GORDON SCHOOL

Summer Learning: Entering first grade

Math

Over the summer, the main thing to do with your graduating kindergartner is to talk about numbers and make them part of your everyday life. Activities like measuring when baking, counting how many worms you find in the garden, and determining the number of minutes or hours you are doing an activity are all ways you can do this.

For those looking for additional resources, the following are recommended. These are meant to be joyful experiences and not daily practice:

Make 10 Go Fish
Materials: Deck of Number Cards 0-10 (four of each) or standard deck of cards with only numbers 1 (ace) - 9 included.
Players: 3 to 4
How to Play: The object of the game is to get two cards that total 10.

1. Each player is dealt five cards. The rest of the cards are placed face down in the center of the table.
2. If you have any pairs of cards that total 10, put them down in front of you and replace those cards with cards from the deck.
3. Take turns. On a turn, ask one player for a card that will go with a card in your hand to make 10.
4. If you get a card that makes 10, put the pair of cards down. Take one card from the deck. Your turn is over. If you do not get a card that makes 10, take the top card from the deck. Your turn is over. If the card you take from the deck makes 10 with a card in your hand, put the pair down and take another card.
5. If there are no cards left in your hand but still cards in the deck, you take two cards.
6. The game is over when there are no more cards.
7. At the end of the game, make a list of the number pairs you made.

Make Ten Concentration
Materials: Deck of Number Cards 0-10 or standard deck of cards with only numbers 1 (ace) - 9 included.
Players: 1 to 3
How to Play: The object of the game is to turn over and collect a combination of cards that total 10.

1. Choose 10 (or more) pairs of ten to use. Arrange the cards face down.
2. Take turns. On a turn, turn over one card and then another. If the total is 10 (i.e. “6 plus 4 is 10”), take the cards. If the total is not 10, find the total (i.e. “4 plus 3 is 7. This is not 10.”). The next person then gets a chance to go.

3. Place each of your card combinations of 10 in separate piles so they don't get mixed up.
4. At the end of the game, make a list of the number combinations for 10 that you made.

Addition War
Play the standard card game of war, but put down 2 cards at a time and find the sum. The player with the greater sum gets to take all the cards

Recommended resources
http://bedtimemath.org - this is a great site which offers daily math problems that you can incorporate into your family's routine.

Here is a ten frame template like your child uses in class. Ask them to explain it to you!

Reading

Your child has been immersed in rich literacy experiences all year long. You can continue this in many informal ways during the summer. A Lower School ritual is DEAR time. DEAR is an acronym that stands for Drop Everything And Read. You can start your own DEAR time at home this summer. Maybe after lunch or camp or a long day at the beach, have a quiet DEAR time where everyone finds a comfy spot with a book. You can read to your child, have your child read to you, or you can both have a quiet moment with your own books. Children will copy what they see their parents do, if you read, they will want to.

Ask your child questions as you read to them. What was your favorite part of the story? Why? Who was your favorite character? Do you think this is a true story? How did the main character change from the beginning to the end?

Create authentic writing experiences. Postcards, signs, thank you cards, letters to relatives, labels, shopping lists, guest lists, etc… Create plenty of opportunities for your child to pick up a pen, pencil, marker, or crayon and practice their sound/symbol skills.

Audiobooks are wonderful for long trips. Gordon's library has a collection of ebooks; information on borrowing ebooks and audiobooks can be found at www.gordonschool.org/onlineborrowing. Your public library may also have audiobooks/online audiobooks on loan. Epic! Unlimited Books for Kids is an app that has interactive stories.

Incoming first graders should be immersed in books and written words for at least fifteen minutes three times a week. During this time, students can be read to, read aloud (independently or with guidance), or listen to an audiobook. Students can also spend some of this time quietly reading a book to themselves. For some students, this might include decoding words, and for others, it might be "reading" the pictures or creating the story for a wordless picture book.

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Students should be exposed to fiction, nonfiction books, and other written materials (pamphlets, instructions, game rules, ingredients, recipes, etc…).

The library team has created fun list of suggestions for all readers.

Gordon's library has a collection of ebooks; information on borrowing ebooks and audiobooks can be found at www.gordonschool.org/onlineborrowing.

Your public library may also have audiobooks and online audiobooks on loan.