

More Camp Kindergarten Ideas From South Dakota and Minneapolis!

Take it!
Adapt it!
Make it work for you!

1. Thank You Song (Deanna Hofmeister & Tami Zwaschka, Mankato, MN)

Sing and sign this song to the tune of “Happy Birthday” to thank a parent helper or others.

We say thank you to you.
We say thank you to you.
We say thank you for helping or whatever.
We say thank you to you.

Sign language:

“We”- make a “w” by chin and round out
“Say” – pointer fingers by mouth and shake back and forth
“Thank you” – touch chin with fingers and move out and down
“To” – tap pointer fingers
“You” – point to person
“Helping” – fist on palm and move hands upward

2. Blessing (Deanna Hofmeister & Tami Zwaschka, Mankato, MN)

Here’s a sweet blessing to the tune of “Twinkle Little Star.” (Although you can’t use this in a public school, you could use it in a church school or with your children at home.)

Thank you, thank you, Lord we pray
For this food we have today.
We love you so very much.
God bless every one of us.
Thank you, thank you, Lord we pray
For this food we have today.

3. Fire Cracker Cheer with a Grand Finale (Laura Schlossmacher, Roseville, MN)

Do the fire cracker cheer and then add a grand finale by popping hands and fingers open and closed in the air over your head.

4. State and City Song (Holly Koop, Grand Forks, ND – Traci Plante / Singer)

Children will easily remember their city and state when you sing them to “Yankee Doodle.”

Here I am in name of state
Living happily!
All my friends and relatives are
Nice as they can be!
City, I love you!
City, is my home!
State is my state
And for this we celebrate!

5. Attention Grabber (Kelley DiBella, East Greenbush, NY)

Teacher says, “Spaghetti.”
Children respond with “Meatballs.”
This means the teacher needs their attention and they stop and freeze.

*Change this for different months and seasons. For example:
hot/chocolate
trick or/treat

6. Line Up Chant (Kelley DiBella, East Greenbush, NY)

1, 2 Listen and do.
3, 4 Face the door.
5, 6 Fingers on lips.
7, 8 Stand up straight.
9, 10 Let the quiet walking begin.

7. Tattle Hot Line (Kelley DiBella, East Greenbush, NY)

Put an old phone in the classroom. When the children start to tattle send them to the phone and say, “Leave a message. I’ll check it later.”

8. Zip It, Hip It, Lip It! (Erin Mensing, East Greenbush, NY)

To get the children ready for the hallway or for directions say:
Zip it. (Pretend to zip lips.)
Hip it. (One hand on hip.)
Lip it. (One finger on lips.)

*Get a large foam finger (like they use at sports events) and write “Zip, Hip, Lip” on it to use as a visual cue.

9. Mouse's House (Sherri Palmgren, Rogers, MN)

Cut colored houses out of construction paper. You will also need a cute paper mouse to hide under a house. Say this chant as children hide their eyes:

Ms. Mouse, Ms. Mouse,
What color is your house?

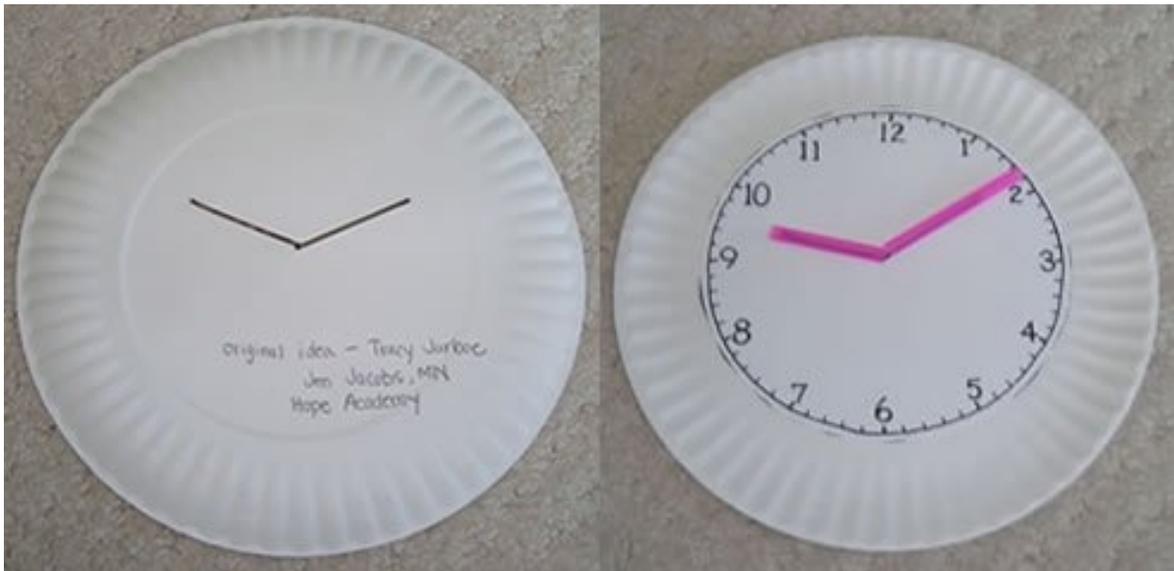
Children take turns guessing which house the mouse is hiding under.

