

Camping for Kids

Nothing says summer like a family camping trip! These camping activities, crafts, and games help your child participate in camping activities, even if he's just in your backyard. Enjoy the fun of camping with these activities for kids!

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CAMPING FOR KIDS

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FUN THINGS WE'RE DOING

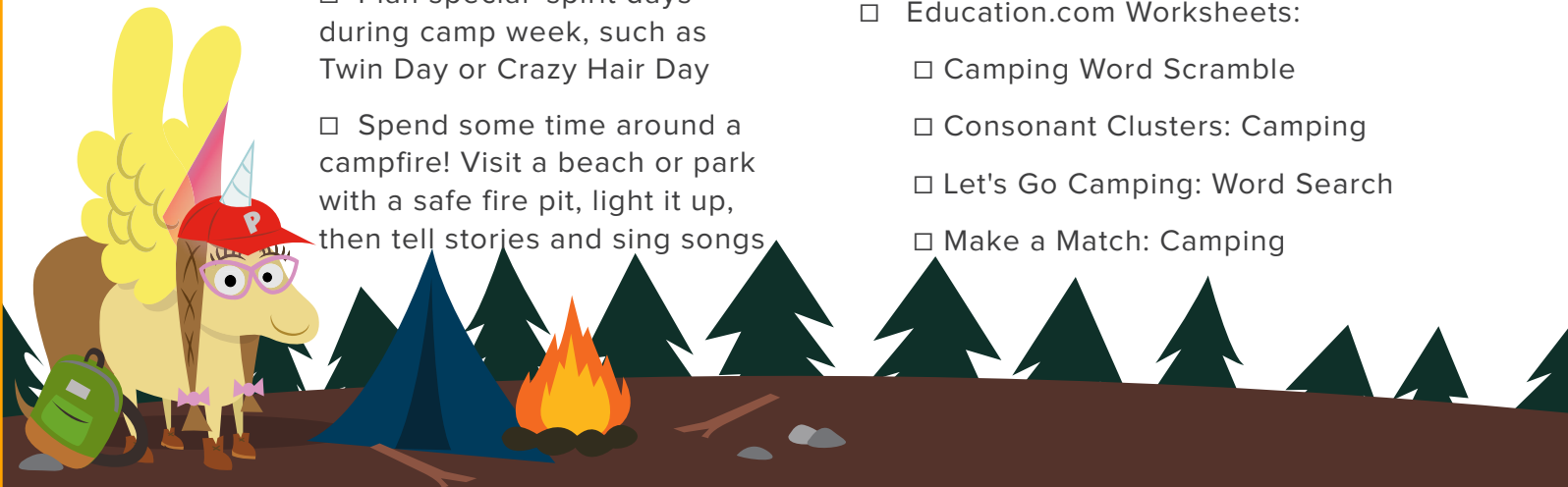
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EXTRA CREDIT ADVENTURES

- ☐ Spend some time in the great outdoors: hike at a state park or camp at a local campground
 - ☐ Plan special 'spirit days' during camp week, such as Twin Day or Crazy Hair Day
 - ☐ Spend some time around a campfire! Visit a beach or park with a safe fire pit, light it up, then tell stories and sing songs

THINGS WE NEED

- ☐ Cardboard
- ☐ Cardboard tube
- ☐ Clothespins
- ☐ Construction paper: Black, brown, red, orange, yellow, assorted colors
- ☐ Container or plastic ziploc bag
- ☐ Drinking glass
- ☐ Embroidery thread in three colors
- ☐ Graham crackers, marshmallows, and chocolate bars
- ☐ Index cards in two different colors
- ☐ Large wooden spoon
- ☐ Magnet
- ☐ Old bedsheets and towels
- ☐ Sheet pan
- ☐ Shoebox
- ☐ Small gold sticker stars
- ☐ Stamped and addressed envelopes
- ☐ Tin foil
- ☐ Extra supplies: Pencils, pens, scissors, tape, glue, rubber bands, paper clips, string, markers, white chalk
- ☐ Education.com Worksheets:
 - ☐ Camping Word Scramble
 - ☐ Consonant Clusters: Camping
 - ☐ Let's Go Camping: Word Search
 - ☐ Make a Match: Camping



Make a Friendship Bracelet



Friendship bracelets have been around probably for as long as friends have been around! But making one couldn't be simpler. This is a great project for your third grader to try out on a lazy afternoon or a rainy day indoors. Next time she has a friend over, they can even do this activity together. It's as simple as tying a knot!

