

Summer Work
Rising Kindergarten



Preparing Boys for Life



Dear Parents of Rising Kindergarteners,

Summer is a wonderful time for boys to explore interests, enjoy camps and travel, spend time outdoors, and engage in the many experiences that help them grow beyond the classroom. At the same time, summer is also an important opportunity to maintain engagement with academic learning so that boys move confidently from one school year into the next.

This workbook contains the required summer work for your son as he prepares to enter his next grade with a mixture of literacy and math work. The activities included are designed to provide manageable practice in key skills and habits that will help ensure a strong and confident start to the school year. **This workbook should be turned into your son's teacher on the first day of school.** The work will prepare your son to engage in the beginning of year activities.

I encourage you to take this work seriously and **do not save it for the last week of summer.** The assignments have been designed to be completed steadily over time, with practice and reading spread across the weeks of summer rather than done all at once. A little consistency goes a long way in helping skills stay sharp and building readiness for the year ahead.

This workbook includes the following sections. It is recommended to pace weekly work from each section throughout the summer.

- Letter from Kindergarten Teacher Team
- Rising Kindergarten Summer Activities - Literacy Reinforcement
- Rising Kindergarten Summer Activities - Math Reinforcement
- Rising Kindergarten Summer Activities - School Readiness Reinforcement
- Weekly Checklist
- Parent Reflection Questions
- Suggest Book List
- Supplemental Materials: Summer Break OT Approved Ideas, Supporting Early Reading Skills At Home, Tips for Parents of Kindergartners

Thank you for partnering with us in supporting your son's growth as a learner. We hope your family enjoys a summer filled with rest, joy, and meaningful experiences, alongside steady engagement with the learning in this workbook.

With care,

Jenni Scoggin

Head of Lower School

Summer Success: The Power of Consistent Practice

THE STRATEGY FOR SUCCESS

Practice Spaced Over Time

Research shows spreading work across weeks leads to much stronger long-term retention.



Increased Student Confidence

Regular practice helps boys return to school feeling prepared for the year ahead.



Small, Consistent Amounts

Divide work across the summer instead of saving it for the final week.



ACCOUNTABILITY & RESULTS

First Day Hand-In

Turn in workbooks to homeroom or advisory teachers on the first school day.



Assessment Alignment

Summer tasks are intentionally designed to match skills tested during the first week.



A Learning Partnership

Families and schools collaborate to maintain strong, effective learning habits during the break.

Summer Work Plan

The purpose of the summer work is to provide **consistent practice over time** so that skills and learning are retained throughout the summer months. Research shows that spreading practice across many weeks leads to stronger long-term retention and helps boys return to school feeling confident and prepared for the year ahead.

We strongly encourage families to divide the work across the summer rather than saving it for the final week before school begins. Completing small amounts of work consistently will be far more beneficial than trying to complete everything at once at the end of the summer.

Please note the following expectations for accountability:

- Summer workbooks should be turned in to your son's homeroom teacher or advisory teacher on the first day of school.
- Assessments connected directly to the summer work will take place during the first week of school.
- The summer work has been intentionally designed to align with the skills, projects, and content that will be assessed and taught upon returning to school.

Thank you for partnering with us to help your son maintain strong learning habits and begin the school year ready to learn.

Dear Families of Rising Kindergarten,

As we look ahead to the start of the school year, we are excited to welcome your son into kindergarten at The Haverford School. Kindergarten is a year filled with tremendous academic growth, increased independence, and meaningful new routines. The transition into kindergarten is an important step, and we've put together a simple set of summer activities to help support that shift in a positive and manageable way.

These activities are designed to build foundational skills that will allow your son to get the most out of our kindergarten curriculum. Throughout the year, students will be asked to listen closely, following directions, work independently, and actively engage in early reading, writing and math experiences. Practicing these skills over the summer helps children feel more confident, capable, and ready to take on new challenges.

The packet is organized into three key areas: **literacy**, **math** and **school readiness**. Each section includes five simple, hands-on activities that can be easily incorporated into your daily routines. These activities are intentionally designed to be engaging, low-prep, and developmentally appropriate.

We recommend choosing **one activity from each category per week**, for a total of three focused activities each week. This structure provides consistency without being overwhelming, while still offering meaningful practice across all areas of development.

