



## **Summer Bridge to Kindergarten**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Legacy! We are so excited to have you and we look forward to the upcoming school year. At Legacy, we believe summer is a time for swimming, relaxing, playing with friends and vacationing, but we also hope you can help keep your student's skills sharp over the break. This packet is designed to help you accomplish this task over the summer months!

Within this packet are details about summer work that may be turned in to your child's fourth grade teacher for a homework grade at the beginning of the year. Each Summer Bridge Packet is designed by the Legacy teaching staff with skills specifically designed to "bridge" the summer between each grade level. Although the work is not mandatory, your child will have a tremendous advantage because of skills that are mastered and reinforced through summer practice.

We pray you have a wonderful summer with your family and friends!

Blessings,

Legacy Preparatory Christian Academy

## **Language Arts**

### **Letter Recognition**

For Kindergarten, your child should be able to recognize and orally name, both capital and lowercase, all of the letters of the alphabet.

You can play the following games during the summer to reinforce this knowledge:

- Go Fish with the ABC Letter Cards
- Memory with the ABC Letter Cards
- Sing the alphabet song with an alphabet chart
- Assemble the tactile letter puzzles and review the names

If your child struggled with recalling the sounds of each letter, this will be reviewed during the first few months of kindergarten. However, if your child knows these sounds it would be beneficial for him/her to read age appropriate materials to you.

### **Writing and Fine Motor Skills**

For Kindergarten, your child should be able to hold a pencil properly, use scissors properly, and write his/her name correctly.

- Confirm that your child is holding a pencil properly. Use the attached "Guidelines for Handwriting" and correct any improper form now. Although it seems simple, this is VERY important.
- Have your child practice writing his/her first name by capitalizing the first letter only. (Although, writing in all caps is fine upon entering Kindergarten, you can use this time to reinforce that capital letters are for the first letter of names and sentences.)
- Draw simple shapes on colorful paper for your child to cut. Include both straight and curved lines.
- Journaling is a great way to build handwriting skills as well as promote creative thinking. I highly recommend that you continue to use the journal notebooks throughout the summer. You as a co-teacher have the opportunity to be creative with the journaling assignments.

### **Reading Aloud**

Please spend time reading together at least three times a week. You can read to your child or your child can read to you. Please vary the types of books read: readers, beginner chapter books, classic children's books. Keep a record on the attached Reading Log.

Also, try to make the library a part of your weekly summer routine. The library also offers summer reading programs for children as well as story time. Don't ignore this valuable resource! There is also a suggested reading list below.

### **Math**

For Kindergarten, your child should be able to identify the numbers 0-9 and count rote to 20.

- Make number flashcards. Have your child name the numbers. Have your child put the numbers in order. When your child masters the numbers through nine, add 10-20.

- Practice writing the numbers. Use colored pencils or markers on special paper to make it interesting. Finger paint the numbers or trace them in a tray of sand or rice.
- Use any opportunity to count together! You can count stop signs while driving or shapes that you see.
- Confirm that your child can name and reproduce a square, circle, triangle, and rectangle. Look for shapes in your daily adventures.

## **General skills**

For Kindergarten, your child should be able to use the toilet independently.

It would be helpful for next year's teacher if your child could tie his/her own shoes, but this is not required.

Please note, you do not need to cover every item every day. I recommend setting aside 30 minutes three days a week to review these skills. You can quickly identify any areas that need reinforcement by referring to the Fourth Quarter Assessment inside your child's report card.



## Recommended Summer Reading for Pre-K

**Emergent-Reader Books:** Books that are intended for emergent readers---children who have not yet learned to sound out words--- are often called “predictable” books. They contain simple language, repetitive phrases, rhyme, and pictures that support reading. By listening to these books read aloud several times, the child memorizes the text. The child then “reads” the book by joining in on words he knows or by pointing to each word as he recites the story by heart.

My World: Now I’m Reading (Pre-reader) by Nora Gaydos: There are ten stories in this set.

Look Around: Now I’m Reading (Pre-reader) by Nora Gaydos: These ten stories are predictable and include strong picture clues.

My First Bob Books by Bobby Maslan: These patterned stories are designed for pre-readers to “read” with considerable help from a parent.