What You Need:

- Three colors of embroidery thread, yarn or plastic lacing
- Scissors

What You Do:

1. Measure out and cut 24-inch strands of each thread color.
2. Tie the strands together into a simple knot, leaving about three inches at the end.
3. Help your child anchor the knot firmly so she will be able to easily manipulate the strands. Pinning the knot to a sofa or closing it in a drawer works well. Your child can even have her friend hold the end as she works.
4. Separate the strands so there is one on the left, one in the middle and one on the right.
5. Have your child begin with the strand on the left. Use this strand to tie two knots onto the middle strand and continue on to the next strand over, and tie two knots on the right strand. Be sure she ties the knots firmly.
6. The strand on the left has now moved across to the right.
7. Using the new strand that is on the left, tie two knots onto the middle strand and continue on to tie two knots on the right strand.
8. Have your child continue to repeat this process. A pattern of colors will begin to emerge.
9. Make sure your child checks for sizing around her friend's wrist or around her own wrist. When she has reached the desired size, have her tie a simple knot at the end of her bracelet and cut. Be sure to leave about three inches at the end.
10. Have your child tie both ends together around her friend's wrist or she can give it as a gift for a birthday or another special occasion.

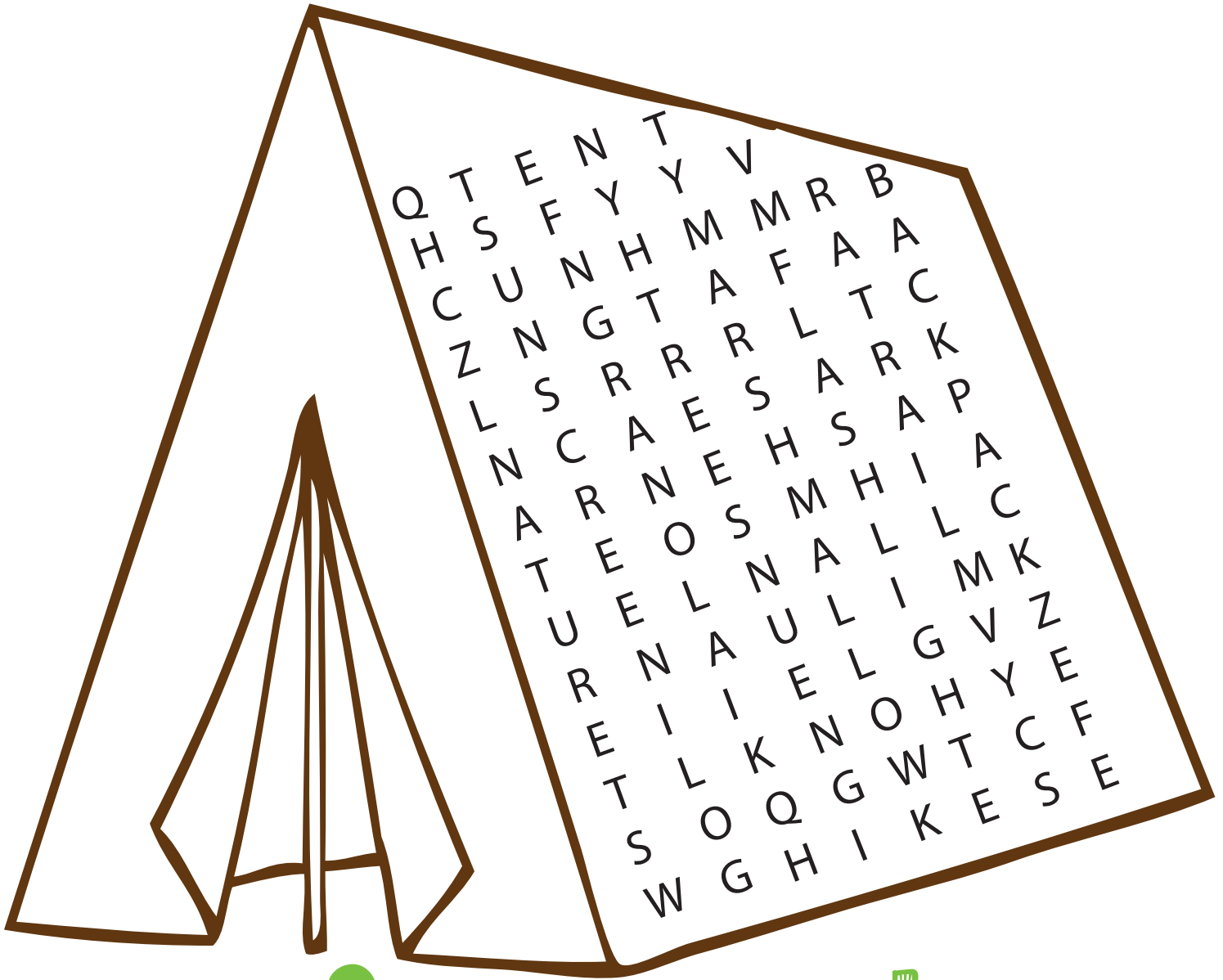
To make this project a little more challenging, for an added touch, your child can string beads onto the strands after every couple rows, and then continue to tie the knots in the same manner after each bead. She'll love making these friendship bracelets. This is also a great project for you and your child to do together this Mother's Day.