Thank you for your partnership in helping your son build the skills needed to become a confident learner. These early experiences serve as important building blocks as students begin their journey toward becoming successful readers, writers, and mathematicians.

We look forward to a wonderful year ahead!



RECOMMENDED ROUTINE: Choose one activity from each category per week, for a total of three focused activities each week.



READ TOGETHER EVERY NIGHT: Reading with your child each night builds vocabulary, strengthens comprehension, and supports brain development. This daily practice will set the foundation for early literacy success.



Rising Kindergarten Summer Activities

Literacy Reinforcement

1. Coffee Talk- Oral Language and Listening Skills

What to do: Spend 5 minutes asking open-ended questions. Encourage complete sentence answers, gently correct grammar, and have your child ask follow-up questions.

Try saying: *"If you were a superhero for a day, what would your name be and what would you do?"*

Why it matters: Strong talkers become strong readers and writers!

2. Nursery Rhymes- Rhyming (Phonological Awareness)

What to do: Read and sing nursery rhymes to your son. Point out rhyming words as you read.

Try saying: *"Light and night are rhyming words because they sound the same at the middle and at the end. Can you think of another word that would rhyme with night and light?"*

Why it matters: Rhyming builds early reading skills like recognizing word patterns.

3. Clap it Out- Syllable Count (Phonological Awareness)

What to do: Find everyday objects and say the word aloud. Have your son repeat the word and clap once for each syllable. Count the claps together.

Try saying: *"Can you think of another word that is three syllables like butterfly?"*

Why it matters: Learning that words can be broken into smaller parts makes it easier to read and spell unfamiliar words later on.

4. I Spy- Beginning Sounds (Phonemic Awareness)

What to do: Pick an object and say its beginning sound for your child to guess.

Emphasize the sound, then switch roles and let your child choose an object.

Try saying: *"I spy with my little eye something that begins with /b/?"*

Why it matters: As children hear individual sounds it becomes much easier to attach the sounds to letters when they begin reading and writing.

5. Letter Movement Game- Recognizing Letters

What to do: Spread letters around the room or write them in chalk outside. Have your son go find each letter as you call it out.

Try saying: *"Can you tiptoe to the letter S? Can you draw a circle around the letter M?"*

Why it matters: Letter recognition is important in kids' phonics development.



Rising Kindergarten Summer Activities

Math Reinforcement

1. Count & Touch - Build One-to-One Counting

What to do: Have your child count everyday items such as grapes, toys, coins, or steps. Have your son touch each item as they count.

Try saying: *"Let's count how many strawberries you have. Touch each one as you count."*

Why it matters: Builds one-to-one correspondence, a key kindergarten skill.

2. Number Hunt - Recognizing Numbers

What to do: Look for numbers in your environment (on houses, clocks, signs, or grocery aisles).

Try saying: *"Can you find the number 5?" "Which number is bigger, 3 or 8?"*

Why it matters: Helps children rapidly recognize numbers 1-10 and connect math to real life.

3. Sort & Group - Early Math Thinking

What to do: Have your child sort objects by color, size or type (Legos, socks, snacks).

Try saying: *"Can you tell me how these groups are the same or different?"*

Why it matters: Develops classification and reasoning skills, foundational in our Origo math program.

4. More or Less - Comparing Quantities

What to do: Have your son roll two dice and identify the numbers rolled.

Try saying: *"Which number is more? Which is less?"*

Why it matters: Builds understanding of comparing quantities and strengthens early number sense.

5. Build Numbers - Hands-On Number Sense

What to do: Ask your son to show you numbers using fingers, toys or drawings.

Try saying: *"Show me 6 using your fingers" "Can you make 4 with blocks?"*

Why it matters: Strengthens number sense and early addition thinking.



Rising Kindergarten Summer Activities

School Readiness Reinforcement

1. Ready, Set, Follow- Direction Following

What to do: Give your son 2-step directions and have him complete both steps without repeating the directions. Add in an additional direction for a challenge.

Try saying: *"Touch your head and jump three times. Get a spoon and put it on the table."*

Why it matters: Helps your child build listening skills and strengthen his working memory.

