

November's playful learning Checklist

- 1.** In preparation for Thanksgiving, help your child brainstorm 5 things he's thankful for. Write down his list as he dictates it to you.
- 2.** Help your child learn the name and shape of circles by giving him a blank paper, some paint, and recyclable objects that have circular shapes. The end of paper towel rolls, empty tape rolls and the bottom of egg cartons work well. Invite your child to dip the circles in paint and stamp them on his paper.
- 3.** Take your child on a walk around the neighborhood. Ask him to hunt for a certain fall color {red, orange, yellow}. Each time he finds an object with that color, let him snap a picture of it with your phone camera. When you return home, look through the pictures and point out all of the different shades your child found.
- 4.** Help your child fill an ice tray with different liquids {milk, water, dish soap, salsa, etc.} Make predictions about the liquids that will freeze first. Then place the ice tray in the freezer and wait to see what happens.
- 5.** Since turkey starts with the letter {T}, brainstorm words that start with the /t/ sound.
- 6.** Lay six alphabet magnets on the table. Invite your child to name the letters he sees. Then ask him to close his eyes as you take away one of the letters. When he opens his eyes again, ask what letter is missing.
- 7.** Explain that good readers read the pictures AND the words in books. Pull out a book your child has not read before. Looking only at the pictures, talk about what you think is happening in the story. Invite your child to take a turn reading several of the pictures too. Then go back and read the words of the story out loud. Point out that the pictures gave you great clues about the words you read later.
- 8.** Give your child a pile of shoes. Ask him how many shoes he thinks it will take to reach from his head to his toes. Then, have him lay down as you place the shoes heel to toe along his side. How many shoes tall is he? Was his guess too big, too small or just right?
- 9.** Hand your child a pile of counters {coins, pom poms, etc.} and explain that you're going to divide them into two groups: one for you and one for him. Hand one counter to him, then take one. Give another to him, one more to you... until all of the counters have been divided. How many counters did each of you receive?
- 10.** Read the story "I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Pie" by Alison Jackson. Then ask your child what his favorite part of the story was.