LET'S GO CAMPING!



VOCABULARY

Camping is a fun outdoor activity that provides a chance to explore nature, go hiking, eat over a campfire, stargaze, and sleep in a tent. Watch out for bears as you search for the camping words below! They're spelled forwards, and up and down.



tent

backpack

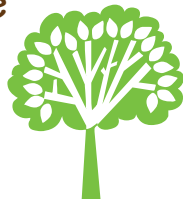
flashlight



nature

hike

trail



trees

marshmallow



sunscreen

log

granola



What is your favorite camping activity?

Pup Tent



Creating a tent in your bedroom or living room is always fun. But if you consider that a Civil War soldier's pup tent was often all he had keeping him from the rain, cold, snow and sun it might not sound like so much fun anymore. Each Union soldier was issued half of a tent. This rectangular piece of canvas was then hooked to another soldier's half to create an A-frame pup tent meant to sleep two. Soldiers often referred to them as "dog tents" because they were better suited for a dog and were not very effective at keeping out the weather. However, the tents could be set up anywhere by using a rifle with a bayonet as a pole and they were much better than nothing, which is what most Confederate soldiers had.

What You Need:

- Chairs and light furniture
- Old bedsheets and towels
- Clothespins

What You Do:

1. Round up some chairs or other light furniture to construct your tent with (don't use lamps – that's dangerous!). These will take the place of the bayonets and rails that Civil War soldiers used.
2. Drape the fabric over the furniture so that it resembles a tent. You can use clothespins to help secure the fabric.
3. Begin experimenting with configurations by arranging the chairs and tables in different ways. What way covers all of you? What way gives you the highest "ceiling"?
4. Move your pillow, some blankets and a small snack into the tent with you. Live like a soldier! Read a book or write a letter to a friend to get in the spirit. To really get into character, build it in your backyard.

This activity adapted from The Civil War Kids 150: Fifty Fun Things to Do, See, Make and Find for the 150th Anniversary.



Fill in the blanks with the right parts of speech to complete this outrageous story!

_____ and _____ went on a _____ camping trip. They
(NAME 1) (NAME 2) (ADJECTIVE)

_____ their _____ and started _____
(PAST TENSE VERB) (ADJECTIVE) (PLURAL NOUN) (-ING VERB)

_____ to build a _____. They knew they needed to _____ a
(ADVERB) (NOUN) (VERB)

lot of _____ before it became too _____ so they _____
(PLURAL NOUN) (ADJECTIVE) (PAST TENSE VERB)

very _____. For a snack they decided to make _____
(ADVERB) (PLURAL NOUN)

on a _____ and cook up a can of _____. As it got dark
(NOUN) (PLURAL NOUN)

outside, _____ heard a _____ make a sound in the
(NAME 2) (ANIMAL 1)

woods! _____ was scared and _____ a _____!
(NAME 1) (PAST TENSE VERB) (NOUN)

