

At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers (2 years old)

Week of May 25, 2020



This month in our centers, discovery preschoolers at home and in our centers are learning about **Colors and Shapes**. This week focuses on the colors green, orange, and purple while revisiting the shapes and colors from previous weeks. Even though many of us are not in our centers right now, you and your child can bring the fun of learning about colors and shapes to life at home.

The week begins with familiar activities, a color search and part 2 of the “Color Song,” but this time with a focus on the **three new colors**. To get out those mid-week wiggles, your child will explore **dancing with wrist ribbons** and seeing how their movements influence the movements of the ribbons. Towards the end of the week, they’ll use their observation skills to **find colors** in illustrations and determine which **shape** doesn’t belong.

Each week we focus on three new colors, but your child’s learning doesn’t have to be limited to the colors of the week. For example, if your child is coloring, be sure to take **notice and acknowledge all the colors** they use.

Developmental Domains

We built our curriculum around six domains that are important to the whole child. Interested in learning more? Click [here](#).



Learning Adventures

are small-group enrichment programs in our centers designed to give children experiences in cooking, STEM, phonics, and music. Some activities in this guide are adapted from these programs for your use at home. They’re a great way to dig deeper into areas that may interest your child.

This Week's Theme:

Colors and Shapes



What you'll find in this guide. . .

We've organized this content the way your child would be learning in their center, but you and your child can choose your own adventures and do the activities in any order.

MONDAY

Growing Flexible Brains
(Executive Function)



Color Search What can you find in your home that is green? Orange? Purple? You and your child go on a search to find out!

Phonics Adventures
(Learning Adventures)



"Gray Squirrel" Poem and Fun with Letter S Your child will use a poem about squirrels to explore color words and the sound of letter S!

TUESDAY

Express Yourself! (Creative Expression)



"Color Song," Part 2 What can your child name that is green, orange, or purple? This song about colors will help them out.

WEDNESDAY

Get the Wiggles Out
(Physical Development and Wellness)



Rainbow Ribbon Dance Your child explores dancing with colorful wrist ribbons and sees how their movements affect the ways the ribbons move.

THURSDAY

Read with Me (Language and Literacy)



Books about Colors You and your child read a book about colors and see what colors you can find in the pictures.

Music Explorers (Learning Adventures)



The Caterpillar Is Growing Singable Story Your child will explore size differences while singing and dancing along to lyrics set to a familiar tune!

FRIDAY

Get the Wheels Turning
(Cognitive Development)



Which Shape Doesn't Belong? One of these shapes is not like the other—can your child figure out which one is different?

EVERYDAY LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Pick an activity to weave learning experiences into your everyday routines—no preparation needed!



FOCUS ON SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Help your child develop important social-emotional skills by working on your family project! The new theme for this week focuses on a unique way to celebrate Memorial Day through the theme **"All the feels..."**

At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of May 25, 2020

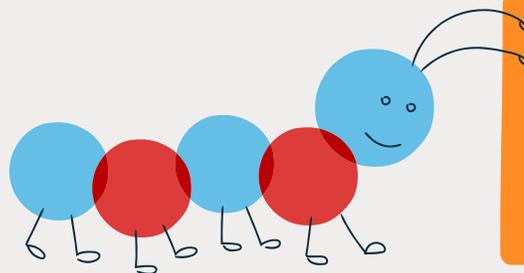
Getting Ready for the Week: Materials to Gather

Monday

- ❑ Solid-colored objects in green, orange, and purple (such as toys, construction paper, or clothing; one of each color)

For Phonics Adventures Activity:

- ❑ ["Gray Squirrel" rebus poem](#)
- ❑ [Photos of acorns](#)
- ❑ [Photos of squirrels](#)
- ❑ Paper
- ❑ Pencil



Tip: At the beginning of your week, gather materials and place them in a container so you're ready to go!

