



Deluxe Preschool At-Home Activity Set with Puppet

Here's What You Get!

- 1 Career Puppet
- 2 Books
- 1 Pair of Wooden Claves
- 1 Scarf
- 1 Box of 16 Crayons
- 1 Blank Notebook

Dear Families,

This kit of hands-on learning tools is a great way to support your child as you work with them at home. The featured materials included in the kit are meaningful and engaging – perfect for curious minds! The materials and usage suggestions range in complexity so that your child can review and practice skills already learned, as well as develop and master new skills. Mastering these important skills will make the transition to the next level more successful. As you work with your child, watch their confidence and independence grow!

Suggested Activities:

Career Puppet

- **Community helpers!** Puppets are an excellent tool for teaching language skills and introducing different career choices. Using the puppet and its clothing/accessories, ask your child if they know what the puppet's career is. Ask your child to explain what tools a person in this career choice might use. Discuss what a person does in this career and how important they are in a community.

- **Play time!** Once your child understands what the career is, have them put on a play for the family using the character puppet. This will also help your child learn to be comfortable while talking in front of people.
- **Voices!** Have your child try to talk and use words in the way this career person might use while using a voice this person might use. What types of instances would make this person excited? Scared? Happy?
- **Field trip!** If possible, take your child to a place where this career person would work. Discuss the other people that work alongside this person and what their roles are. If this is not possible, do some internet research with your child, or take them to the library to find children's books on different careers and community helpers.
- **Portrait time!** Have your child draw a portrait of this career person in their work setting along with the tasks they would normally do.

Books

- **Enjoy a book discussion!** Talk with your child about books. Explain to them who an author is (the person who writes the words) and who an illustrator is (the person who draws the pictures). Explain to your child what the cover of the book is, and practice holding the book right-side up. Also, explain to them that books are read one page at a time, and from front to back.
- **Take a picture walk!** Before reading the book, discuss the pictures. Pictures are great clues to what the words might be on the page. Discuss what is happening in the pictures, as well as what could happen later in the story.

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- **Read aloud!** When children hear adults read, it sets the stage not only for what reading is, but how it sounds. Whenever possible, read in the voice of the character. This makes the story more engaging.
- **Discuss what was read!** Just reading a book is good, but discussing the story is golden. Ask your child simple questions to encourage their comprehension or understanding of what was read, such as, "What happened?" or "Why did that happen?" Reading comprehension is an important skill that will be focused on throughout all grade levels.
- **Re-read!** After children hear a story more than once, they begin to know the story by heart. After reading a story to your child a couple of times, have your child discuss what will happen next. Eventually, your child will be able to tell you the story as they flip through the pages.

Wooden Claves

- **Holding time!** Holding and striking the claves in different fashions can create different sounds. Have your child strike them in different ways to find one that sounds the most pleasant to them!
- **Step in time!** Use the claves and strike them together in a speed pattern and have your child take a step with each strike. Try fast, slow, double time, etc.
- **Count the steps!** For each step your child takes, have them strike the claves and count each one.
- **High and low!** While holding the claves, have your child strike high, strike low, and strike right side to left slide.
- **Alphabet song!** Have your child sing the alphabet song, and for each letter, have them strike the claves. This will help you see if they notice L, M, N, O, P is really five letters.

Scarf

- **Brain breaks!** When children spend time learning, they get antsy. Give them a brain break or movement break. Your child can dance and move using the scarf as a prop.
- **Positional words!** Have your child hold the scarf in one hand, then instruct them to move it to different places. Example: Place the scarf on your head. (on, on top of, beneath, below, next to, etc.)
- **Opposites!** Using a scarf is a great way to practice opposites. You can ask your child to place the scarf high, then low; down, then up; right side, then left side, etc.
- **Eye spy!** Play a game of eye spy by having your child name objects in the room that are the same color!
- **Hide and spy!** Have your child leave the room. Hide the scarf someplace where only part of it can be seen. When your child enters the room, have them stop and look around until they spy where you hid it. Take turns, children love hiding as well as spying.

Crayons

- **Draw pictures!** (Be an illustrator) Let your child feel free to draw anything that their heart desires! After the picture is finished, ask your child to tell you what they drew. If you wish, you can write what they say on the back of the picture. Later you can ask them to explain the picture to see if their story changes or stays the same!
- **Practice early writing lines!** Have your child practice drawing early writing lines such as straight lines, curves, and zigzags. This will help to build their writing skills for when they use a pencil.

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- **Guided drawing!** Have your child draw something you wish in a specific color. Example: Draw a brown cat next to a green bush. This will not only help your child learn positional words (next to, on top of, below, etc.), but it will encourage them to follow directions.
- **Color recognition!** Crayons are the perfect tool to learn about colors. As your child selects a crayon to use, ask them what color it is. You can also hold the crayons up to use as color flash cards.
- **Rainbow write!** Whether your child is practicing writing letters, numbers, shapes, or lines, have them trace over it in several different colors. Not only will this help with their writing and drawing practice, but they will also create rainbow art!
- **Create a notebook of short stories!** Have your child tell a story as you write it down on the bottom half of the page. Next, read the story back to your child. Finally, have them illustrate the story.
- **Create collage pages!** Have your child collect pictures out of old magazines and glue them on a page. Sort each collage page according to the main color of the objects or the type of objects in the pictures. You can even use real pictures of relatives or friends that your child doesn't see often so that they can remember those people.

Blank Notebook

- **Create a timeline!** Each time your child writes or draws in this notebook, mark the date in the corner of the page. Have your child write or draw in page order. At the end, you and your child will have a cherished timeline of how much their writing and drawing skills grew!
- **Create a flip-journal!** On the front cover, write the title: "Writing". Flip the journal over, and on the back cover, write the title: "Art". Depending on what skill your child wants to work on, you can flip to that side of the journal.
- **Create a shapes journal!** On each page, draw a different shape. Then, have your child draw the shape, or add to the shape to create a picture. Example: You draw a square. Your child adds a triangle to the top to create a house.