

Dear Future Kindergarteners and Families,

Welcome to the Immaculate Conception School! We are looking forward to school in September, but what better time to start learning than the summer!

Our summer reading book is *Backpack Explorer: On the Nature Trail: What Will You Find?* By Editors of Storey Publishing.

This interactive nature guide introduces young explorers to the exciting world outside their doorstep. From insects, to plants and birds, this book will inspire your children to investigate, discover, and create through hands-on learning.

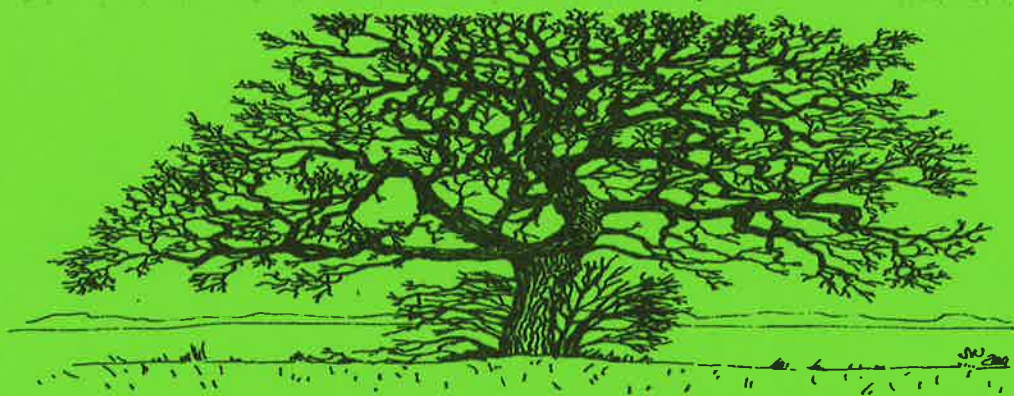
We have also chosen two companion books to complement this field guide. *I Took a Walk*, and *On the Way to the Beach* by Henry Cole are wonderful interactive books designed to encourage children to observe the many forms of wildlife on the land and at the beach.

The Nature Journal can be used in any way your children desire! Be creative! Photographs, sketches, maps, and artistic creations (some really neat ideas are found in the book) are only a few of the ways that the journal can be used. The treasure jar is a place for your children to keep a few of the treasures that might be especially meaningful to them. A beautiful rock, a perfect pinecone, or maybe a seashell might find their way into the treasure jar. Every child will have an opportunity to share their journal and treasure jar when we start school in September. They will also be part of a special display for our Open House Night in the middle of September.

We wish you all a summer filled with relaxation, fun, and outdoor exploration!



Kristin Connelly and Erin Newman



Books to Inspire a Love of Nature

A Stick is an Excellent Thing: Poems Celebrating Outdoor Play by Marilyn Singer

Outside Your Window: A First Book of Nature by Nicola Davies

Around One Log: Chipmunks, Spiders, and Creepy Insiders by Anthony D. Fredericks

Over in the Forest by Marianne Berkes

One Small Square: Backyard by Donald M. Silver

The Busy Tree by Jennifer Ward

Tap the Magic Tree by Christie Matheson

One Small Place in a Tree by Barbara Behrer

If You Plant a Seed by Kadir Nelson

The Dandelion Seed by Joseph Anthony

Tweedle Dee Dee by Charlotte Voak

Mama Built a Little Nest by Jennifer Ward



Kindergarten Suggested Summer Reading List



Note: The following books are only suggestions. Please feel free to add any books that are appropriate for your reader. The staff in the children's area of the public library will also have many wonderful suggestions for you.

Research has shown that the single greatest factor in predicting reading success is whether a child is read to when young. Here are some titles to get you started!

Books About Me

- *I Like Me!* by Nancy L. Carlson
- *I Like to Be Little* by Charlotte Zolotow
- *The Mixed-Up Chameleon* by Eric Carle
- *My Five Senses* by Aliki
- *Owen* by Kevin Henkes
- *When I Get Bigger* by Mercer Mayer

Family Stories

- *Just Me Books* by Mercer Mayer
- *Mama Do You Love Me?* by Barbara M. Jooesse

Predictable Books

(Stories with a pattern using rhyme or rhythm.)