Tuesday

- ❑ Solid-colored objects in green, orange, and purple (such as toys, construction paper, or clothing; one of each color)

Wednesday

- ❑ Music to dance to
- ❑ Scissors (for adult use only)
- ❑ Ribbon, yarn, string, or fabric strips in red, yellow, blue, orange, green and purple (as many of these colors as possible)
- ❑ Rubber bands, string, or ribbon

Thursday

- ❑ Children's books about colors, such as *A Color of His Own*; *Mouse Paint*; *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*; *White Rabbit's Color Book*

For the Music Explorers activity:

- ❑ [Butterfly Life Cycle photo](#)
- ❑ [Video link](#) to the singable storybook *The Caterpillar Is Growing*, lyrics by KinderCare Education, music by Jane Gillman, illustrations by Krista Martenson

Friday

- ❑ Paper shapes (from At-Home Learning Guide: Week of May 11 and Week of May 18. If you don't have paper shapes, you'll need construction paper or white paper and crayons, markers, or colored pencils, and scissors)

At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of May 25, 2020

MONDAY

Growing Flexible Brains: Color Search

What can you find in your home that is green? Orange? Purple? You and your child go on a search to find out!



Length of activity:
10–15 minutes*

*Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult:** High



Level of Prep Required: Low



What you need:

- Solid-colored objects in green, orange, and purple (such as toys, construction paper, or clothing; one of each color)



What your child is learning:

- Identifying and naming colors
- How to focus on an activity
- How to relate prior learning to new experiences

What you do: Show your child each of the objects and ask them to name each of the colors. Feel free to offer some help if they need it. Tell them you're going to go on a color search to look for other things that are green, orange, or purple. Walk through your home with your child, taking the three colored objects with you, and encourage your child to look for the same colors in the space around them. You can help by providing clues, such as "Ooh, I see something green. It needs sunlight and water to grow." Continue searching for colors for as long as your child is interested.

If your child is ready: You can extend the activity by adding the colors learned last week—red, yellow, and blue—and invite your child to find one object of each of the six colors.

At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of May 25, 2020

MONDAY
(continued)

"Gray Squirrel" Poem and Fun with Letter S

Your child will use a poem about squirrels to explore color words and the sound of letter S!



Length of activity:
15–20 minutes*

*Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult:** High



Level of Prep Required: Low



What you need:

- ["Gray Squirrel" rebus poem](#)
- [Photos of acorns](#)
- [Photos of squirrels](#)
- Paper
- Pencil



What your child is learning:

- To recognize and name pictures embedded in text
- To listen for the initial sound /s/ in a list of words
- Beginning to hear syllables as parts of spoken words

What you do: Show your child the [photos of squirrels](#). Help them describe the color of the squirrels and the size of their tails. Then show your child the [photo of acorns](#). Explain that acorns are a type of nut squirrels eat. Tell your child you're going to share a poem about squirrels.

Show your child the ["Gray Squirrel" rebus poem](#) and help them name all of the small photos. Run a finger under the title as you say, "The title of this poem is 'Gray Squirrel.'" Then read the poem aloud, running your finger under the words and images. Encourage your child to join you in reading the poem again.

Ask your child to name other colors that aren't mentioned in the poem. Write the colors on a sheet of paper so you can remember them. Then read the poem again, substituting colors your child suggested for *gray* and *red*.

Then say, "Squirrel begins with the sound /s/. *Something* and *silly* begin with the same /s/ sound." Slowly and steadily, teach your child the chant, "Squirrel, something, silly, squirrel, something, silly." When your child begins to chant with you, start clapping on each part of the word, or *syllable*, and encourage your child to clap with you.

Think of other fun "s" chants you can say together, like "Squirrel, swish, swim, sing."

Questions to ask:

- What do you see in the pictures on the poem poster?
- What other color words could we use in the poem?
- What sound do you hear at the beginning of *squirrel*?
- How many claps will we do for the word *swim*?



At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of May 25, 2020

"Gray Squirrel" rebus poem



Wrinkle up your funny nose, hold an  in your toes.
acorn



Wrinkle up your funny nose, hold an  in your toes.
acorn



At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of May 25, 2020

Acorns



At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of May 25, 2020

Squirrels



At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of May 25, 2020

TUESDAY

Express Yourself!: Color Song, Part 2

What can your child name that is green, orange, or purple? This song about colors will help them out.



Length of activity:
15 minutes*

*Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult:** High



Level of Prep Required: Low



What you need:

- Solid-colored objects in green, orange, and purple (such as toys, construction paper, or clothing; one of each color)



What your child is learning:

- Identifying and naming colors
- How to participate in music-related experiences
- How to relate prior learning to new experiences



What you do: Familiarize yourself with the three verses of the "Color Song." Then show your child each of the objects and ask them to name each of the colors, providing assistance as needed. Tell them you're going to sing a song about these three colors. You sing the song first. Then repeat the song, inviting your child to join you when they're familiar with the words. Encourage your child to dance or move to the rhythm if they'd like.



