

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT 1, 2, 3

"Send Home Picture Necklaces"

1

Take pictures of your Partner Child during session.



2

Print off pictures in JStart office. Glue a picture onto an index card with string and on the back write what the child is doing.

"Jim is reading about dinosaurs during 1 to 1 reading."

3

Let your PC wear it home!



Bringing It Home

- *Parents enjoy getting pictures of their children.
- *This is an instant way to inform families of what their child is doing.
- *Visual communication that helps parents see what is happening during the day.

Getting it to Work

- *Kids love pictures of themselves!
- *Add writing to the pictures (Either yourself or practice writing with your PC)

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT 1, 2, 3

“What I Did Today In Jumpstart” Stickers

1

Using large mailing labels write at the top “What I Did In Jumpstart Today...”

“What I Did In Jumpstart Today...”

2

Have your PC fill it out and decorate it during recall.

“What I Did In Jumpstart Today...”



Katy is playing with blocks.

3

When they are done stick it to them to wear home!



Bringing It Home

The goal is for the parents to see the recall sticker when the child gets home or picked up and to learn a little about what their child did that day.

This is a more creative way to use recall, and is perfect for children that are bused!

Getting it to Work

- Tell your PC that this is a special sticker all about them.
- Make one for yourself and wear it with your PC
- Combine this activity with choice time, recall, or sign in!
- Add writing to the pictures (Either yourself or practice writing with your PC)



Partner Child Portfolio

1

Create a portfolio of writing samples, artwork, pictures of the child, anecdotal notes, etc.



2

Have the child decorate the portfolio, and look through all of their work.

Be creative about what you decide to include, and try to include descriptions of the project. Take dictations from the child.

3

You can send the portfolio home with the child, give it directly to the parent, or have the head teacher give it to the parent at a conference or meeting.

This can be done bi-weekly, once a month, etc.

Bringing it Home

- Try to document what session looks like. This could include actual pictures, a written description, a visual of what the child has done during each part of session, etc.
- **Keep in Mind:**
 - *Try to show parent what actually it is that Jumpstart does
 - *Show what their child is doing in the classroom
 - *Show the parent something awesome about their child!

Portfolio Ideas

- * **Specific pages: My Family, All About Me, My House, My Favorites**
- * **Get you PC involved: Ask them what they would like to include**
- * **Include a Card or Letter written by the child to their family**

Family Newsletter

1

Create your own newsletter, or use a template found on the TL Share Space:

<http://tinyurl.com/2hr73j>



2

Have your team decide what they want to include and how often to send it out.

Ask other teams at your site if they want to send one out together!

3

You can send the newsletter home with the children directly or ask your classroom teacher/center directors to help distribute it to parents.



Bringing it Home

- Ask if your center sends out a newsletter and if they can attach your newsletter or save you space in their newsletter.
- Talk about what you have been doing in session, what topics you have covered, and what activities were a hit.
- Include pictures and graphics to make it visually appealing.

Newsletter Ideas

- * **Specific sections: My Family, All About Me, My House, My Favorites**
- * **Get you PC involved: If possible, give examples of children's work.**
- * **Include pictures of the classroom or CM bios**
- * **Ask your teacher for ideas**
- * **Will you need to translate it?**

Bulletin Boards

1

Ask your center if they have space on a bulletin board or to hang a poster that introduces your team to the center!



2

As a team decide what you want to include: Name, Year in School, Major, Interests, Why you joined Jumpstart, etc!

Have each CM write a brief bio. Make sure to include pictures!

3

Show your board to the children and allow them to create works of art to share on the board. This way, they will be excited to show the board to parents!



Bringing it Home

- Get your PC involved: Post up work of the children that relates to Jumpstart session or include quotes!
- Relate the board to session and different topics you will cover.
- Include a team calendar so parents know what days Jumpstart is in the classroom

Other Bulletin Board Ideas

- * Create sections that you can update easily – include a couple recall sheets each week, have a session recap, etc.
- * Be creative about you include – pictures, quotes, artwork, old song charts.
- * Ask your teacher for other ideas
- * Collaborate with other Jumpstart teams in your site
- * Will you need to translate it?