2. Playdoh or Cutting Station- Fine Motor Skills

What to do: Use playdoh, child-safe scissors, or tearing paper to strengthen hand muscles. Try rolling, pinching, cutting lines or making simple shapes.

Try saying: *"Use your fingers to pinch and roll. Strong fingers help with writing!"*

Why it matters: Develops fine motor strength and control, which are essential for writing, coloring and using classroom tools.

3. Listen and Draw- Attention & Listening Skills

What to do: Give your child a blank paper and simple directions to draw. (e.g., "Draw a big circle. Now add two small eyes. Put a hat on top.")

Try saying: *"Let's see how carefully you can listen to each step!"*

Why it matters: Strengthens attention span and listening comprehension, helping children follow teacher directions during academic tasks.

4. On My Own- Independence & Following Routines

What to do: Have your child practice getting dressed on their own each day.

Gradually introduce trickier items like buttons, zippers and tying shoes.

Try saying: *"Show me how you can get dressed all by yourself. What comes first?"*

Why it matters: Builds independence, confidence and the ability to follow daily routines. This helps children manage transitions like recess and gym without needing adult support.

5. Can You Do It?- Self-Regulation & Confidence

What to do: Set up a puzzle or building challenge for your son. Have him work to complete the task independently. Encourage him to take breathers and ask for help if things get hard.

Try saying: *"Mistakes help us grow. Take a slow deep breath with me."*

Why it matters: Working through challenges is a big piece of kindergarten. Staying calm and learning to ask for help is key!



Weekly Checklist

Goal: Focus on one activity per week and read everyday.

Week of: _____

Literacy (choose 1)	Math (choose 1)	School Readiness (choose 1)
☐ Coffee Talk ☐ Nursery Rhymes ☐ Clap it Out ☐ I Spy ☐ Letter Movement Game	☐ Count and Touch ☐ Number Hunt ☐ Sort & Group ☐ More or Less ☐ Building Numbers	☐ Ready, Set, Follow ☐ Playdoh/Cutting Station ☐ Listen and Draw ☐ On My Own ☐ Can You Do It?

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Parent Reflection Questions

What is something my son is now able to do independently?

What is a skill we are seeing grow?

What is a skill we need to keep practicing?

Student Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Please return to school in September.



Summer Break OT Approved Ideas

Summer is a great time to sneak in some extra fine motor, sensory motor, and visual motor work in a fun way.

- Use a squirt bottle to water plants or do a bike “car wash”
- Squeeze out a sponge of water
- Use tweezers, tongs, or scissor grabbers to pick up objects in nature or scoop toys or pom-poms out of a bucket of water/water table
- Do a nature hunt around the yard or neighborhood
- Practice writing and drawing with chalk
- Practice writing and drawing in foam soap outside in a tray
- Draw or write in sand
- Practice using scissors by cutting flowers, grass, leaves, playdough, and make a craft
- Make wands by wrapping sticks with yarn and string
- Make a pipe cleaner bubble wand
- Make bracelets and necklaces with beads, pipe cleaners, dried pasta, and string
- Paint rocks or seashells
- Create an obstacle course using objects in the yard or a chalk obstacle course in the driveway
- Write a letter or make a drawing for a friend and send it in the mail
- “Cook” outside with nature. Use tongs, spatula, and a bowl/bucket to gather objects and mix. Scoop or pour into other buckets, cupcake liners, or bowls
- Visit the playground
- Use a hole puncher on paper, leaves, or flower petals
- Create a sand art picture with sand and glue
- Legos and puzzles

Amy Harant, MS, OTR/L

Supporting Early Reading Skills at Home

Phonological awareness: a broad skill that includes identifying and manipulating units of oral language – words, syllables, and onsets and rimes.

Phonemic Awareness: a subset of phonological awareness that focuses specifically on recognizing and manipulating phonemes, or sounds.

Environmental Sounds:

What's the sound? Have your child close their eyes while you make a sound with something in the room. See if they can guess what the sound is!

The Animal Name Game: Have your child close their eyes while you make an animal noise. See if they can guess what the animal is!

Same or Different: Have your child close their eyes while you make two sounds with things in the room (Ex: knock on table, crinkle paper). Have your child say if the sounds are the same or different.