"Color Song"

(sung to the tune of "I've Been Workin' on the Railroad")

Green is the color for leaves on the trees.
Green is the color for green peas, too.
Green is the color of a watermelon.
I like green, don't you?

Orange is the color for oranges.
Orange is the color for carrots, too.
Orange is the color of a jack-o-lantern.
I like orange, don't you?

Purple is the color for a bunch of grapes.
Purple is the color for grape juice, too.
Purple is the color for a violet.
I like purple, don't you?



If your child is ready: Extend the activity by singing the verses for red, blue, and yellow from [last week's activity](#), in addition to the verses for green, orange, and purple.

At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of May 25, 2020

WEDNESDAY

Get the Wiggles Out: Rainbow Ribbon Dance

Your child explores dancing with colorful wrist ribbons and sees how their movements affect the ways the ribbons move.

Length of activity: 15 minutes*



*Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult:** Medium



Level of Prep Required: Medium



What you need:

- Music to dance to
- Scissors (for adult use only)
- Ribbon, yarn, string, or fabric strips in red, yellow, blue, orange, green and purple (as many colors as possible)
- Rubber bands, string, or ribbon



What your child is learning:

- How to move creatively
- How the body moves in different directions and at different levels
- How they can influence the movement of objects

What you do: Create wrist ribbons by tying 12 to 18-inch lengths of different colors of ribbon, yarn, string or fabric strips to a large rubber band. You can also use shorter lengths of string or ribbon and tie it loosely around your child's wrist. If you don't have the materials to create wrist ribbons, you can use colorful, lightweight scarves or dish towels for your child to hold while dancing. If possible, create additional wrist ribbons so you or other family members can join in the fun.

Show your child the wrist ribbon you created and ask them to name the different colors. Help them put the wrist ribbon on their wrist and invite them to explore what happens to the ribbons when they move their hand and arms in different ways. If your child prefers, they can hold the end of the wrist ribbon in their hand instead of wearing it on their wrist.

Play the music you selected and invite your child to use their wrist ribbons to dance to the music. Explore dancing with different types of music and see how your child's movements and how they use the wrist ribbons changes.

If your child is ready: Help them create a simple routine of two repeated movements using the wrist ribbons, such as shaking their hands up high, then down low. Or shaking them fast, and then shaking them slowly.

At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of May 25, 2020

THURSDAY

Read with Me: Books about Colors

You and your child read a book about colors and see what colors you can find in the pictures.



Length of activity:
10–15 minutes*

*Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

Level of Engagement Required by Adult: High



Level of Prep Required: Low



What you need:

Children's books about colors, such as *A Color of His Own*; *Mouse Paint*; *Brown Bear, Brown Bear*; *What Do You See?*; *White Rabbit's Color Book*

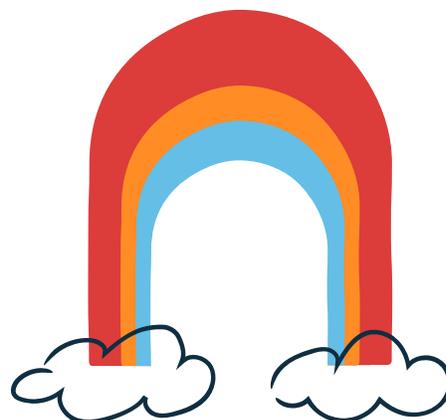


What your child is learning:

- Making connections between text and illustrations
- Attention to text read aloud
- Identifying and naming colors

What you do: Select a book to read with your child. Share the cover of the book with them and then read the book. After reading the book, look at the illustrations with them. Ask your child to look at the illustrations and ask questions about objects of different colors. "Look at this picture. Where is the red paint?" Or "What color is the rabbit in this picture?" "What colors do you see on this page?" Continue through the illustrations looking for colors, focusing on red, yellow, blue, green, orange, and purple.

If your child is ready: For books such as *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*, encourage your child to recite familiar and repeating parts of the story as you read, such as the line "What do you see?".



At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of May 25, 2020

THURSDAY
(continued)

Music Explorers: *The Caterpillar Is Growing Singable Story*

Your child will explore size differences while singing and dancing along to lyrics set to a familiar tune!



