



Summer Bridge™

BRIDGING
GRADES

K to **1**

EXPLORATIONS

Get ready
for the new
school year with
an engaging
summer!

Monthly theme-based explorations involve:

- Math and Language Arts
- Science and Social Studies
- Character Education
- Fitness and Outdoor Learning



Section I Introduction

Theme: Learning in the Neighborhood

This month's explorations can be done close to home. They encourage your child to pay special attention to her surroundings and to notice new details about everyday places. Summer, with its more relaxed pace, is a great time for your child to explore the world nearby. Whether searching for insects in the yard or at the park, attending a farmers' market or community festival, or taking a walk around the block, you will find many opportunities to help your child observe and learn.

To build language arts and literacy skills this month, ask your child to find letters and words all around—on street signs, ads for yard sales and other events, and products at the store. Encourage her to name alphabet letters and the sounds they make and to use phonics skills to read words. To practice writing skills, your child may like to write a neighborhood newsletter, prepare menus for a special picnic or barbeque, or create directions for a new game to play outside with friends.

To build math skills this month, look all around for ways to count and use numbers. Let your child select and weigh a certain number of fruits at the market, count out coins to pay for an ice cream cone, or keep score during a family game. While exploring nature, encourage your child to notice the number of legs on an insect, the symmetry of leaves, or how many birds at a feeder belong to the same species.

Explorations

This month, your child will have a choice of two explorations. He may choose to follow steps for one or both. Review the explorations below with your child and help him make a choice. Emphasize that it is useful to have a path in mind from the start. Then, help your child find and complete the project activities according to his plan. Throughout the section, your child will see the icons shown below on pages that include directions directly related to one of the explorations. Emphasize that breaking a large project into smaller steps helps make it fun and easy to do.

0-20 Counting Book

With this exploration, your child will develop math and writing skills by finding groups of things in the neighborhood to count and record. They may be steps on a porch, kids at a picnic table, or tomatoes growing on a plant. For each group your child finds to count, he will take a photograph or make a drawing. The counting collection will lead to opportunities to tally and graph. Finally, your child will write a counting book to share his knowledge about numbers.

SECTION I

For young children, the skill of counting can be more challenging than adults may realize. Children must learn that, when counting, each number name should be assigned to only one object. The final number names the count of the entire group and stays the same no matter how objects in the group are arranged or rearranged. Have fun counting with your child this month. See how high he can count while jumping rope, collecting rocks or other small objects, or keeping track of sidewalk squares during a walk. If your child is ready, you may also introduce counting by twos and by tens.



Shapes in the Wild

With this exploration, your child will develop beginning math and geometry skills by cutting out and decorating 2-D shapes and then spotting those shapes out in the world. Your child will record each shape found by taking a photograph or drawing a picture. The collection of shapes will lead to opportunities for counting and graphing. Finally, your child will create a collage or photo album to share her knowledge about shapes.

It can be challenging for young children to identify shapes in the real world. 2-D shapes are usually part of 3-D figures, so you may need to guide your child to look at one surface, or face, of an object. Shapes in nature may be harder to spot because they will not likely be precise. Encourage your child to note approximate shapes as well as exact ones. You might talk about how something is almost a circle or very close to a square. If your child is ready, you may also discuss how squares are a type of rectangle as well as a type of rhombus.

Learning Activities

Practice pages for this month review skills your child learned in kindergarten. They also focus on skills that support the explorations described above. Preview the activities and choose several that target skills your child needs to practice. Also select several relating to the exploration(s) your child plans to complete. You may wish to mark those pages with a star or other symbol to let your child know to begin with those. Then, let your child choose practice activities that interest her and allow her to demonstrate her growing skills.

Counting Book, Step 1

Numbers are everywhere! In this exploration, you will pay attention to the numbers of things that are all around you. For example, you might notice three trees in a row, six kids at a table, or 10 ducks in a pond. At the end of the month, you will turn what you saw into a counting book!

To begin, decide how high to count. Will your counting book go to 10, 15, or 20? Then, pay attention to your surroundings while you explore this month. As you find numbers of items, take pictures or make drawings of them. If it's easier, focus on one or two numbers each day. Use these two pages to keep track of the numbers of items you see as you explore. Write a brief description of each.

How many?

What did you see?

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	

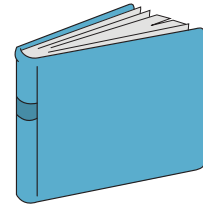
Counting Book, Step I (continued)

How many?

What did you see?

9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	

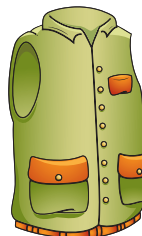
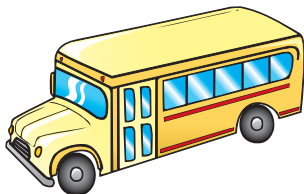
Write **B** or **b** to complete each word.



Ball oy ook

b all oy ook

Say the name of each picture. Circle the pictures that begin with the /b/ sound, like **ball**.



FACTOID: Butterflies taste with their feet!

Trace and write the numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

0 0

1 1

2 2

3 3

4 4

5 5

6 6



Write **C** or **c** to complete each word.