If you make two houses of each color then you can add different details.

Make similar games with a fox hiding under a box, a frog under a log, or a goat under a boat.

10. Paper Plate Clock (Original idea from Tracy Jarboe – shared by Jen Jacobs)

When you make paper plate clocks insert two bobbie pins in the middle for hands. Slip pieces of straws on the bobbie pins for easy manipulation.



11. Thinking Squares (Allison Caspers, Fargo, ND)

Sew scrap fabric into a square. Attach beads, buttons, etc. Children who are ready to “think” get to hold the square during group.



12. Don't Cha Wish You Knew Your Numbers (Amanda Horstman)

Sing this song to the tune of “Girlfriend” by the PCD’s.

Don't cha wish you knew your numbers 1, 2, 3.
Don't cha wish you knew your numbers, just like me!
Learning all your number is what happens
When you listen to me!
Don't cha wish you knew your numbers 4, 5, 6.
Don't cha wish you knew your numbers just like this!
I know you know it, I know you do!
Whenever you say your numbers I'll be watchin' you!
Let's make this simple, with 7, 8, 9.
And all you have to do is just add – a little rhyme!
Oh, don't cha wish you knew your numbers 10, 11, 12.
Don't cha wish you knew your numbers 13, 14, 15.
I know all these numbers are numbers that you've seen.
Don't cha wish you knew your numbers 16, 17, 18.
Now you know your numbers with 19 and 20.
You can count good now all the way to 20!

13. Computer (Joan O'Reilly, Calvin Christian School)

Cut two slits out of the sides of a half gallon milk jug. With leftover laminating scraps form a tunnel between the two slits. Slide a card in the top and the answer will come out on the bottom.



14. Money Songs (Shella Kruis)

Learn about dimes with this song to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”

Child’s name has a shiny dime, shiny dime, shiny dime.

Child’s name has a shiny dime and it is worth 10 cents.

Place a large nickel on the floor and hold hands and sing to the tune of “Ring Around the Rosie.”

Ring around the nickel.

Ring around the nickel.

Five cents, five cents,

We all fall down.

15. Floating Letters (Debbie Eiss, Cheektowaga/Sloan, NY)

Use a permanent marker and write one letter (or number) several times on a ping pong ball. (You can use any type of ball that floats.) Put the balls in a water table. Child “A” can use a butterfly net or fish net to catch a ball. After child “A” catches the ball, she gives it to child “B” who will place it in a Styrofoam egg carton with the corresponding letter.

16. Camera Cheer (Lisa Gilbertson, Apple Valley, MN)

Tell your students that they are “front page news” and pretend to take their picture for the newspaper. Make a clicking noise for the flash as you do this.

17. Thinking Caps (Ann Peterson, Minneapolis, MN)

Help make an abstract concept concrete by purchasing a cap or visor (99 cents at craft store) and placing it at each student’s spot for open house. This will set your theme for the year: “In kindergarten we are going to be great thinkers!” On the first day of school all the children get to decorate their caps. (Keep them at school and wear when you want to focus their attention.)

18. Cheer Pocket (Greta Delparte, Bismarck, ND)

Cut a pocket off an old pair of jeans and put it on the wall with a sign that says, “Cheer Pocket.” When it’s time to do a cheer, ask a child to go over and draw a cheer out of the pocket.



19. McDonald’s Cheer (Michelle Sanders, Brunswick, MO)

Teacher says: Ba, da, ba, ba, da.

Kids say: I’m lovin’ it!

20. Hug Your Brain

Thumbs up. Thumbs down. Cross your hands and clasp your fingers. Twist hands under and bring them next to your chest to give yourself a hug.

