

Unit: Growing & Changing

How do living things grow and change?

Things to do with your children at home!

- *Read to your child
 - *Play games (board games, card games, physical games, make up your own)!
 - *Count items around the house!
 - *Review shapes & colors!
 - *Let your children help at home with chores, meals, cleaning, laundry, etc.
 - *Google a playdough recipe to make at home (have your child help with measuring & pouring)!
 - *Draw daily/keep a journal! Write about things you do together, movies you watch, games you play, etc!
 - *Practice name writing- use pens, pencils, crayons, markers! First initial only is capitalized!
 - *Practice letter recognition- both capital and lowercase!
 - *Check out some free apps/websites (limit time) from the list below!
<https://www.abcya.com/grades/prek>
<https://www.storylineonline.net/>
<https://www.starfall.com/h/index-kindergarten.php>
<https://mysteryscience.com/school-closure-planning>
- Or pick your own from the list here: <http://www.amazingeducationalresources.com/>

Alphabet Activities (from Prekinders):

Letter Hunt- Children choose any 10 letters from the letter manipulatives (use foam letters, magnetic letters, letter tiles or other letter manipulatives). Go through a stack of shuffled letter cards, calling out each letter to the children. As the letters are called out, children look to see if they have that letter, and if they do, the letter is put back in the letter basket. We see who is first to clear all of their letters. It's very similar to a bingo game. In Pre-K, we play until everyone has cleared all of their letters because our goal is learning letters, not competition with the little ones.

*To teach letter sounds: Call out a word and have children identify the first letter of the word.

Letter Basketball- This is one of my prekinders favorite letter identification activities every year. To prepare this game, I cut copy paper or newsprint paper in half, and write letters on several pieces. I make enough papers for each child, plus one or two extra. I make a line with masking tape on the floor and place the trash can about 4 feet away. As each child has a turn, I tell them which letter to find. They pick up the letter, crumble the paper into a ball, and stand on the tape to toss it into the trash can. If they miss, they get as many chances as needed to get the “ball” in the basket and can move closer if needed. We always cheer when they make it in the basket! This game could also be played with alphabet bean bags if you have them.

Memory Game- Place about three letter manipulatives or cards on a tray, cover them with a cloth, and take one away. When the letters are uncovered, children guess which letter is missing. If the children are very interested in writing, they can write the letter that is missing. To increase the difficulty of this game, try using 4 or 5 letters. Another option is to place three letters on the tray, cover them, and ask the children to recall all three letters that were on the tray.

Alphabet Scavenger Hunt (from How Wee Learn)- Take sticky notes and write the alphabet on them – one letter per sticky note. Hide sticky notes around the house/a room. Your child has to find each letter, in order, and line them on the wall in the correct order.

Week 1: How do animals grow and change?

During this week, the children are supposed to be learning about how animals grow and change by comparing baby and adult animals. Discuss what baby animals can & cannot do, describe how parent animals care for their babies, and explore some life cycles. Try some or all of these activities at home!

Books: *Is Your Mama a Llama?* by Deborah Guarino
Animal Babies by Elaine Pascoe
The Ugly Duckling

Visit: <https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome/grades-prek-k.html>

Scroll down to Day 3 of the Pre-K & click on "Take me there!"

*Click on "Watch the Story" and enjoy *Is Your Mama a Llama?* by Deborah Guarino being read aloud!

*On another day, click on "Read the Story" and read aloud or click on the speaker to have *Animal Babies* by Elaine Pascoe read to your child.

*On another day, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQ6YYzmkBMs> to read/listen to *The Ugly Duckling*.

After reading/watching the stories: Talk about the animals in each story. Ask questions about the animals: Which baby animals look like parents?
 Which baby animals look different? How?
 How do you think parent animals care for their babies?

Activities:

**Visit the following website and read about the mother bear and her cubs! Have your child draw a picture of the bears and tell you about it. Another day, have them make up a story about the bears! <https://www.peta.org/features/ursula-rescued-bear-cubs/>

**Build a Nest- Why do birds build nests? How do birds care for their young? Google pictures of different nests and brainstorm materials you have at home to create your own. Take a walk to look for nests in the trees.