Length of activity:
10–15 minutes*

*Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

Level of Engagement Required by Adult: Medium



Level of Prep Required: N/A



What you need:

- [Butterfly Life Cycle photo](#)
- [Video link](#) to storybook and song *The Caterpillar Is Growing*, lyrics by KinderCare Education, music by Jane Gillman, illustrations by Krista Martenson



What your child is learning:

- To move creatively to music
- The meaning of words describing size, like *tiny*, *medium*, and *big*
- To identify a character in a song
- The connection between songs and books

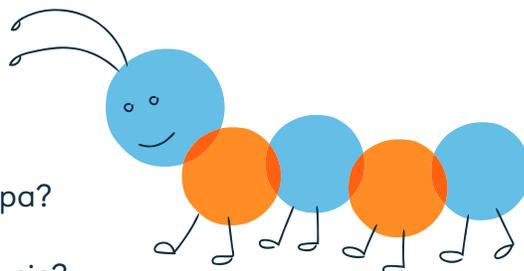
What you do: Share with your child that songs tell stories, and you have a song that has a storybook to go with it. Explain that the book is about a caterpillar. Show your child the [Butterfly Lifecycle photo](#) and ask about their experiences with caterpillars. Where have they seen caterpillars? What did the caterpillars look like? Explain that caterpillars crawl along the ground and on plants, eating leaves to help them grow. After caterpillars are grown, they form themselves into pupas and wait to become butterflies!

Play the [video](#) and invite your child to watch as the book is sung. Sing along as you catch on to the lyrics and tune. Highlight the words *tiny*, *medium*, and *big* as you sing, changing your voice to match the words.

Then, help your child reflect back on the main character and what happened in the story. Ask your child how the caterpillar changed from the beginning of the story to the end. Talk about the words *tiny*, *medium*, and *big*. How can your child use their body to show *tiny*, *medium*, and *big*? Play the video as many times as you'd like, encouraging your child to show *tiny*, *medium*, and *big* when those words are used in the song. Dance and sing along to the music together!

Questions to ask:

- Where have you seen caterpillars before?
- How does a caterpillar change as it grows?
- How do caterpillars move?
- What is the caterpillar in the song doing?
- How do you think the caterpillar will feel when it becomes a pupa?
- How does this music make you feel?
- How can you show *tiny*, *medium*, and *big* as you dance to this music?
- How could we act out what the caterpillar is doing in the song?



At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of May 25, 2020

Butterfly Life Cycle



At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of May 25, 2020

FRIDAY

Get the Wheels Turning: Which Shape Doesn't Belong?

One of these shapes is not like the other—can your child figure out which one is different?

Length of activity: 15 minutes*



*Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult:** High



Level of Prep Required: Low



What you need:

Paper shapes (from At-Home Learning Guide: Week of May 11 and Week of May 18—if you don't have paper shapes, you'll need construction paper or white paper and crayons, markers, or colored pencils, and scissors)



What your child is learning:

- How to identify objects that are similar and different
- Identifying and naming simple shapes
- How to use observations to answer questions

What you do: If you don't have paper shapes from the previous week's activities, you can make them by cutting various sizes of squares, circles, and triangles out of different colors of construction paper. Cut 5 or 6 of each shape. If construction paper isn't available, use coloring materials to draw and color the shapes on white paper, then cut them out.

Select two triangles and one square and place them in a line. Ask your child to name each of the shapes, helping as needed. Then say "Two of these shapes are the same, and one shape is different. Which shape is different?" If needed, help them identify the different shape by reminding them of the names of the shapes. "What's the name of this shape? It's a triangle. Is there another triangle? What's the name of this shape? It's a square. Is there another square? There's only one square—the square is the shape that's different."

After identifying the different shape, remove the shapes and place another set of three shapes with two that are the same and one that's different. Continue the game for as long as your child is interested.

If your child is ready: Change the attribute of the shape that is different. For example, put down two green triangles and one red triangle and tell your child that one of the triangles is a different color. Or put down two large squares and one small square and tell your child that one of the squares is smaller than the other two. Be sure to tell your child which attribute they're looking for (shape, color, or size) and to only focus on one attribute at a time.

Everyday Learning Experiences

Pick an activity to weave learning experiences into your everyday routines—no preparation needed!