Outside, _____ a _____ from inside the tent.
(NAME 2) (PAST TENSE VERB) (NOUN)

The _____ but not before _____ over all the
(ANIMAL 1) (PAST TENSE VERB) (-ING VERB)

_____! When the morning came, _____ and
(ADJECTIVE) (NOUN) (NAME 1)

_____ left to go _____ up a _____ and
(NAME 2) (VERB) (ADJECTIVE) (NOUN)

gather _____. It truly was a _____ camping trip!
(PLURAL NOUN) (ADJECTIVE)

Create a Constellation



Are you looking for an enjoyable activity to do in the evening with your child? Does taking a nighttime stroll and gazing at stars sound inviting? Help your child learn about constellations by making one of his own. All you need are a few simple, inexpensive materials.

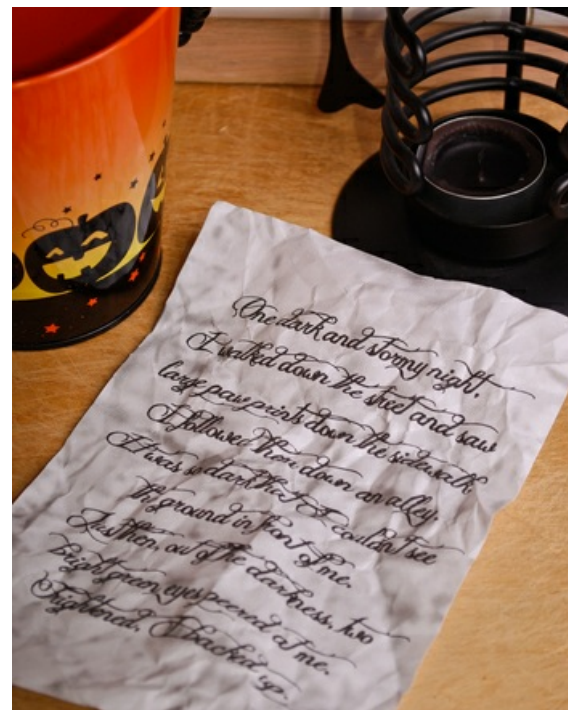
What You Need:

- Black or dark blue construction paper
- Small gold sticker stars
- White chalk
- Star map (optional)

What You Do:

1. Take several evening walks with your child and look at the night sky together. Explain that a constellation is a group of stars that form a pattern in the sky. Bring along a star map to make searching for certain constellations a bit easier.
2. Talk about why some constellations are only visible from certain parts of the Earth, while others can only be seen during certain times of the year (seasonally).
3. Help him understand that the patterns of stars don't change, even though they appear to move across the night sky. The stars seem to move because the Earth is rotating.
4. Now create your own constellation. Take a sheet of black or dark blue construction paper and set it on a table in front of your child.
5. Invite him to take a gold star sticker and raise his hand about 18 inches above the construction paper.
6. Now have him drop it down onto the paper. If it lands gold side up, gently press it down to make sure it sticks. If it lands sticky side up, flip it over and press it down on the paper.
7. Repeat steps 5 and 6 until there are five to ten stars on the paper. Make sure he drops them so they land in a random pattern.
8. Create the constellation's outline by helping him connect the stars with white chalk, just like connecting the dots. Encourage him to use curved or wavy lines to create his image.
9. Give the constellation a name. Brainstorm ideas together, then have him write the name he chooses on the paper either above or below the constellation.

How to Write a Scary Story



Learn how to write a scary story with this easy and spooky activity! This is a great educational Halloween party game, as it gets everyone talking and contributing to the terrifying plotline. Kids will learn that the secret to creating a great scary story lies in using foreshadowing and good descriptive vocabulary. Storytellers will expand their writing repertoire, exercise creativity, and strengthen analytical skills. This activity is sure to create a real brouhaha at your next Halloween party!

