

Learning can happen anywhere. Interactive and hands-on learning is the best way for anyone to learn, especially our kiddos.

The following pages provide a schedule of ways to have fun learning. Each day has its own “theme” and a few suggestions to go with it. This way, you don’t have to feel overwhelmed that you have to do it all every day. Perhaps you need a little help to organize yourself and your to-do list. Maybe you need a reminder to slow yourself down from the hectic reality of our lives and spend a little time embedding a little learning into our schedule and routines.

Following the “schedule”, you will see some listed benefits of each area.

Following that, you will find a more formally guided activity.

You are encouraged to complete an activity (your own and/or the guided activity) and share your results with us. Take a photo, a video, and/or write a journal entry with your child’s dictated words.

Interactive activities: * are a fun way for kids to play & learn. *physical activities promote fitness & health. *games & puzzles aid in skill development. *collaborative activities improve social skills & tighten bonds. *cooperative games teach essential life lessons.

<https://www.journalbuddies.com/having-fun/benefits-of-interactive-activities/>

Contact teachers:

Miss Laura misslaura@aauwpreschool.org

Miss Cassie misscassie@aauwpreschool.org

Miss Lesly misslesly@aauwpreschool.org

M

Make it Monday:

craft, play dough, Legos,
blocks, fort...

T

Take a Trip Tuesday:

virtual museum, bike ride,
walk...

W

*What's Cooking
Wednesday:*

Make something to eat.

TH

Thinking Thursday:

science experiment,
cooperative activity, puzzle...

F

Fun Friday:

Pick a fun favorite activity.

Creativity: *is multi-disciplinary. * allows you to express yourself. *promotes thinking & problem solving. *reduces stress and anxiety. *allows you to enter your happy zone & have fun. *gives you a sense of purpose. *can lead to feelings of accomplishment & pride. *improves your ability to focus. *promotes risk taking. *is a prerequisite for innovation. *encourages us to be lifelong learners.

A trip: improves social & communication skills. *ensures peace of mind. *helps you gain original & creative thoughts. *broadens your horizons. *enhances your tolerance for uncertainty. *boosts your confidence. *gets you real-life education. *creates memories. *helps you have fun.

Cooking: *strengthens a child's fine motor skills. *develops basic understanding of math concepts. *develops the concept of sequencing. *expands vocabulary. *develops reading skills. *introduces scientific concepts. *develops an adventurous & diverse taste palette. *engages our senses. *increases focus & attention. *teaches life skills. *promotes healthy eating. *boosts self-confidence. *encourages family bonding.

Critical Thinking: *encourages curiosity. *enhances creativity. *reinforces problem solving ability. *Promotes: reasoning skills, analytical thinking, evaluative skills, logical thinking, organizational & planning skills, language skills, self-reflection, observational skills, open-mindedness, visualization techniques, questioning ability, and decision making. *develops independence. *is a lifelong skill.

Having fun: *reduces stress. *improves our ability to cope. *boosts energy. *improves memory & concentration. *improves our connections with others. *improves sounder sleep.

Guided Activity:

F

Craft Stick Catapult Game.... How far will it go?!

Materials:

7 craft sticks, 1 plastic spoon, rubber bands, small items to launch



What to do:

Stack 5 craft sticks on top of each other and secure both ends with a rubber band (crossbar)

Next, stack 2 craft sticks on top of each other and secure one end with a rubber band.

Carefully open up the 2 craft sticks and slide your stack of 5 in between them.

Then lay a plastic spoon on top of the top craft stick and secure both ends of the spoon to the craft stick. (As shown in the picture below.)

Finally, criss-cross one more rubber band around the area where the craft sticks intersect, holding it all in place.