- *Curious George* by H. A. Rey
- *Each Peach Pear Plum* by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
- *The Gingerbread Boy* by Paul Galdone
- *Gregory the Terrible Eater* by Mitchell Sharmat
- *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown
- *Millions of Cats* by Wanda Gág
- *What's in Fox's Sack?* by Paul Galdone

Beginning, Middle, and End Concept

- *Bony-Legs* by Joanna Cole
- *A Camping Spree with Mr. Magee* by Chris Van Dusen
- *Love You Forever* by Robert Munsch
- *Rosie's Walk* by Pat Hutchins
- *The Runaway Bunny* by Margaret Wise Brown

Color and Counting Books

- *Each Orange Had Eight Slices: A Counting Book* by Paul Giganti Jr.
- *Fish Eyes: A Book You Can Count On* by Lois Ehlert
- *Frog Counts to Ten* by John Liebler
- *Inch by Inch* by Leo Lionni
- *Is it Red? Is it Yellow? Is it Blue?* by Tana Hoban
- *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert
- *Ten Bears in My Bed: A Goodnight Countdown* by Stanley Mack
- *Ten Little Fish* by Audrey Wood
- *26 Letters and 99 Cents* by Tana Hoban

Caldecott Winners and Honor Books

- *Color Zoo* by Lois Ehlert
- *Madeline* by Ludwig Bemelmans
- *More, More, More Said the Baby* by Vera B. Williams
- *Officer Buckle and Gloria* by Peggy Rathman
- *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni
- *Tops and Bottoms* by Janet Stevens

Mother Goose and Nursery Rhymes

- *James Marshall's Mother Goose* by James Marshall
- *My Very First Mother Goose* by Iona Opie and Rosemary Wells
- *Tomie dePaola's Mother Goose* by Tomie dePaola

Folktales and Fairy Tales

- *Chicken Little* by Steven Kellogg
- *Cinderella* by Marcia Brown
- *The Hare and the Tortoise* by Brian Wildsmith
- *Henny Penny* by H. Werner Zimmermann
- *The Little Red Hen* by Margot Zemach
- *The Three Bears* by Paul Galdone
- *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* by Peter Christen Asbjornsen
- *Three Little Pigs* by James Marshall
- *The Three Little Pigs* by Rodney Peppé
- *The Ugly Duckling* by Hans Christian Andersen

Stories in Rhyme

- *All the Colors of the Earth* by Sheila Hamanaka
- *Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain* by Verna Aardema
- *Miss Spider's Tea Party* by David Kirk

Friends

- *Benjamin and Tulip* by Rosemary Wells
- *We Are Best Friends* by Aliki
- *Who Will Be My Friends?* by Syd Hoff

Fabulous Science Books

- *Cars and How they Go* by Joanna Cole
- *Eyewitness Juniors Amazing Frogs and Toads* by Barry Clarke
- *Magic School Bus On the Ocean Floor* by Joanna Cole

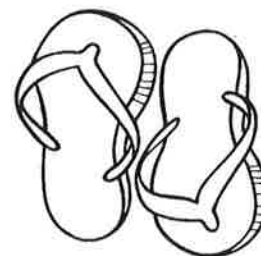
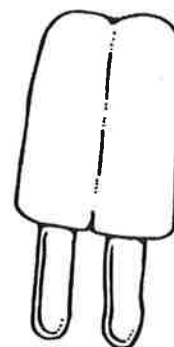
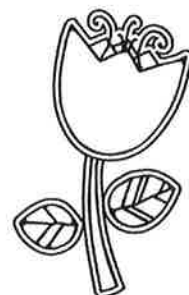
Enjoy!



Fun Things to Do in June

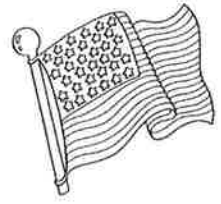


- June 1 Find the first letter of your name on a cereal box
- June 2 Listen for bird sounds
- June 3 Hop down a driveway - count how many hops it takes
- June 4 Turn off lights around your house
- June 5 Count to 10
- June 6 Try to keep a ball up in the air without touching ground
- June 7 Help set the table for dinner
- June 8 Try to find a bug to study
- June 9 Draw circles with sidewalk chalk
- June 10 Taste a new food, tell what it tastes like
- June 11 Count how many squirrels you see all day
- June 12 Write your name with an purple crayon
- June 13 Ask someone to read your favorite book to you
- June 14 Find some foods that are green
- June 15 Share a toy with a friend
- June 16 Tell someone a joke
- June 17 Think of different words that mean BIG
- June 18 Cut coupons out of a paper
- June 19 Sing a song
- June 20 Make instant pudding
- June 21 Line up Matchbox cars and count them
- June 22 Roll a die and jump that many times
- June 23 Pick up your room
- June 24 Go to a park and swing
- June 25 Touch something that is rough
- June 26 Talk about the weather
- June 27 Think of stories with 3 main characters
- June 28 Look for puddles
- June 29 Count red cars you see
- June 30 Run around your house three times