What You Need:

- Index cards in two different colors
- Pencils or pens
- Thirty-second timer
- 2 or more story creators (this could be you and your child, or a few kids together)
- A little spooky imagination
- Video camera (optional)

What You Do:

1. Explain to your child the purpose and meaning of descriptive vocabulary and foreshadowing. Here's a cheat sheet:
 - *Foreshadowing*: when an author hints at something that will happen later on in the story.
 - *Descriptive language*: descriptive language is all about the use of rich adjectives which employ the use of the senses:
 - sight: including colors, sizes and shapes, such as round, green, large
 - sound: including types and volume, such as quiet, grating, and banging
 - smell: including scents and strengths, such as flowery, foul, strong
 - taste: including flavors and strengths, such as tart, spicy, weak
 - touch: including textures and temperatures, such as silky, damp, hot
2. Using some of that juicy figurative language, have your child brainstorm ten different sights, sounds, smells and objects that we associate with Halloween. Encourage your child to use specific, concrete words and plenty of adjectives. Have your child write each image on one color of index card. Some examples might be: "gooey eyeballs," or "flowing, groaning ghost," or even "cheerful candlelit pumpkin head." Now have your child brainstorm ten creepy names that a person or animal might have, and write each name on a card of a different color.
3. Now it's time for some story starters to get those creative juices flowing. You can write your own, or try our printable choices, such as:
 - "One dark, stormy night, I walked down the street and I saw...."
 - "One Halloween I night I was trick-or-treating with my brother. We knocked on Old Mr. Payne's door and..."
 - "I was riding my skateboard home from school when I took a short cut through the cemetery."
 - "Just as the moon was coming up, I went around the dark corner by the school. There in the shadows I saw..."
 - In the daytime, Mrs. Scratch's basement didn't look like anything much. But that night, something happened..."
4. Place your two piles of spooky index cards—one of images, one of character names—face down in the middle of a table, or somewhere else that everyone can easily reach.
5. Now it's time for some spooky hilarious fun! Try turning the lights low, and maybe putting flashlights or candles around. Set up a video camera if you want to remember the story later!
6. Pick one story starter, which gives you a setting. Then pick one character or one object from the pile—you choose—and start rolling. As a first person narrator, you will start a story in which each person "runs into" the characters and objects in the pile. You might say, for example, "One dark, stormy night, I walked down the street and I saw Mrs. Dowd. At first she looked perfectly ordinary, just as usual when she's the librarian at school. But then, she smiled at me, and pointed, and I saw that something incredibly weird had happened to her face. It was still Mrs. Dowd... but she was not the lady I knew from Library Time! Give yourself thirty seconds (or, if you've got big talkers, give yourselves up to two minutes), and then pass the story line along to the next player. What's next? Have

the following player pull a card and use it to keep the story going.

This game can go on and on, usually it just gets more and more hilarious and wild. Especially once you've gotten some practice, kids love to videotape themselves and watch later. But even if you just play this game spontaneously, it's a great tool for fourth grade fiction writing. At this age, kids need to identify and use important tools like setting, character, and description. There's no better way to start building comfort than to play around with people you like, and see what words can do when you put them together creatively. And hey, it's fabulous, sugarless, Halloween fun!

Hunt for Tree Products



Hunt for nature's treasure, the many different products made by trees! Your child will learn about nature, trees, and categorizing while having a fun nature hunt.

What You Need:

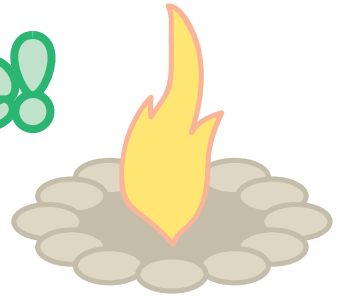
- Paper and pencil
- Container or plastic ziploc bag
- Drawing materials

What You Do:

1. Tell your child that he will go on a nature hike and hunt for tree products. Surprisingly, he will look for tree products that are NOT leaves, but are other products made by trees.
2. Make sure your nature hike is in a place with lots of different types of trees so that he can find a variety of tree products.
3. Take the container or plastic bag along on your hike, and have your child look for some of the following tree products on grounds beneath trees or hanging from trees:
 - Pods—These look like string beans or pea pods hanging from branches. They are hard and leathery when ripe, then split open to release seeds.
 - Winged “Seeds”—These look like helicopter blades, and do spin when they fall off trees.
 - Acorns
 - Pinecones
 - Spiny-husked nuts or other prickly brown balls
 - Berries
4. Note that some tree products may be seasonal or regional, for example the pods and acorns may only be around in autumn. If you live in a region with fruit on nut trees, add “Fruits/Nuts” to the above list of tree products and bring home an apple or walnut!
5. Feel free to let your child find other tree products that aren't on this list, like different kinds of bark, or something else unique. Celebrate the fun of discovery!
6. Once he has his collection of tree products, he can take them home and organize them into categories as mentioned above. He can make a chart to show how many he found of each kind. He may want to draw illustrations of his finds, showing how an ideal product from each category looks.

Camping Scramble!

Unscramble the camping words below.



1. E S T T N

2. I E F R

3. I H G N I K

4. N G W S I M I M

5. R T O S F E

6. M I E T A C S P

7. C A C K B A K P

8. E R S S O M

9. S I G H F I N

10. G U R B R S E

Answers: 1. Tents 2. Fire 3. Hiking 4. Swimming 5. Forest 6. Campsite 7. Backpack 8. Smores 9. Fishing 10. Burgers

Camping Hat



Little campers will get a kick out of this camping craft that's great for pretend play or a trip into the wild. While making this hat, your child will learn how to measure and create a crown that looks like a campfire, marshmallows included! You can also set on the ground as a pretend bonfire. It's a project fit for any king or queen of the jungle!

What You Need:

- Construction paper (brown, red, orange, yellow)
- Sticks
- Marshmallows
- Tape
- Glue
- Scissors

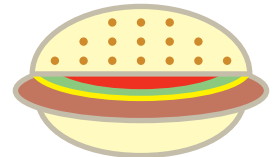
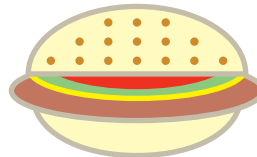
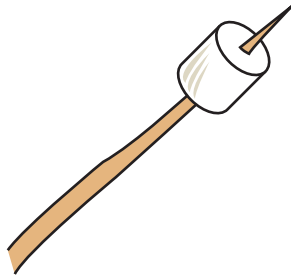
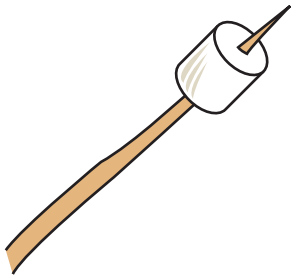
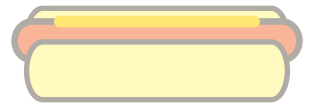
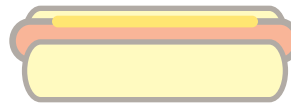
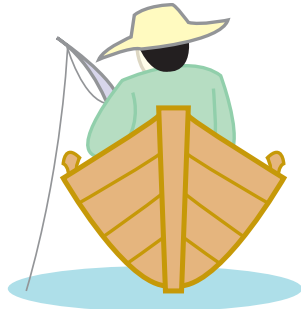
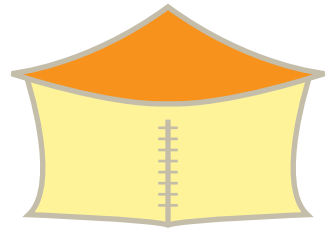
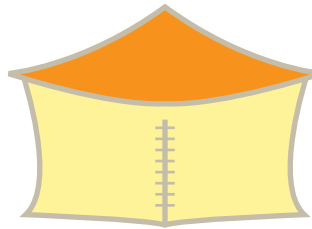
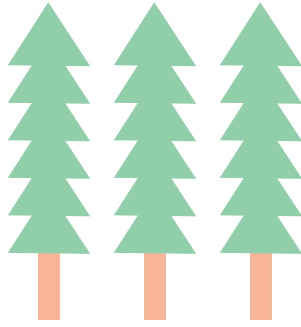
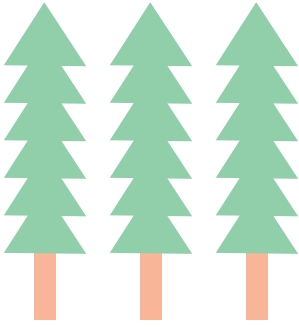
What You Do:

1. Help your child measure her head with a tape measure or piece of string.
2. With that measurement, cut out a strip of brown paper that is about an inch longer, and one inch wide, for the base of the crown.
3. Now your child can cut triangles out of red, orange and yellow construction paper for the flames. Layering different colors on top of each other create a beautiful effect--this is a great time to experiment with different sizes.
4. Have her glue the flames together, and onto the backside of the brown strip. Add tape along the back of each flame to secure it even more.
5. Stick three large marshmallows onto sticks, and tape the sticks to the inside of the crown, in between the flames.
6. Form the crown into a circle and glue or tape the ends together. It's ready to wear!

If this project has awakened your appetite, try our [s'mores recipe](#)!

MAKE A MATCH: CAMPING

Cut out the game pieces below, mix them up and place them face down on the floor. Begin the game by turning one piece over, then another. If they match, put them in a pile. If they don't match, turn both pieces over and try again. Repeat until you've made all 8 matches.



Indoor Smores!



Has the rain ruined your summer outdoor barbecue plans? You can still make some tasty S'Mores with the help of your oven. Everyone will be pleased as punch with the final result!

What You Need:

- 4 graham crackers
- 1 chocolate bar
- 4 marshmallows
- Tin foil
- Sheet pan

What You Do:

1. Start by breaking the graham crackers in half and placing them on a sheet of tin foil on top of the sheet pan. Breaking graham crackers might not seem like a skill builder, but your child is honing fine-motor skills and his concentration while carefully breaking those graham crackers in half!
2. Now your child can top four of the graham crackers with a marshmallow. He can carefully separate the chocolate bar into four sections and top the other four halves of the graham crackers with the chocolate pieces.
3. Invite your child to turn on the broiler of the oven and carefully place the sheet pan under the heat. Don't go too far - those indoor S'Mores will be done before he knows it!
4. As soon as he sees the marshmallows starting to brown, he can remove the sheet pan from the oven, using an oven mitt of course, and carefully press the marshmallow and chocolate graham cracker halves together, finishing the S'Mores!

Did you know:

The history of the marshmallow dates back to ancient Egypt through whipping honey with extract from the Marsh-Mallow plant? But, the tasty treat as we know it wasn't made popular until the 1950's.

Fish Me a Word



Want to help your child learn how to read and increase her vocabulary? Put down the books and pick up the fishing rod! This silly game is a fun way to introduce and reinforce sight words...by fishing for them! All your child needs are a few household “tools” and some creativity.

What You Need:

- List of sight words (see below)
- Construction paper
- Piece of string or yarn
- Large wooden spoon (for fishing rod)
- 12 paper clips
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Magnet (a small refrigerator one works great)

Sight words:

ate	be	black	brown
but	came	did	do
eat	four	get	good

What You Do:

1. Cut 12 fish shapes out of the construction paper. Using the list of sight words provided, either write one word on each fish, or cut the word out and paste in onto the fish. Let your child decorate the fish with markers or crayons.
2. Attach a paper clip to the tip of each fish.
3. Tie the yarn or string to the wooden spoon. Tie the magnet to the other end of the string.
4. Spread all of the fish out on the floor, or on a table.
5. Give your child the fishing rod and tell them it's time to go fishing! Each time you call out a word, she should look for the word you've said, and then try to catch it with her rod.
6. Each time she catches the correct fish, ask your child to shout out the letters—spelling the name of the word aloud. This helps with reinforcement.
7. Once your child gets the hang of it, make more fish. Here are a few more sight words to try: all, am, are, the, and, to, he, a, I, you, it, of, was, she, said, his, her, that, for, on, but, had, they, now, out, on, that, there, this, too

Happy fishing!

Shoebox Guitar



One of many ways that you can reuse household items is by turning them into musical instruments. All you need to put this guitar together is an old shoebox. Soon your kid will be rocking out while saving room in the landfill.