** Explore alternative activities, videos, and games on the Scholastic link above.

**Watch a caterpillar change into a butterfly: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3VMI-EY2DM>
 Draw the stages or use playdough to show stages of change (egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, & butterfly). Discuss.

** Play a matching or Memory game with the attached animal cards! Talk about the names of the animals and the baby names. Describe them and talk about how they are similar to and different from each other.

**If you have a pet, discuss how it has changed as it's grown. Show pictures if available of when it was younger.

**Take a virtual tour of a zoo! The San Diego zoo says there's a new baby on the Ape Cam!
<https://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/live-cams>

Math Activities:

This week, we would be discussing weight in regards to the objects being heavy or light, then comparing objects as heavier/lighter than or about the same as. Try some or all of these activities at home to reinforce. Check out the full lessons at

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/prekindergarten-mathematics-module-4-topic-b-lesson-6>

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/prekindergarten-mathematics-module-4-topic-b-lesson-7>

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/prekindergarten-mathematics-module-4-topic-b-lesson-8>

**Collect objects from around your home. Place into two categories: heavy and light. Have your child sort them.

**Make a balance scale by attaching 2 plastic cups to each side of a clothes hanger with string. Place objects in a cup and see which is heavier (the cup will go lower).

**Hide small objects in plastic Easter eggs or plastic containers. Have your child state if it is heavy or light and guess the object hidden.

**Draw a picture of heavy objects and light objects.

Week 2: How do plants grow and change?

During this week, the children are supposed to be learning about how plants grow and change by identifying what plants need to grow (sunlight, water, and soil). They also will talk about why plants are important to us (give us food, shelter, etc). They will also learn about the parts of a plant. Try some or all of these activities at home!

Books: *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert
It Could Still Be a Flower by Allan Fowler
Jack and the Beanstalk

Visit: <https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome/grades-prek-k.html>

Scroll down to Day 2 “Living Things- Plants” of the Pre-K section & click on “Take me there!”

*Click on “Watch the Story” and enjoy *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert being read aloud!

*On another day, click on “Read the Story” and read aloud or click on the speaker to have *It Could Still Be a Flower* by Allan Fowler read to your child.

* On a different day, listen to a version of *Jack & the Beanstalk* such as this one:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LY0UVBLq7Q>

After reading/watching the stories: Talk about the plants in each story. Ask questions about plants... what do all plants need? Where would be a good place for a plant to grow in our home? Why?

Activities:

**Show a picture of or use a plant in your home. Name the parts of the plant you can see: leaves, stem, flower. Talk about what the plant needs to grow: soil, light from the sun, water.

**Find the seeds in foods that you eat.

** Explore alternative activities, videos, and games on the Scholastic link above.

**Compare different plants- trees, flowers, vines, bushes, etc. Talk about how they all need the same things to grow, but their parts may look a little different. Also, discuss what those plants give us.

**Plant an indoor or outdoor garden together. Let your child help care for it.

** Take a walk together and note different plants that you see.

**Draw a picture of a garden... include different kinds of plants.

**Make a salad together!

Math Activities:

This week, we would be discussing volume in regards to the objects being big or small, then discussing more or less & the same as. Try some or all of these activities at home to reinforce.

Check out the full lessons at <https://www.engageny.org/resource/prekindergarten-mathematics-module-4-topic-c-lesson-9>

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/prekindergarten-mathematics-module-4-topic-c-lesson-10>

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/prekindergarten-mathematics-module-4-topic-c-lesson-11>

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/prekindergarten-mathematics-module-4-topic-c-lesson-12>

****Pretend to grocery shop in your home. Get a big bag and a smaller bag. Collect objects from around your home and lay them on the floor. Ask your child which bag you should use to place objects in. Why? Is it big?**

****Gather an assortment of different sized containers. Talk about how they look- bigger, smaller, etc.**

****Have your child guess which container will hold more scoops of rice/pasta/water, etc**

****Take a short, wide cup and a tall, thin cup & fill them each with the same amount of water. Ask your child which has more. Explain that they have the same amount of water, even when it's poured into different shaped containers. Explore with other cups and amounts of liquid.**

****Play I Spy to review words: long, short, heavy, light, etc (For example, I spy something that is heavier than the towel.)**

Week 3: How do people grow and change?