While this week focuses the colors green, orange, and purple, any opportunity you can provide your child to expand their understanding of **descriptive words** and to relate those words to **specific objects or actions** will help their language development. Use your routines and activities throughout the day to narrate what you're doing and to help your child understand descriptive words by providing details about objects, such as "Would you like to wear your green striped shirt today?" Or "I'm going to remove the orange peel from the tangerine before we eat it."

Two-year-olds are beginning to match and group things that are the same as they learn how to categorize based on different criteria. Look for opportunities during the day for your child to help you **match and sort**. Whether it's matching socks or simply putting toys away, these are great opportunities for children to practice **categorization**.

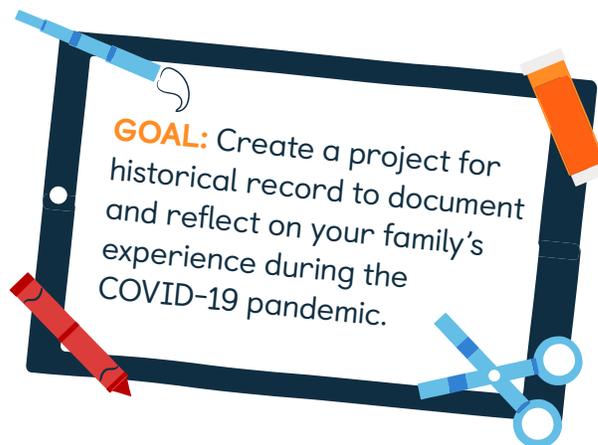
Which one is different? Like the activity *Which Shape Doesn't Belong*, this is an **observation and comparison** game you can play with your child throughout the day. For example, during snack you might put two apple slices and one orange wedge on their plate and ask them which one is different. Or while helping your child get dressed, you can select one pair of matching socks, and one sock that doesn't match.

At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of May 25, 2020

Family Project

Help your child develop important social-emotional skills by working on your family project!



For the past couple weeks, your family has been working through the first five themes of your family project. This week, we invite your family to explore the theme **All the Feels** ...

All the Feels

For many, **Memorial Day** marks the unofficial start of summer. And while it's certainly a great time to celebrate family with a barbeque or picnic, it's also important that children understand the significance this day holds for our nation and military families. Above all, today is about **honoring** and **remembering** those who've dedicated their lives to keeping our country safe.

The true meaning of Memorial Day might be a heavy concept for young children to process, especially today. The simplest way to convey its meaning is to focus on the word "memorial." Take time to pause as a family and give **thanks**. As you do, share with your children that you're honoring those who keep us safe. Today, we remember all they've done for us and our country. And especially today, that includes the brave men and women seeing us through this pandemic.

Discuss this!

For this week's *Our Stay-at-Home Story* theme, **All the Feels**, reflect on what the words "memorial," "remembrance," and "gratitude" mean. How can your family show gratitude for our veterans and service members, our nation's greatest heroes? How can you honor those who've devoted their lives to keeping others safe?

That includes people in our communities like doctors and nurses protecting us during this pandemic. Think about how you can represent an attitude of gratitude in your chosen family project and maybe even find a way to share that thanks with the everyday heroes in your lives!

A History Lesson for School-Age Kids

Did you know... traditionally, the first Memorial Day was celebrated on May 30, 1868, at Arlington National Cemetery. But there is evidence that the first celebration was in 1865 at the Charleston racetrack, organized by a group of freed slaves. Read more about it [here](#).

At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of May 25, 2020

Note: In case you missed it, we released [Our Stay-at-Home Story: A KinderCare Family Project](#) in May. By working on your project together, you're helping your child develop important social-emotional skills in fun new ways, while building their communication skills, creativity, and confidence! Many of the project suggestions require little preparation and are perfect to weave into your regular day.

If you've opted out of the project, just talking about your common experiences is a great way to build your child's skills and come closer together as a family. Use the themes below as a conversation starter with your child. The most important part of social-emotional learning is creating an opportunity for sharing feelings and building community with others.

THEMES:

- **All the Feels:** Explore and identify your hopes, worries, gratitude, or frustrations.
- **Building Connections:** Find a way to embrace your family and community from a distance.
- **What Is Essential:** Redefine what *essential* means through your everyday actions.
- **Flexible Mindsets:** How are you learning and growing together as a family?
- **Who Are the Helpers:** Who is helping us? How are we helping others?