21. Patty Cake High Frequency Words (Ann Peterson, Minneapolis, MN)

Children get a partner and patty cake and spell sight words or spelling words. For example: Clap as you say the word “look.” Patty cake with partner as you say, “L – O – O – K.” Clap and say the word again.

22. Letter Pointers (Helen Koktan, Lester Prairie, MN)

Use colored foam (flower and star picture frames from Jo Ann Fabrics) and attach to paint sticks with E-6000 glue. Write upper and lower case consonants on the stars and vowels on the flowers.



23. CD Case White Board (Cherien Kimball, Marion, IA)

Do you have extra CD cases laying around? Take apart the CD case and put a string through the holes to make a hanger. Replace the cover in the CD case with blank white paper or a picture of your students. Parents can hang it up or students can keep it and use it like a mini whiteboard in the classroom.

24. Sight Word Greeting (Laurie Schlossmacher, Roseville, MN)

Write sight words on nametags and give one to each child to wear at circle time. Greet each other using the word you are wearing. For example, “Good morning, ‘the.’” “Good morning, ‘see.’”

25. Writing Center Prompt (Susan Powell, Rochester, MN)

To create interest in the writing center, add tops to the pencils that relate to themes. For example, during a gardening unit add plastic flowers using green floral tape. For a nursery rhyme unit add cotton balls for sheep. You can also use plastic spiders, pom pom bugs, etc.

26. Name Song (Susan Powell, Rochester, MN)

On the second day of school let children wear the letter vest with the letter their name starts with. Sing this song to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."

Child's name is here today.

Child's name is here today.

Let's all clap our hands and say

Hip, hip, hooray!

27. Kids Vs. Teacher (Jane Cline, Waverly, IA)

Play flash card games with children and draw parts of a seasonal picture instead of using tally marks. You could draw a jack-o-lantern, turkey, jellyfish, flowers and petals, pot of gold with coins, etc.

Hint! Keep the game going over the course of a day.

28. Name Tabs (Lynn Shobert, Ashton, IA)

Use old gift cards/phone cards to make nametags for children. Cover the card with a 2"x3" label with the child's picture, name, age, etc.

*Use old phone cards to make job titles for kids to wear. Punch holes and add string so they can wear them. Line leader is the "tour guide." Caboose is the "safety officer." Door holder is the "greeter." Lights is the "production manager." Weather person is the "meterologist." Flag holder is the "color guard."

29. Reading Friends (Angie Blatz, Dubuque, IA)

To reinforce strategies for decoding words use stuffed animals as visuals.

Clue Kangaroo – Look for picture clues.

Sammy Snake – Sound it out.

Skip It Frog – Skip the word and then go back and read it again.

Chunky Monkey – Look for chunks in words.

30. Straw Ruler (Kris Kurtz, North Sioux City, SD)

To measure circular things make a straw ruler. Cut plastic straws into 1" segments. Tie a knot in one end of a shoe lace and string on 12 straws. Tie off the other end of the shoe lace. Good for non-standard measurement.

31. Letters from Rylee (Carin Griffith)

October is National Down Syndrome Awareness Month! Carin Griffith has wonderful stories to share about disability awareness! Be inspired by reading "Letters from Rylee" at caringriffith.blogspot.com.

32. The Banana Song (Judy Stone, Dell Rapids, SD)

Form the corn, form, form the corn. (Bring your right arm up as you say this.)

Form the corn, form, form the corn. (Bring your left arm up.)

Shuck the corn, shuck, shuck the corn. (Bring your right arm down.)

Shuck the corn, shuck, shuck the corn. (Bring your left arm down.)

Pop the corn, pop, pop the corn. (Jump on the word "pop.")

Pop the corn, pop, pop the corn.

Form the banana...

Go bananas! (Act crazy.)

Form the mango...

Do the tango! (Dance with a partner.)

Form the orange...

Squeeze the orange! (Hug a partner.)

Form the tomato...

"Th" the ketchup! (Thumb down and pretend to shake a ketchup bottle.)

Form the carrot...

Feed the bunny! (Fingers over head like ears and put top teeth on bottom lip.)

Form the avacado...

Guacamole! (Shake your head and arms so your cheeks wiggle.)

33. Barbie Cheer and Spider Cheer (Jane Blertson & Erin Larson, Sioux Falls, SD)

Barbie Cheer

Eyebrow, eyebrow (trace eyebrows)

Lipstick (circle around lips)

Woo! (hands up)

Spider Cheer

Creep fingers all around your arm, neck, over head.

