

FOUNDATIONS

BLUEPRINT 4 LEARNING

July

Flags

There are many different kinds of flags. Some are used to send messages. Every country in the world has a unique flag.

The American flag is red, white and blue. There are 50 white stars for the 50 states. (Each state in the U.S. has its own flag, too.) There are special rules for taking care of the American flag. Did you know there is an American flag on the moon? Where do you see flags?



TALK

Skills to practice this month:

- **Keep working on taking turns talking & listening**
- **Use polite talk**
- **Look at the speaker when they are talking**
- **Ask questions about flags**

Vocabulary words: Describe each word. Your child does not need to read or spell these words. They will start to add them to their vocabulary as they hear you using them. Look for examples around you.

Flag, Star, Stripe, Red, White, Blue, Fireworks, Parade, Respect, Anthem

CALENDAR: Mention the day of the week and the name of the month several times. Talk about special occasions happening this month (like the Fourth of July). Are you going on any trips? Having visitors? Summer camps for your preschooler or a sibling?

READ

Reading Skills:

- **Ask questions about books you read.**
- **Encourage your child to tell a story about one of the pictures in each book you read. (Model this for them first.)**
- **Rereading stories several times is okay. Children love the familiarity of it.**

Books about flags:

- Betsy Ross by Becky White
- I Pledge Allegiance by Bill Martin, Jr. & Michael Sampson
- Why Are There Stripes on the American Flag? by Martha E. H. Rustad
- Puff...Flash...Bang... by Gail Gibbons

PLAY

Skill to Practice:

- **Working together:**
 - remember to take turns
 - pick games without a winner and loser
 - talk about the game before you play
 - learn a new outdoor game for summer

Imaginative Play:

Let's have a parade! Suggest that your child have a parade with friends or family members (line up dolls and stuffed animals as the spectators). Instruments and noise makers are always fun to use! Help your child make her/his own flag to carry in their parade.

Do something fun together:

1. Check out local 4th of July activities.
2. Go to the local 4th of July parade (lookout for flags! How many do you see?), concert, or fireworks show.
3. Go on a flag hunt. How many places can you find American flags? Do you see any other kinds of flags? Look up the flag for your state or town. Listen to the national anthem.

DO

Our Language concepts are:

1. Recognize and name letters Aa-Zz
2. Connect beginning sound of word to corresponding picture and letter
3. Ask questions to clarify information
4. Draw something and explain it

Math concepts:

5. Explain equal groups
6. Find examples of taking groups apart
7. Sort objects into like groups & explain why they belong together
8. Describe shapes

THINK





Practice these activities/skills throughout the month.

LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES:

1. Recognize and name letters Aa-Zz

Put some alphabet cards face down on the table. Let your child turn over one and tell you the name of the letter. This is a fun activity you can do to make learning enjoyable for your child. Make sure you use upper and lower case letters.

2. Connect beginning sound of word to a corresponding picture and letter

Show your child the letter card for “D” and have them say the letter sound. Then show them 3 pictures of things that all begin with “D” and ask them to say the names of each picture and repeat the sound of “D”.

3. Ask questions to clarify information

Encourage your child to talk by asking questions. Don’t settle for one-word answers. Ask them why they think or feel something; encourage them to describe things they see. Ask questions when they might need help or want to understand something better (directions at school, or procedures).

4. Draw something and explain it

Encourage your child to draw a picture about something they imagine, a trip they have taken, or a story you have read to them. Let them tell you what their picture is about and then write it under the picture for them.

MATH ACTIVITIES:

5. Explain equal groups

Place a paper plate in front of you and one in front of your child. Place 1 Cheerio on the plate and ask your child to do the same. Talk about what “equal” means. Repeat by adding 1 Cheerio at a time until you get to 10. Start it again with your child leading.

6. Find examples of taking groups apart

Use the story or song “5 Little Monkeys Jumping On the Bed” to illustrate this concept. Start with your hand held up (showing all five fingers) and as you say the rhyme and you “take” the group apart, one by one, say each number aloud.

7. Sort objects into like groups & explain why they belong together

Gather a small group of objects for your child to sort. Ask them to put the objects into groups where the objects are alike. Encourage them to use “math” vocabulary when they are explaining what they are thinking, after they assemble their groups.

8. Describe shapes

Help your child find 2-dimensional shapes (circles, squares, rectangles, and triangles) in the stories you read together and name them. Can they find each shape independently and tell you what it is? Go on a shape hunt as they get better at recognizing these shapes.

ART PROJECT: Handprint Flag

Materials:

- Paint: red, white, blue
- Paint brushes
- Popsicle stick
- Thin ribbon in red, white, or blue
- Baby wipes or a sink near-by
- Small star stickers
- Glue
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Newspaper or an old placemat

Directions:

1. Cover space on the table with newspaper or a placemat (this helps with clean up at the end).
2. Paint the palm of your child’s hand blue. Paint the fingers (not the thumb) red and white (alternate colors).
3. Place your child’s hand (palm down) onto the construction paper. Let paint dry.
4. Cut the construction paper to fit your child’s handprint.
5. Have your child use mini star stickers to decorate the palm area.
6. Glue the construction paper to the top half of a popsicle stick.
7. Punch a hole in the upper left corner of the flag. Then, string the thin ribbon through the hole & tie off the ribbon.