Rhyming:

Nursery Rhymes: Say, sing or listen to Nursery Rhymes (check out Mother Goose Club Nursery Rhymes on YouTube!)

Rhyme Repetition: Say two rhyming words and have your child repeat them. (Ex: Parent: mat, hat Child: mat, hat)

Rhyme Recognition: Say two words, have your child repeat it. Then say, give me thumbs up if they rhyme, thumbs down if they don't. (Ex: Parent: hop, stop Child: hop, stop - thumbs up)

Sound Isolation:

Initial Sound Isolation: Say "I'm going to say a word and just the first sound, then it's your turn!"

Final Sound Isolation - Punch it out! Say a word and punch up the final sound. (Ex: Parent: pat /t/ Child: pat /t/)

Blending – combining parts into a whole:

Say two word parts, blend them together to make a word, and have your child repeat it.

Compound words: cup-cake → cupcake **Syllables:** blan-ket → blanket **Onset-Rime:** h-at → hat

Language Awareness

Repeating Sentences: Say a sentence, have your child repeat it, then count how many words you hear!

Sentence Completion: Say a sentence, leaving out the last word. Have your child fill in the last word with something that makes sense.

Use visuals to support your learner!



Elkonin Boxes



Felt Squares



TIPS | for parents of Kindergartners

Play with letters, words, and sounds! Having fun with language helps your child learn to crack the code of reading. The tips below offer some fun ways you can help your child become a happy and confident reader. Try a new tip each week. See what works best for your child.

■ Talk to your child.

Ask your child to talk about his day at school. Encourage him to explain something they did, or a game he played during recess.

■ Say silly tongue twisters.

Sing songs, read rhyming books, and say silly tongue twisters. These help kids become sensitive to the sounds in words.

■ Read it and experience it.

Connect what your child reads with what happens in life. If reading a book about animals, relate it to your last trip to the zoo.

■ Use your child's name.

Point out the link between letters and sounds. Say, "John, the word *jump* begins with the same sound as your name. *John, jump*. And they both begin with the same letter, J."

■ Play with puppets.

Play language games with puppets. Have the puppet say, "My name is *Mark*. I like words that rhyme with my name. Does *park* rhyme with *Mark*? Does *ball* rhyme with *Mark*?"

■ Trace and say letters.

Have your child use a finger to trace a letter while saying the letter's sound. Do this on paper, in sand, or on a plate of sugar.

■ Write it down.

Have paper and pencils available for your child to use for writing. Working together, write a sentence or two about something special. Encourage your child to use the letters and sounds he or she is learning about in school.

■ Play sound games.

Practice blending sounds into words. Ask "Can you guess what this word is? *m - o - p*." Hold each sound longer than normal.

■ Read it again and again.

Go ahead and read your child's favorite book for the 100th time! As you read, pause and ask your child about what is going on in the book.

■ Talk about letters and sounds.

Help your child learn the names of the letters and the sounds the letters make. Turn it into a game! "I'm thinking of a letter and it makes the sound mmmmmm."

Visit www.ReadingRockets.org for more information on how you can launch a child into a bright future through reading.

Supporting Early Reading Skills at Home

Read Books Together to Support Rhyming!

- Listen for rhymes on each page. See how many rhymes you can find!
- Try to make new words that rhyme with words you find in the book.
- Draw a picture of two rhyming words you heard on a page.

Book Suggestion to Support Rhyming:

- Frog on a Log by Kes Gray and Jim Field
- I Like Myself by Karen Beaumont
- Is Your Mama a Llama? By Deborah Guarino
- Llama Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney
- Rhyming Dust Bunnies by Jan Thomas
- Sheep in a Jeep by Nancy Shaw
- The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler

Practice Tongue Twisters:

- Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers; A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked; If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers, Where's the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked
- She sells seashells on the seashore. The shells she sells are seashells, I'm sure.
 - Betty's big bunny bobbed by the blueberry bush.
- Tommy tickled Tubby's tummy.
- The big bug bit the baby beetle.
- Betty Botter bought some butter but, said she, the butter's bitter. If I put it in my batter, it will make my batter bitter.

Let's Stay Connected!