Fun Things to Do in July



- July 1 Think of lots of different ways to say "good"
- July 2 Count the doors in your house
- July 3 Write your name with sidewalk chalk
- July 4 Make your own American flag with red, white and blue
- July 5 Ask someone to tell you a fairy tale
- July 6 In a bath or pool, find things that sink and float
- July 7 Think of lots of different weather words
- July 8 Tell how an ant is different than a bumblebee
- July 9 Practice saying your address
- July 10 Eat a vegetable
- July 11 Count 10 pieces of cereal and share them with a friend
- July 12 Look for flowers that are pink
- July 13 Measure your foot with small cars or hair barrettes
- July 14 Read a book about an animal
- July 15 Color letters you know in the paper with yellow marker
- July 16 Find someone who matches you in some way
- July 17 Who is tallest in your family, who is shortest?
- July 18 Run in the grass and on the sidewalk, which is easier?
- July 19 Go to the library and borrow a book
- July 20 Look for things that are shiny
- July 21 Eat lunch outside, listen for birds
- July 22 Think of something that is fast and something that is slow
- July 23 Jump one time as you say each letter of the alphabet
- July 24 Teach someone your favorite song
- July 25 Draw a picture of you, write your name and age on it
- July 26 Use toothpicks to make a square and a triangle
- July 27 Find something that feels rough
- July 28 Practice tying shoes
- July 29 Use the pictures to read a book to your Mom
- July 30 Give your Dad a hug
- July 31 Play tic tac toe





Fun Things to do in August



- Aug. 1 Measure how far you can jump
- Aug. 2 Build a tower using 12 blocks
- Aug. 3 Play a board game
- Aug. 4 Set a timer and clean your room until it rings
- Aug. 5 Walk in a circle 5 times around
- Aug. 6 Sing the alphabet song
- Aug. 7 Read a rhyming book
- Aug. 8 Think of 4 foods that are brown
- Aug. 9 Write your name with rainbow colors
- Aug. 10 Count 10 pennies - stack them up, make 2 stacks of 5
- Aug. 11 Look for shapes in the clouds
- Aug. 12 Tell your mom why you love her
- Aug. 13 Eat something green
- Aug. 14 Circle the first day of school on the calendar
- Aug. 15 Think of a nursery rhyme you know
- Aug. 16 Think of your favorite animal, tell why you like it
- Aug. 17 Tell someone one safety rule
- Aug. 18 Run around your house
- Aug. 19 Help people remember to save electricity
- Aug. 20 Draw a picture of your house
- Aug. 21 Write your name with magnetic letters
- Aug. 22 What is the same about candy and ice cream?
- Aug. 23 Look for things that are white
- Aug. 24 Think of an animal that moves fast & one that moves slowly
- Aug. 25 Tell someone about your favorite thing to do
- Aug. 26 Count how many airplanes you see or hear today
- Aug. 27 Look for things that are shaped like a square
- Aug. 28 Stand on one foot, count until you put the other foot down
- Aug. 29 Use buttons or pennies to measure a pencil, count them!
- Aug. 30 Blow bubbles
- Aug. 31 Think of words that rhyme with cat





Kindergarten Readiness



Many parents ask what their child needs to know before Kindergarten. It is really a combination of skills, behaviors and attitudes that determine each child's readiness for Kindergarten. The following list includes some of the traits that are important for a successful transition to Kindergarten.

1. Respects people and materials (Ready to follow rules, attempts to solve simple problems independently, willing to cooperate.)
2. Independently takes care of personal needs (Dresses self, uses bathroom independently, cleans up after self, uses tissues and asks for help when necessary.)



3. Recognizes own name in print. (Identifies name on mailbox and locker.)
4. Uses scissors, glue, markers, pencils and crayons appropriately. (Holds scissors comfortably, writes name legibly, draws recognizable shapes and figures.)
5. Follows simple directions (Listens and remembers what he or she is asked to do independently.)



6. Takes turns. (Shares toys and materials, able to wait to share thoughts, or receive individual help or attention.)
7. Respects personal space. (Keeps hands and legs to self when sitting in a group. Understands when and how to appropriately make physical contact with others.)

8. Uses books on a regular basis. (Enjoys stories, listens without being distracted, wants to read or be read to, is familiar with some nursery rhymes, rhyming songs and books.)



9. Recognizes some letters and numbers. (Recent research shows successful kindergartners identify at least 8 alphabet letters when they enter school.)

10. Demonstrates self control. (Able to contain emotions, try new things, interact with children and adults.)

11. Is excited to start school and is eager to learn. (Ready for independent experiences, wants to be part of a group.)

