April's *playful learning* Checklist

1. Write your child's name with sidewalk chalk. Invite her to trace the letters with different colors of chalk to make a name rainbow.

2. Fill left over Easter eggs with small items {6 pom poms, 4 pennies, 7 jelly beans, etc.}. Hide the eggs, have your child find them, and then help her count the goodies inside.

3. Fill a bubble bath with sponge alphabet letters. Ask your child to pull out the letters and stick them to your shower wall. Say the name and sound of each letter as she sticks it. For instance, "That's an A. It says /a/."

4. Help your child make a number trail mix. If you're learning the number 5, for example, have your child fill a bowl with 5 raisins, 5 pretzels, 5 M & Ms, 5 peanuts, 5 Chex, 5 marshmallows, etc.

5. In the morning, stamp your child's hand with a letter. Refer to things that start with that letter throughout the day. For instance, if you stamped {m}, you could say, "You're drinking milk! Milk starts with {m}."

6. Take your child on a number walk through the neighborhood. First, look for a zero. Once you've found it, begin hunting for a one. License plates and house numbers are great places to start.

© Playdough to Plato 2013.

7. Work together to brainstorm words that rhyme with {spring}.

8. Teach your child how to dial your telephone number in case of an emergency.

9. Plant a few seeds or seedlings. Have your child care for them and watch them grow. Tight on space? Plant them in a flower pot or small planter placed by a window.

10. Help your child use a calendar to count the number of days in April.