- Our Website: www.heggerty.org
- Instagram: @heggertyliteracy
- LinkedIn: Heggerty Literacy
- Facebook: Heggerty Literacy
- YouTube: Heggerty Literacy
- Twitter: @HeggertyLit

Happy reading!



(PA Young Readers Award
Nominees 2025-2026)

Burt the Beetle Lives Here
by Ashley Spires

Carla's Glasses by Debbie Herman

Champion Chompers, Super Stinkers and other Poems by Extraordinary Animals by Linda Ashman

Dear Street by Lindsay Zier-Vogel

Jose Feeds the World: How a Famous Chef Feeds Millions of People Around the World by David Unger

Jumper: A Day in the Life of a Backyard Jumping Spider by Jessica Lanan

Kaboom!: A Volcano Erupts by Jessica Kulekian

The Knight Snacker by Valeria Wicker

A Mischief of Mice by Christie Matheson

Most Magnificent Maker's A to Z by Ashley Spires

Mr. Fox's Game of "No!" by David LaRochelle

One Million Trees: A True Story by Kristen Balouch

Reggie: Kid Penguin by Jen de Oliveira

Stella & Marigold by Annie Barrows

Wildfire Rescue (Disaster Squad) by Rekha S. Raihan

Award Winning Books

Caldecott Winners:

A Ball for Daisy by Chris Raschka

Fireworks by Matthew Burgess

Hot Dog by Doug Salati

This Is Not My Hat by Jon Klassen

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award Winners:

Stop That Mop! by Jonathan Fenske

The Big Stink by Janet Sumner
Johnson

Fox Has a Problem by Corey R.
Tabor

Public Libraries

"Color Our World" Summer Reading program at local public libraries runs

June 22 through August 16, 2026

Visit your local public library this summer. They offer wonderful free programs for your child. You can also borrow free museum passes!

The Haverford School



**Kindergarten
Suggested Summer
Reading List
for the year,
2025-2026**

**The Haverford School
Tabas Library**

Picture Books

Bad Seed or **Good Egg** by Jon Jory
(series)

Buffalo Fluffalo by Bess Kalb

It's Okay to Make Mistakes by Todd Parr

Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall

Penelope Rex and the Problem with Pets
by Ryan T. Higgins (series)

We Are Growing! by Laurie Keller

Who wet my pants? by Bob Shea

Early Chapter Books

Don't Throw It to Mo! by David A. Adler

Let's Play, Crabby! by Jonathan Fenske

Frog and Dog book: Goat in a Boat by Janeé Trasler

Harry & Hedgehog: Let's Have a Sleepover!
by Norman Feuti

Surf's up! Moby Shinobi by Luke Flowers

Sports Illustrated Kids by C.C. Joven

Graphic Novels

Blue, Barry & Pancakes by Dan & Jason

Fritz & Cleo by Jonathan Stutzman

Little Robot by Ben Hatke

Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea by Ben Clanton (series)

Owl and Penguin by Vikram Madan

Poetry

Change Sings: A Children's Anthem
by Amanda Gorman

Daniel Finds a Poem by Michal Archer

Ode to a Bad Day by Chelsea Lin Wallace

Once I Ate a Pie by Patricia MacLachlan

Informational

Can an Aardvark Bark? by Melissa Stewart

First Friend: How Dogs Evolved from Wolves to become Our Best Friends
by Kersten Hamilton & Jamie Kim

Mushroom Rain by Laura K. Zimmermann

What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?
by Steve Jenkins

Books in a Series

Bear Can't Wait by Karma Wilson

Biscuit by Alyssa Capulli

Creepy Carrots by Aaron Reynolds

Construction Site: Farming Strong, All Year Long by Sherri Duskey

David Goes to School by David Shannon

Dino Sports by Lisa Wheeler

Grumpy Monkey by Suzanne Lang

How do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight by Jane Yolen

I Stink by Kate & Jim McMullan

Elephant and Piggie by Mo Willems

How to Catch a... by Adam Wallace

Let's go for a drive! by Mo Willems

Pete the Cat by James Dean

Pigeon books by Mo Willems

Spoon by Amy Krouse Rosenthal

The Kindness Book by Todd Parr

There was an Old Lady by Lucille Colandro