During this week, the children are supposed to be learning about how people grow and change. Talk to them about when they were babies and how they look different now and can do more activities. Try some or all of these activities at home!

Books: *I'm Growing* by Alik

Visit:

- Listen to *I'm Growing* by Alik at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKf1K8P9OrA>

After reading/watching the stories: Discuss : How do you think the boy in the story grew since he was a baby? What helps him grow bigger and stronger? How do you grow bigger and stronger?

Activities:

**Show pictures of family members that depict various ages. Discuss the difference.

**Show pictures of when you were younger.

**Make a timeline of your child's growth or look at a baby book. Look at saved baby clothing if there is any.

**Tell your child about something you would like to learn how to do. Have them share what they would like to learn.

**Pretend to care for babies (dolls) or let your child help with younger siblings within your best judgment).

Math Activities:

This week, we will identify the first and last object counted. Try some or all of these activities at home to reinforce. Check out the full lessons at:

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/prekindergarten-mathematics-module-4-topic-d-lesson-13>

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/prekindergarten-mathematics-module-4-topic-d-lesson-14>

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/prekindergarten-mathematics-module-4-topic-d-lesson-15>

**Use 5 objects (pasta, pennies, buttons, toys, etc) and have students place in a row. Show them to mark the first object somehow when they count. Explain that that one is the FIRST. Count and explain that the last object is the LAST.

** Practice identifying first and last in rows, as well as in scattered & circular arrangements. Make it fun- use toys to line up to go for a walk, a bus ride, at a store, etc.

Week 4: How do living things grow and change?

During this week, the children will review how animals, plants, and people grow and change. Try some or all of these activities at home!

Books: *Lola Plants a Garden* by Anna McQuinn

Growing Frogs by Vivian French

Charlie the Caterpillar by Dom DeLuise

Visit:

- Listen to *Lola Plants a Garden* by Anna McQuinn at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-VHFMhLR6k>
- Another day, listen to *Growing Frogs* by Vivian French at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-yZsabsIwS8>
- Another day, listen to *Charlie the Caterpillar* by Dom DeLuise at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xx8VY2b2ZQc>

After reading/watching the stories: Discuss : How do you think the boy in the story grew since he was a baby? What helps him grow bigger and stronger? How do you grow bigger and stronger?

Activities:

**Check out a video of tadpoles changing into frogs. Discuss the stages (egg, tadpole, froglet, frog) of growth. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmlaclb3K2o>

**Compare the stages of the frog's growth with that of the butterfly's.

**Have your child draw a picture of them as a baby, what they look like now, and what they will look like as a teenage or adult and as an elderly person.

**Check on your garden- what has grown? Keep a journal or chart of it's progress!

**Make a list of things that grow. Mark which things change most as they grow and review what is needed for this growth.

Math Activities:

This week, we will identify if a group of objects is more, less, or equal to another. Try these activities at home. Check out the full lessons at:

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/prekindergarten-mathematics-module-4-topic-e-lesson-16>

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/prekindergarten-mathematics-module-4-topic-e-lesson-17>

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/prekindergarten-mathematics-module-4-topic-e-lesson-18>

**Take 4 cups and 4 objects to place in the cups. Tell your child to place 1 object in each cup. Discuss- is there is enough, or not enough objects?? Repeat with different amount of cups and/or objects.

**Set the table for a meal with EXACTLY ENOUGH napkins, plates, forks, cups, etc

**Repeat first activity, but with extra objects to get the children to talk about have enough, with extras!