Bathtime for Biscuit (My First I Can Read) by Alyssa Capucilli: A puppy named Biscuit doesn’t want a bath. Be sure to read others in this series.

Splash! Splash! (My First I Can Read) by Sarah Weeks: Chub, the fish, swims in his tub, and his friends all want to join him.

How Many Fish? (My First I Can Read) by Caron Cohen: In this counting book, some fish and children are swimming in the bay.

I See, You Saw (My First I Can Read) by Nurit Karlin: Word play is included in this little story about cats who ride a seesaw. Be sure to look for other My First I Can Read books.

B is for Books (Step-Into-Reading, Step One) by Annie Cob: This rhyming book features Oscar the Grouch and his pet bookworm. Try other Step-Into-Reading, Step One books.

Berenstain Bears Ride the Thunderbolt (Step-Into-Reading, Step One) by Stan Berenstain: The Berenstain Bears go to the beach.

Fish and Frog: Brand New Readers by Michelle Knudsen: A fish and a frog swim and play together in this set of four simple books.

Mouse Has Fun: Brand New Readers by Phyllis Root: This set of four books uses rhyme and picture support to assist reading. Try out the other Brand New Reader sets, too.

**Beginning-Reader (Decodable) Books:** Decodable books are for children who have been taught to sound out words using phonics. For early readers these books consist of mainly three-letter words with “short vowel” sounds, such as cat. These books also contain a few common “sight words” that can’t be sounded out and so must be memorized.

Bob Books, Set One: Beginning Readers by Bobby Maslan: This set consists of ten books that are written using short-vowel words.

Bob Books, Set Two: Advancing Beginners by Bobby Maslan: This set consists of ten books that are written using short-vowel words but with slightly longer stories than set one.

Playful Pals: Now I’m Reading (for Beginning Readers) Level One by Nora Gaydos: This delightful pack of ten story books is skillfully written using short-vowel words and colorful pictures.

Animal Antics: Now I’m Reading (for Beginning Readers) Level One by Nora Gaydos: This amusing set of ten books offers the beginning reader easy-to-read stories using short-vowel words and repetition.

Biscuit Phonics Fun (My First I Can Read) by Alyssa Capucilli: This set of twelve books about Biscuit the puppy is written with short vowel sounds and is published by HarperCollins.

Pup and Pop Boxed Set (Scholastic Phonics Readers) by Jane Gerver: Two dogs are the main characters in this set of twelve easy-to-read books.

Dan the Ant (Reader's Clubhouse Level One) by Jennifer Gillis: This book from Barron's Educational Series, Incorporated features the short a sound.

Phonics Readers (Short Vowels Ten-Volume Set): This set of books from Educational Insights includes two books for each short-vowel sound.

**Read-Aloud Books:** It is important to read Bible stories and passages of scripture to children at an early age to instill God's word in their hearts. Other books to read aloud include the both predictable books mentioned in the emergent-reader section and longer stories written with interesting characters and plots. See "Read Aloud Tips for Young Children" for helpful guidelines.

Just the Way You Are by Max Lucado: A king adopts a family of orphans who mistakenly think they must impress him to be accepted.

Aesop's Fables by Jerry Pinkney: Pinkney's beautiful lovely watercolors adorn 61 classic Aesop's fables in this gorgeous book.

The Berenstain Bears Go to School by Stan and Jan Berenstain: The Bear family cubs prepare to attend school. Be sure to read others in this series.

The Children's Book of Virtues, edited by William Bennett: Bennett has collected 31 poems and stories, such as "The Little Hero of Holland," that teach faith, courage, and other character traits.

The Creation: A Poem by James Johnson: The miraculous story of creation is told using poetry and illustrations.

The Story About Ping by Marjorie Flack: This classic story tells of a wayward duck who has to find his way back to his boat home on the Yangtze River.

Sylvester and the Magic Pebble by William Steig: Sylvester makes a wish that turns him into a rock and needs to be rescued by his parents.

The Baby in the Basket by Jennifer Larcombe: This colorful read-aloud book tells the touching story of baby Moses.

James Herriot's Treasury for Children by James Herriot: These eight humorous animal stories are written by the author of the book *All Creatures Great and Small* (based on the old hymn by Cecil Alexander).

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff: The end of this circular story leads back to the beginning as one thing leads to another after a mouse gets a cookie.