Put in front of your face and squeal!

32. Herman the Worm (Kristy McCann, SD)

Sitting on a fence post, chewing my bubble gum (chew with mouth)

Playing with my yo-yo, Whee! Whee! (making yo-yo motion)

When along comes Herman the Worm and he's this big (position thumb and pointer finger about 1 in. apart).

I said: Herman what happened?(use inflection in voice and put you're hands in the air)

He said: I ate a bug on a rug. Oh, Herman! ((bump self on head with bottom of inside hand)

And he crawled away like this. (use fingers to crawl away like spider)

Repeat sitting on a fence post....

This time Herman was this big(put hands apart in front about 6 in.)

Repeat: I said, Herman what...

Herman said: I ate a mouse in a house! (bump head again say Oh, Herman!)

And he crawled away like this (use small hand motions to crawl away)

Repeat: Sitting on a fence...

Along came Herman and he was this big(hold hands out front and about 1 ft. apart)

I said: Herman what happened and he said I ate a cat under a hat

Bump your head and say Oh, Herman!

And he crawled away like this(start to get arms involved with crawling away motion)

Repeat Sitting on a fence.....

Along comes Herman the worm and he's this big (hold hands out in front to shape a large stomach)

I said: Herman what happened he said: I ate a pig doing a jig

Bump your head and say Oh, Herman!

And he crawled away like this (make crawling motions big like swimming and grunt)

Repeat: Sitting on a fence ...

When along comes Herman the worm and he's this big again(thumb pointer about 1 in. apart)

I said: What happened?

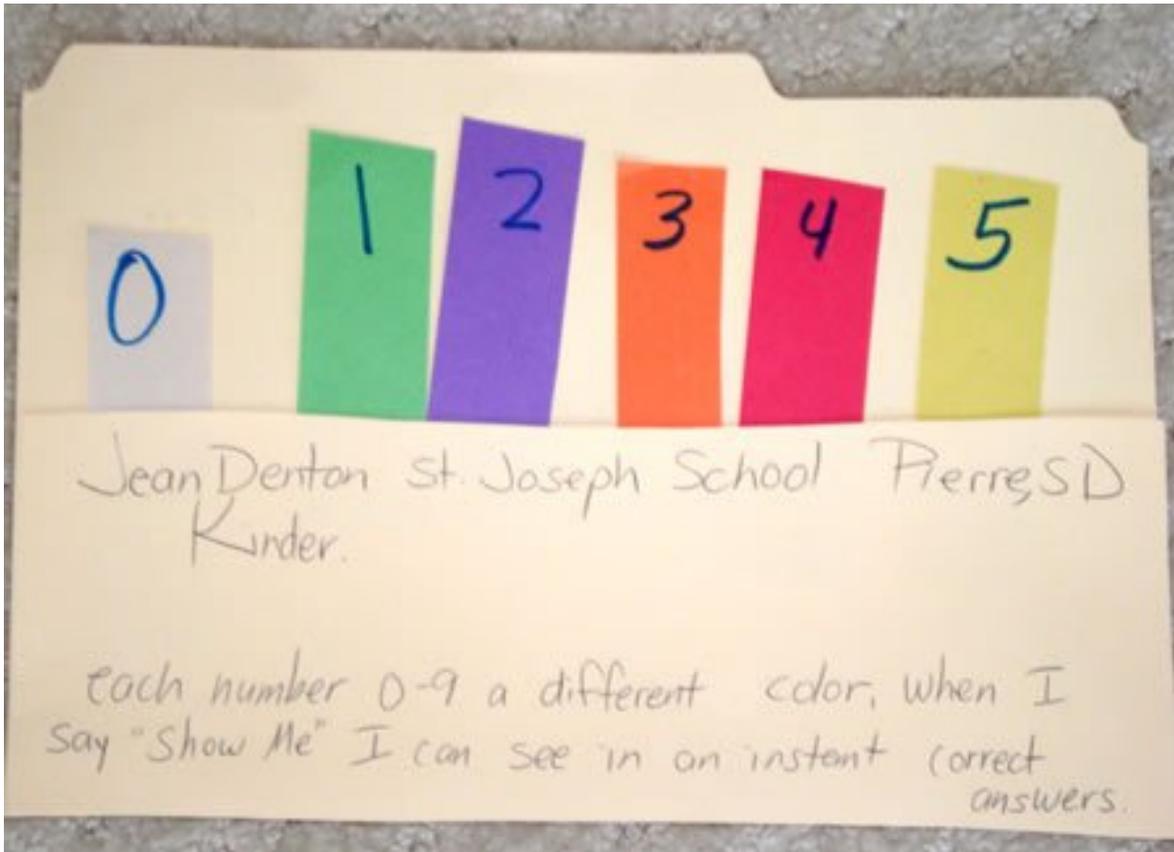
He said I burped (cover mouth make pretend burp sound)