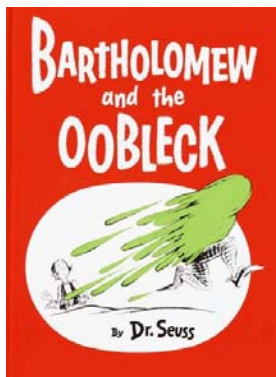
Family Take Home Packets

The following packets are ideas for activities that you can do with your partner child. You can use these packets to send home to families so that children can do activities at home too!

You can also make “material starter kits” to send home with partner children for at home activities (i.e. bag of cornstarch, puppet materials, grass seeds, etc).

Bringing it Home:

During Choice Time your partner child loved playing with Oobleck. You think it would be a great activity for him to try at home, so you make a “material kit” (just a bag of cornstarch) and give it to his parent/guardian to take home, along with the Family Involvement Packet for Oobleck. You can also include a short note to the parent – Eduardo loved playing with oobleck (a mix of corn starch and water) today, so I am sending home this packet in case you want to try it at home too!





All About Me Books

Make a book from scratch ~ with you as the main character

1

Tell child that he/she will be able to make a book. Give him/her a blank book with 2-4 pieces of white paper folded inside a piece of construction paper.



2

Invite the child to fill the book with a story told in words and pictures. If needed, offer to record the words he/she says.

3

Child can add photographs with glue. Bind the books with staples along the fold, or punch holes and tie with yarn.

Materials:

- Plain white paper
- Colored construction paper (9x12)
- Markers or crayons
- Stapler or hole puncher and yarn
- Photographs and glue (if desired)

Connection to School Success

This activity helps your child prepare for school by building the important skill of...**KNOWING HOW BOOKS WORK.**

Children learn reading skills through active experiences like this where they actually create a book. This helps children to understand:

- How books move from front to back
- How words explain the pictures in a book
- How text moves from left to right across the page
- That books have a title and an author

Bringing It Home

Encourage your child to express ideas. To help your child decide what to write, ask questions such as, "Who is in our family? Who are your friends? What do you like to do at school?"

If your child is not comfortable writing, he/she can dictate a story while you write it.

A Related Book

We Are All Alike, We Are All Different
By Cheltenham Elementary School Kindergarten



Strike Up the Band

Make your own instruments to play at home

1

Have your child put pebbles in the container. After the container has pebbles in it, close the cap tightly.

2

Have your child cover his/her container and decorate instrument with construction paper.

3

Let child play his/her instrument. Ask them to describe their instrument's sound or sing a song. Imitate the sounds the child makes.

Materials:

- Empty containers with lids (margarine tubs, coffee cans) or *clean* soda bottles with caps
- Small items~ pebbles, dry rice, birdseed
- Construction paper
- Glue or tape
- Markers

Connection to School Success

This activity helps your child prepare for school by building the important skill of...**SPEAKING**.

Young children need many opportunities to speak and to explore the possibilities of language. By singing or chanting along with music, children use spoken language in creative and fun ways. Children learn by:

- Singing favorite songs as they play their instruments
- Making up words to go along with the music
- Chanting along with *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*

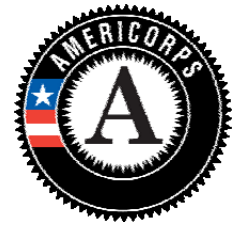
Bringing It Home

Connect the activity to the book. *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* is loved by many children for its great rhythm and colorful pictures. Read the book with your child, and ask them to shake their new instrument with the chorus:

Skit Skat Skoodle Doot
Flip Flop Flee
Everybody runs to the coconut tree...

A Related Book

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom
By Bill Martin, Jr.



Oobleck

Enjoy the silly, squishy feelings of Oobleck between your fingers

1

Mix equal parts cornstarch and water (start with 1 cup of each). If desired, add food coloring.

2

Oobleck should feel not quite solid: you can pick up a handful, but it oozes back between your fingers when you let go.

3

Play with the Oobleck with your hands for as long as you want! Ask your child to describe how it feels. Write down what he/she says.

Materials:

- Cornstarch
- Water
- Food coloring, if desired
- A large bowl, or individual small bowls/ pie tins for each child

Connection to School Success

This activity helps children prepare for school by building the important skill of...**SPEAKING**.