This Is the House That Jack Built by Simms Taback: This cumulative tale builds upon itself as repetition invites the young listener to join in the telling of the story.

Henny Penny by Paul Galdone: Wonderful illustrations accompany this traditional folk tale.

Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey: In this Caldecott Honor book, a girl and a bear cub accidentally trade mothers while looking for blueberries in the Maine countryside.

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin, Jr: Thanks to the repetition and predictable question-and-answer format in this well-loved book, young readers are able to participate the very first time this story is told.

Rumpelstiltskin retold and illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky: Zelinsky's oil paintings won him a Caldecott Honor for this gorgeous book about the odd little man who spins straw into gold.

The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss: In this classic story written over 60 years ago, a boy persists in his belief that the seed he planted will sprout, even though others tell him it won't.

The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash by Trinka Noble: One thing leads to another in this funny tale about Jimmy's class trip. Be sure to read the sequels.

The Random House book of Mother Goose, Illustrated by Arnold Lobel: Lobel's illustrations revitalize these classic rhymes. The shortest poems in the book are perfect for your child to memorize and then point to words as he "reads" them.

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by John Scieszka: You haven't really heard the story of The Three Little Pigs until you've read this hilarious version of the tale.

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak: Max gets into mischief and is sent to bed without any supper. While in his room his imagination takes him on a wild adventure in this Caldecott picture book.

Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears by Verna Aardema: It is easy to see why Leo and Diane Dillon's skillful cut-out illustrations earned a Caldecott Award in this clever pourquoi story (a legend that tells why something is the way it is).

The Three Billy Goats Gruff by Ellen Appleby: Adorable illustrations add new interest to this classic old Norwegian folktale.

Are You My Mother? by P. D. Eastman: A baby bird hatches while his mother is gone from the nest, and he sets out to find her, asking everyone he meets the same question.

Is Your Mama a Llama? by Deborah Guarino: As Lloyd, a baby llama, asks his friends if their mamas are llamas, the reader is invited to guess the responses of each.

Sheep in a Jeep by Nancy Shaw: Five mischievous sheep end up in the mud as they team up to drive a jeep. Rhyme and rhythm will invite young listeners to chime in on the parts they know.

Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain by Verna Aardema: This Reading Rainbow tells a cumulative African folktale in rhyme. Its musical quality makes it fun to read aloud.

The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss: A boring rainy afternoon becomes adventurous for Sally and her brother when a spunky cat drops by.

The Monkey and the Crocodile by Paul Galdone: Read this Indian folktale to find out whether the crocodile or the monkey prevails.

Borreguita and the Coyote by Verna Aardema: The text in this trickster tale makes a delightful read aloud as each character attempts to outsmart the other.

The Ugly Duckling adapted and illustrated by Jerry Pinkney: This updated version of the classic Hans Christian Andersen tale received a Caldecott Honor for its striking illustrations. Pinkney's vivid word descriptions enable readers and listeners to paint their own mental images, as well.

The Bee Tree by Patricia Polacco: When Mary Ellen complains that she's tired of reading, her grandfather takes her on a search for wild honey and teaches her a lesson about the sweetness found in the pages of a book.

Click Clack Moo: Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin: When a group of literate cows start shivering, they send the farmer a note threatening to go on strike if they don't get some electric blankets, but the story doesn't stop there...

Three Bags Full by Ragnhild Scamell: Millie, a kind sheep, willingly shares her wool with a bird, a badger, and a rabbit; so she gets cold when it snows. The farmer's wife knits her a sweater, but as the yarn unravels, she shares the yarn...

Slop goes the Soup: A Noisy Warthog Word Book by Pamela Edwards: A clumsy warthog spills soup when he sneezes and a long chain of events occurs. All the sounds of the events are included in the text along with lovely watercolor drawings.

Muncha! Muncha! Muncha! by Candace Fleming: This humorous picture book pits a gardener named Mr. McGreely against three hungry and determined bunnies.

Read-Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young, This wonderful anthology has poems written by many well-known authors, such as Christina Rossetti and Lewis Carroll.  
Poems for the Very Young, This anthology includes both old,

traditional rhymes and modern poems written by many different authors. The illustrations by Bob Graham appeal to young children.