C ar

an

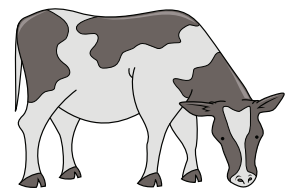
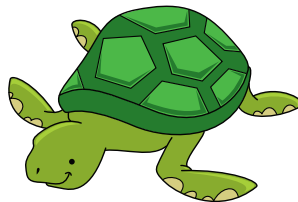
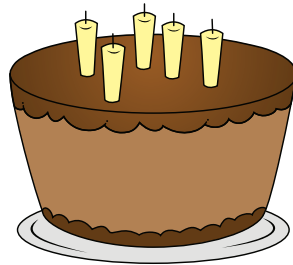
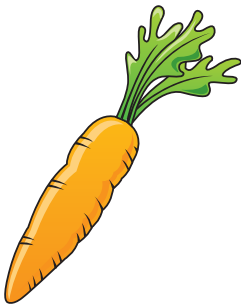
at

c ar

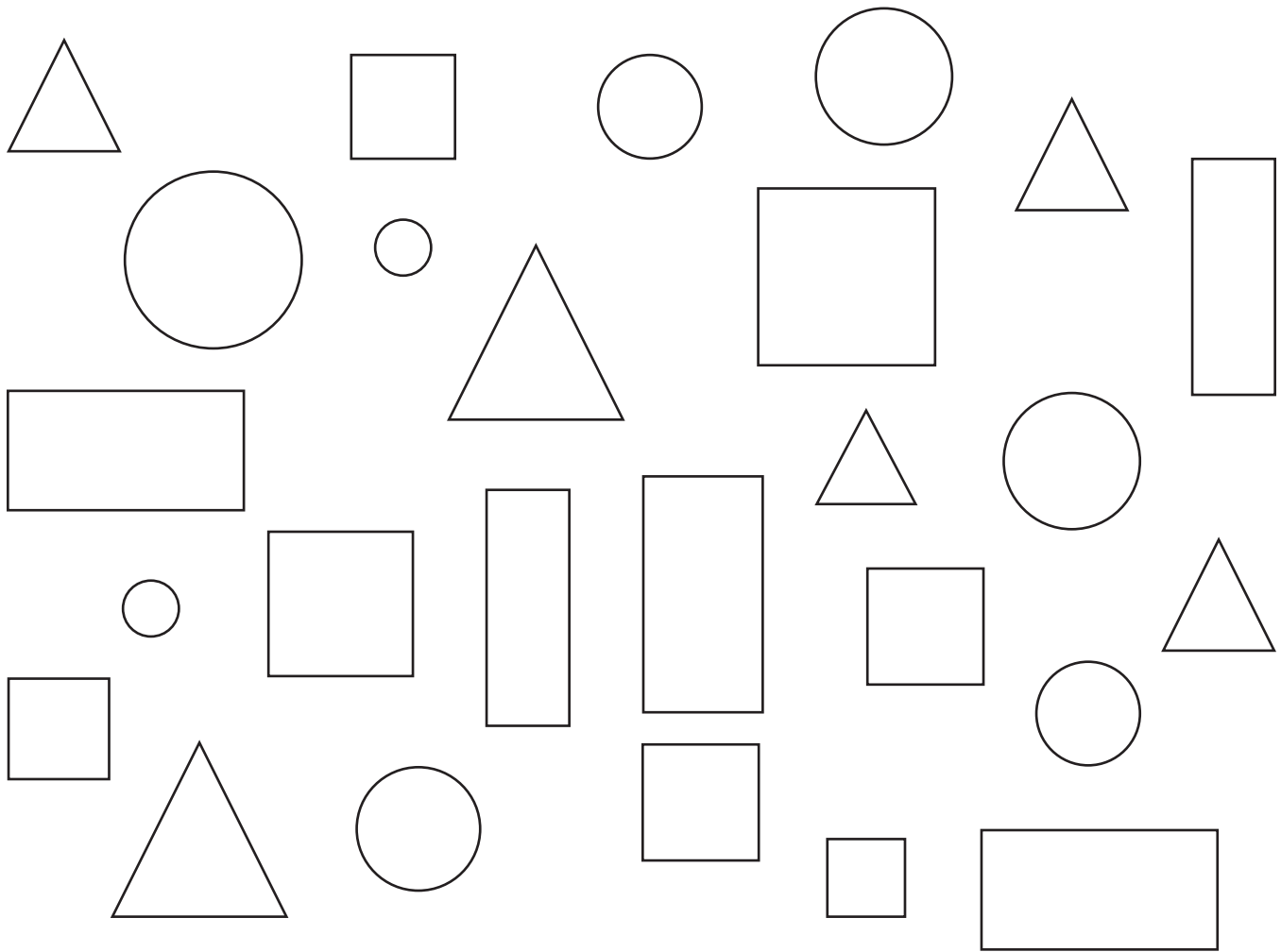
an

at

Say the name of each picture. Circle the pictures that begin with the /c/ sound, like **car**.



Color each circle red. Color each square blue. Color each triangle yellow. Color each rectangle green.



Listen Up!

Being a good listener is part of being a good friend. But, listening is more than just hearing. Listening means paying close attention to what someone says.

Practice being a good listener. Ask a friend to describe a favorite activity. Pay close attention to what he or she says. Then, try to repeat what your friend said, but in your own words. If you don't understand your friend's description, ask a question that will help make it clear.



Shapes in the Wild, Step 1

Objects in real life are made up of shapes! In this exploration, you will search for shapes out in the world. You might see a tree made of triangles or a car with circles for wheels. Whatever shapes you notice, you will take or draw pictures of them. Then, at the end of the month, you will use those pictures to make a shape collage!

To prepare for your shape search, cut out a square, rectangle, triangle, rhombus, circle, and oval. Use the traceable shapes on this page and the next, or make larger shapes using a ruler and traceable objects in your home. Then, decorate each shape however you would like.