What You Need:

- Shoebox
- Scissors, or craft knife (with parental supervision)
- 2 cardboard squares 3" x 3"
- Rubber bands
- Construction paper
- Markers
- Cardboard tube
- Glue
- Drinking glass
- Pencil
- Optional: glitter, acrylic gems, stickers, colored duct tape

What You Do:

1. Have your child trace the drinking glass on the box top of the shoebox. This will become the sound hole of the guitar and should be a bit lower than the center of the box.
2. Help him cut out a hole using a craft knife or scissors.
3. Have him cover the bottom of the box, the box lid and the paper tube with construction paper.
4. He can decorate the construction paper however he likes using markers, glitter, acrylic gems, stickers and colored duct tape.
5. Cut both 3-inch squares into three equal parts. You should end up with a total of six rectangles.
6. Stack and glue three of the cut cardboard rectangles into one stack. Set this aside. Then, stack two cardboard rectangles and glue them together. Discard the remaining rectangle.
7. Decorate both of the stacked rectangles.
8. Have him trace the end of the cardboard tube to the center of the bottom half of the shoebox.
9. Help him cut out the hole so it's tiny bit smaller than drawn using the craft knife. This will ensure a snug fit.
10. Push the tube through the hole and inside the box.
11. Have him glue the edges of the box lid, and then put the lid on the body of the guitar to secure it.
12. Help him stretch the rubber bands over the shoebox. Make sure they cover the sound hole.
13. Now he's ready to rock out!



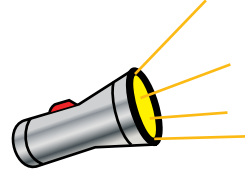
Consonant Blends

st fl nt st nd fl

Camping

Fill in the correct consonant blends in the spaces below using the letter combinations above.
Next, draw a line from each word to the correct picture.

___ ames



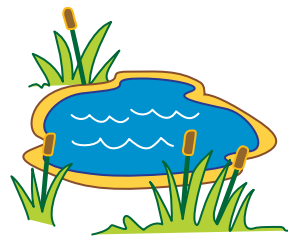
te ___



___ ashlight



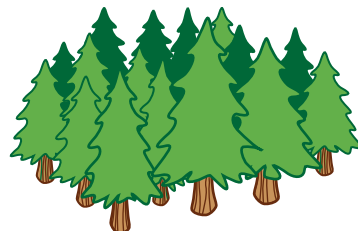
fore ___



___ icks



po ___



Letter from Camp



Getting a letter in the mail from a loved one is an exciting and heartwarming experience. This summer, if your child is trying overnight camp, make sure you're caught up on what's going on in their life by establishing the tradition of sending a letter home. While the typical letter home for many kids is a monument to brevity, this year as you help your kid pack, here's a sneaky suggestion—give your child templates for three versions of a "Deluxe Letter Home." Stick them in your child's bags with some stamped envelopes and a pack of pens and colored pencils!

In this activity, your child will practice writing a letter home before they go off to camp.

What You Need:

- Downloadable templates ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#))
- Small pack of fine-tipped, water based colored markers or colored pencils
- Pencil sharpener (optional)
- Stamped and addressed envelopes

What You Do:

1. First, wherever your child is going, make sure they know you would like them to write a letter home!
2. Read through the Deluxe Letter together and talk about the important parts in a letter.
3. Have your child decide who the recipient of the letter should be. Your child may want to write to you, but remember that lots of grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends might love to get a letter as well.
4. After deciding on a recipient, model and write a sample letter or two together before they go off to camp. As you do this, you both can discuss what kinds of things make a good letter and why. Now your child has an idea of the letter you would like to receive while they're away!
5. When they're off at camp, they'll feel more prepared and inspired to write a letter (maybe even several!) home.

Optional: To further inspire your child to write home, you can also encourage them to decorate the self-addressed, stamped envelopes and provide them the opportunity to practice address-writing as well.

Letter-writing and self-expression are important personal and academic skills. Personally, this type of writing helps your child stay connected to you and to the world they know, while branching out and making sense of what's coming their way. Academically, letter writing is a part of the language arts curriculum and is something all elementary school children must learn. Having your child practice writing letters in this activity helps them build his academic writing skills in a way that is natural, practical, and enduring.