing efforts and display their work proudly.

Bible Story Time

- **Activity:** Read a Bible story each day.
- **Purpose:** Helps children learn about God's love and teachings.
- **Example:** The Creation Story, Noah's Ark, The 10 Commandment, Daniel in the Lion's Den, and the Parables of Jesus.
- **Discussion:** Ask questions about the story and its lessons.

Nature Walks and Creation Exploration

- **Activity:** Take walks in nature and explore God's creation. Be sure to take pictures to remember the summer after kindergarten. You've learned so much!
- **Purpose:** Encourages curiosity and appreciation for the world God made.
- **Example:** Collect leaves, observe insects, and discuss how God created everything.
- **Discussion:** Talk about the beauty of God's creation and thank Him for it.

Arts and Crafts with a Purpose

- **Activity:** Create art projects that reflect Bible stories or themes.
- **Purpose:** Enhances creativity and reinforces biblical lessons.
- **Example:** Make a rainbow collage after reading about Noah's Ark.
- **Discussion:** Discuss the significance of the story and its lessons.

Prayer and Reflection Time

- **Activity:** Set aside time each day for prayer and reflection.
- **Purpose:** Helps children develop a habit of talking to God. During the school year, we prayed together every day. When a friend was sick or traveling, we prayed for God's healing and travel mercies. Continue this thoughtfulness and compassion through daily prayer at home over the summer.
- **Example:** Simple prayers of thanks, asking for help, or praying for others.
- **Discussion:** Encourage your child to share their thoughts and feelings with God.

Educational Games and Activities

- **Activity:** Play games that build academic skills.
- **Purpose:** Prepares children for first grade while having fun. Keeps the stamina we built in kindergarten and builds upon teamwork and positive collaboration skills.
- **Example:** Alphabet puzzles, counting games, and shape sorting.
- **Discussion:** Praise their efforts and celebrate their progress.

Acts of Kindness

- **Activity:** Perform acts of kindness together.
- **Purpose:** Teaches children about compassion and serving others.
- **Example:** Make cards for neighbors, donate toys, or help with chores. Remember our mitten drive in December and the cards we made for elders during Hope Week? Keep growing that love for others by showing the Lord's kindness through your own actions.
- **Discussion:** Talk about how Jesus showed kindness and how we can follow His example.

Music and Movement

- **Activity:** Sing songs and dance to Christian music.
- **Purpose:** Encourages physical activity and joyful worship.
- **Example:** Sing our Bible memory verses from this past year or dance to the songs we learned in Chapel. Lyrics to our verses can be found in your kindergarten notebooks and on the Bear Creek website. [Verse and Poem - The Bear Creek School](#) and [Chapel - The Bear Creek School](#)
- **Discussion:** Share the joy of praising God through music.

Storytelling and Role-Playing

- **Activity:** Act out Bible stories, stories from your favorite books, or create your own.
- **Purpose:** Enhances imagination and understanding of biblical lessons.
- **Example:** Dress up as characters and reenact stories. Remember our kindergarten drama *And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon*? We had so much fun expressing ourselves through performance art and putting on a show for our friends and family. Can you create your own play?
- **Discussion:** Reflect on the lessons learned from the stories.