Extension:

With a little practice, our preschoolers should be able to launch projectiles and compare distances. You could dot with chalk where each projectile reached so you talk about longest and shortest distances afterwards. You can talk about how using the same size projectile each time, and firing the catapults from the same point (or starting line), creates a “fair test”

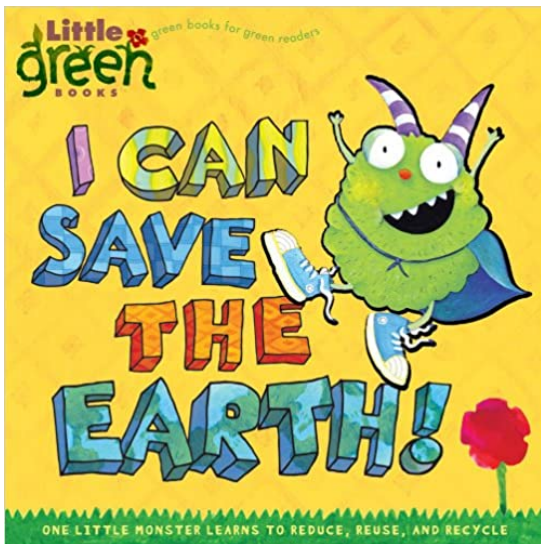
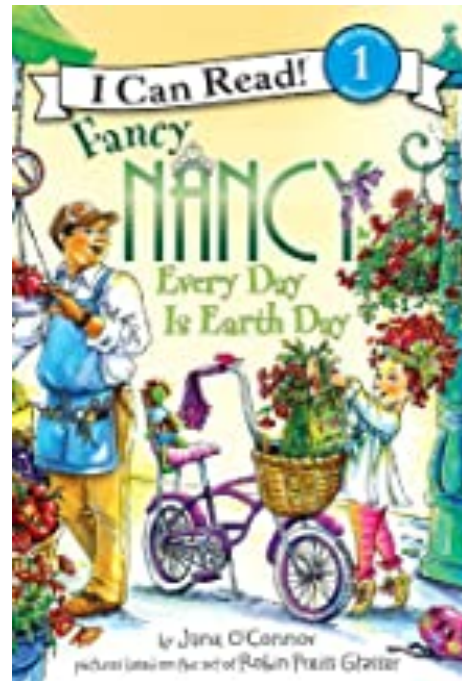
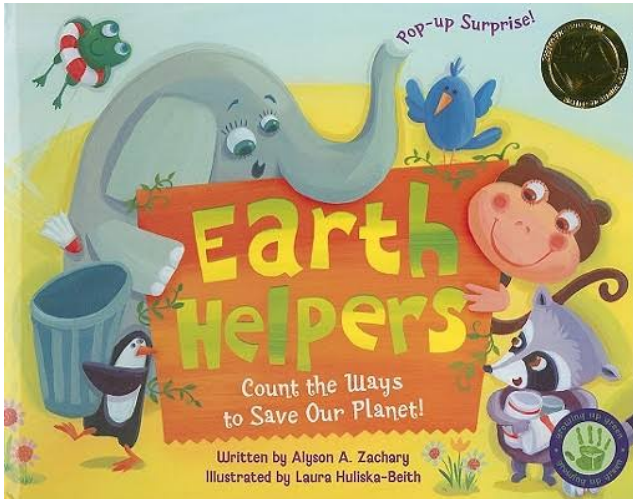
***Here's a link to other Catapult ideas: <https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/popsicle-stick-catapult-kids-stem-activity/>

ISBE Learning Standards:

Science: 11.A.ECa Express wonder and curiosity about their world by asking questions, solving problems, and designing things. 11.A.ECb Develop and use models to represent their ideas, observations, and explanations through approaches such as drawing, building, or modeling with clay. 11 A.ECc Plan and carry out simple investigations.

Math: 6DECb Use comparison vocabulary; 7AECc Use measuring vocabulary.

Recommended Reading:



If you do not already own these books, you can find them digitally online at your library, Hoopla, or You Tube.

I Can Save the Earth <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Mkwhe6LOBo>