33. Burrito Book (Mindy Whisler, Parker, SD)

Fold a sheet of white paper in half. Unfold it and fold in half the other directions. Keep fingers on the fold and cut on line leaving 1" paper attached with a hole in the middle. Fold the second sheet of paper in half the same way. This time put the open side of the paper in your fingers and cut in 1" on either end. Roll this paper up like a burrito. Slip in the opening of the first sheet and unroll it. The slits will match up with the first paper. Fold in half to make a book.

34. Show Me Color Code (Jean Denton, Pierre, SD)

Number strips of paper 0-9. Make each numeral a different color. When the teacher says, "Show Me," the children can put the strip in the pocket and the teacher can see in an instant who has the correct answer.



35. Tens and Ones Pocket (Erin Larson, Sioux Falls, SD)

Make pockets for the show me cards so children can demonstrate place value.

36. Number Book

Create a take home number book that every child can add to and will enjoy reading. Include a note so parents will know what to do. The first child takes the book home and makes a set of one on the first page. The second child takes the book home and makes a set of two on the second page. The third child....etc.

37. Velcro Name Tags (Judy Dick, Sioux Falls, SD)

Put little pieces of Velcro on the back of kids name tags. Put other pieces of Velcro on their desks so they can display them. Friends can "borrow" name tags and use them for independent writing and then put them back.

38. Three Brave Hunters (Marilyn Williams, Miller, SD)

This is a good Halloween activity that you can do with a paper plate. (See the attached story and cutting directions. You will find the story in the Downloads section for Sept 09 at dr.jean.org)

39. Activity Boxes (Janice M. Coleman, Dante, SD)

You will need 10 – 10” pizza boxes. Copy numbers 1-10 on 9” x 9” sheets of paper. Laminate and tape to each box. Write the corresponding numerals on the sides of each box. Put a different activity in each box, such as a tracing sheet, cutting sheet, yarn to roll in a ball, play dough, etc. Stack the boxes. At circle time invite a child to pick a number. Surprise! They have a fun activity to do by themselves or with a partner.

*Put a checklist in each box so they can mark their name off when they are finished.

*You can also make shape boxes by putting different geometric shapes on each box.

40. Color Mixing bottles (Kelli Erickson, Alcester, SD)

Take baby oil and dye it with food coloring. (You can get dyes for making candle wax at Hobby Lobby or Michael’s.)

Use food coloring to color water. Pour a little colored baby oil and colored water in a plastic bottle. Colors mix and then separate back into original colors.

41. What’s in It Box? (Hilarie Hutt, Florence, SD)

Take four lunchboxes and label “What’s in it box?” Place a note inside to parents explaining to work with their child and write three clues about the item their child has chosen to put in the box. (You can relate this to letters, colors, etc.) At circle time the child sits in the teachers’ lap and they read the clues together. Classmates raise their hands and try to guess what is in the box.

42. Analog Clock (Lisa Vik, Sioux Falls, SD)

On your classroom clock tape your title (“Miss, Mrs., Mr.”) to the minute hand. Tape a piece of paper with your last name on the hour hand. This will help the kids look at the hour hand first to tell the hour. Students could use their own names on a paper plate clock. (First name on hour hand and last name on minute hand.)

43. Cheerleader (Diane Broksieck, Brookings, SD)

Have a helper called the “cheerleader.” That child gets to choose the cheers for the day and has the responsibility of giving cheers to special friends.

44.Number Attention (Kelli Erickson, Alcester, SD)

1, 2, 3 Eyes on me.

4, 5, 6 Finger on your lips.

7, 8, 9 Straighten up the line.

45.Clean Up Song (Rebecca heater, Casey Gorby and Sylvia Richards, Clarksburg, WV)

Use children's names in this song to the tune of "London Bridge."

I see, child's name, cleaning up,

Cleaning up, cleaning up.

I see child's name, cleaning up,

Just like second child's name.