Children's language skills develop the more they communicate their ideas. What could be more interesting to talk about than something that is oozing between your fingers? An activity such as this gives children something to talk about.

Children learn by:

- being asked to describe what they are doing and feeling
- hearing and using new descriptive words, like "soft," "slimy," "oozing," etc.

Bringing It Home

Problem-solve with your child. Oobleck is a unique substance. Is it a liquid or a solid? Help your child understand these concepts through discussion.

You might want to test other items in your home to see if they are solids or liquids.

A Related Book

Bartholomew and the Oobleck
By Dr. Seuss



Planting Grass Seed

Plant seeds and watch them grow

1

Tell your child that he/she is going to plant grass seeds, and ask what he/she thinks you will need to do so. Record what he/she says with words and/or pictures.

2

Give child a cup, soil and a spoon to explore as he/she wishes. Have child put soil into cup. Offer the child some seeds and ask if the seeds will need anything to grow. Help the child plant the seeds in the cup.

3

Put the grass in a sunny place where child can see it. Ask your child to help water the grass and check its growth on a daily basis.

Materials:

- Plastic cups
- Soil
- Grass seed
- Spoons
- Water
- Markers
- Paper
- Newspaper (to protect your table)

Connection to School Success

This activity helps your child prepare for school by building the important skill of...**PLANNING COMPLEX ACTIVITIES.**

Activities such as this one give children many opportunities to ask questions and problem solve. As children are encouraged to share their knowledge and gain information, they develop habits that will promote later school success.

Children learn by:

- Receiving appropriate answers to their questions
- Being asked to predict "what will happen" (in this case, when grass seed is put in soil and watered)

Bringing It Home

Use books as a resource. As young children develop into readers, it is important for them to see books as exciting AND useful. You can use a book like the one listed here to teach your child about how grass grows.

A Related Book

How a Seed Grows
By Helen J. Jordan



Puppet Play

Create characters for your own puppet show

1

Explain to your child that he/she can make a puppet using a paper bag. "Who should the puppet be? How should we make it?"

2

Give the child markers, crayons, yarn, buttons, and any other materials to decorate the paper bag. Let child make more puppets if he/she wishes.

3

Use the puppets to act out a story. You can choose a story from a book or make one up!

Materials:

- Lunch size paper bags
- Markers/crayons
- Glue
- Yarn or string
- Novelties such as scraps of fabric/felt, cotton balls, buttons, etc

Connection to School Success

This activity helps your child prepare for school by building the important skill of...**UNDERSTANDING AND EXPRESSING FEELINGS APPROPRIATELY.**

Puppets are a useful way to encourage children to talk about their feelings ~ an important social skill. Many children feel more comfortable using a puppet to express their point of view, and shy children will sometimes let a puppet talk for them. Children learn by:

- Hearing vocabulary such as happy, proud, sad, frustrated
- Seeing an adult's example of how to express feelings in words, for example: "That made me really angry! What should I do?"

Bringing It Home

Talk while you play. Puppets are the perfect way to engage children in play that includes lots of talking.

A Related Book

The Three Bears, Little Red Riding Hood, or other traditional fairy tales



Some things to think about....



❖ Is your preschool site holding any parent events?

-Piggybacking on an already organized event is a great way to meet parents, but also to do something MORE!

- **Hold an "Art Exhibit"** – Put artwork up around the classroom and a "gallery opening." Include the PC's name and age and help them write a sentence about the picture. Be sure to use the *child's* own language.
- **Put on a play** – Not a large-scale production, just base it loosely off a favorite circle time song or children's book. Some sites will have children "sell tickets" to the play!
- **Letter Celebrations**- Pick a letter and plan activities around it. The Letter "P" – You can make puppets, play with play dough, read a book starting with "p"
- **Holiday Themes**- Is your classroom celebrating Lunar New Year? Make paper lanterns to decorate the classroom or volunteer to help the children perform a lion dance. This will show parents how Jumpstart can contribute to a classroom!

❖ Always check in with your classroom teacher before you send anything home. Also, ask your teachers for other ideas!

❖ Most of these activities are for partner children specifically, but be prepared to include all children, just in case!

❖ Collaborate with other teams at your sites when possible.

❖ Share ideas with other team leaders and track your family involvement in the Team Binders.

❖ Do you need anything to be translated?