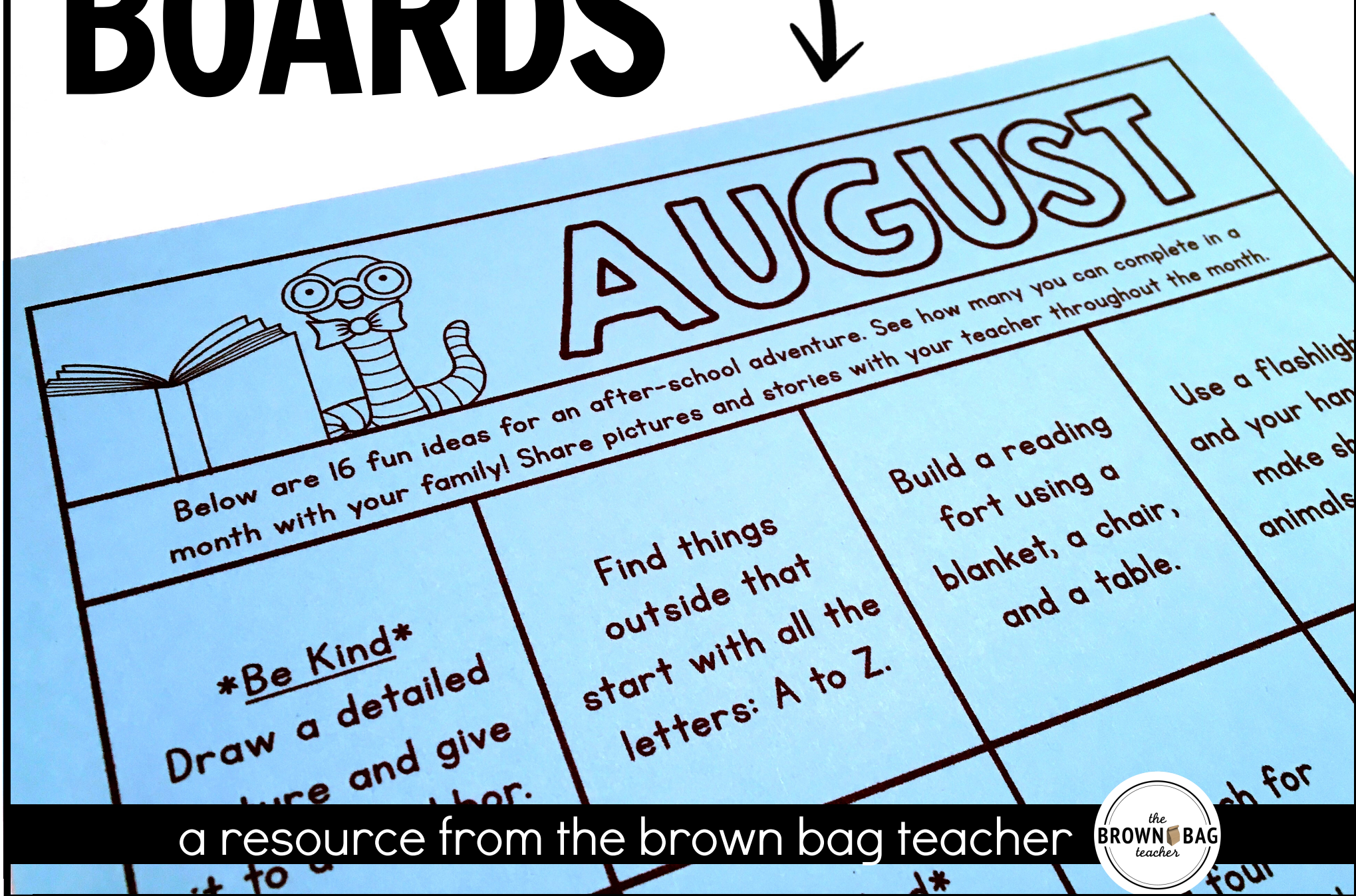
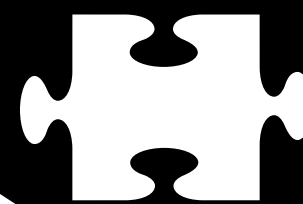


HOMework CHOICE BOARDS

play-based



a resource from the brown bag teacher



Notes to the Teacher

Friends,

As teachers, we know how hard our students work each day. We spend hours reading, writing, doing math, exploring science, and so much more. We also know that fine-motor, gross-motor, and social-emotional skills are just as important as academic skills...especially with our young learners. These critically important skills are often pushed to the side at school and at home.

I created these experience-based homework calendars to address the non-academic skills my students were missing, as well as, comply with our school's "Homework Policy". Additionally, these calendars respect that our students lead incredibly busy and scheduled lives outside of school and need opportunities to be kids! These calendars work best with Kindergarten and 1st Grade students.

Although many of the activities can be completed independently, several activities each month require adult supervision or support. Therefore, these calendars may not work for every classroom or student population. Materials needed to complete the activities are minimal and I have included writing templates for stories and lists. They can be easily copied (black/white) and sent home with students.


Included in this resource: (Note - all editable resources are in a separate PowerPoint file. To match, download KG Primary Penmanship and KG Second Chances Solid fonts for free on Teachers Pay Teachers.)

- 10 months of homework calendars (August thru May or September thru June). These "calendars" are formatted as choice boards, giving families and students flexibility when...or if...they complete the 16 activities (averaging four activities each week).
- Editable at-home reading star chart
- Editable letter to families explaining these experience-base homework calendars
- Editable monthly choice board (not month or theme specific)
- A completion certificate
- Story and list paper (to attach to monthly calendars)

Here's to a year of fostering and nurturing well-rounded, enthusiastic learners.

Happy Teaching,
Catherine

AUGUST



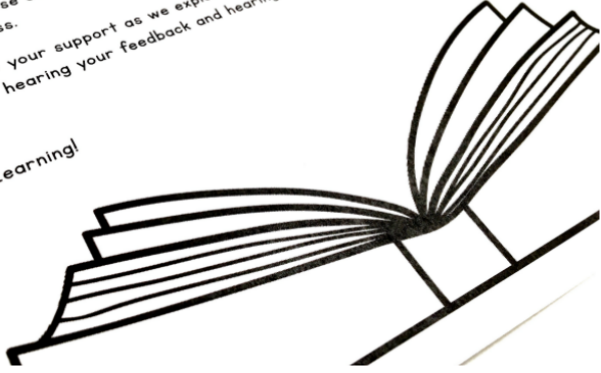
Below are 16 fun ideas for an after-school adventure. See how many you can complete in a month with your family! Share pictures and stories with your teacher throughout the month.

<p>*Be Kind* Draw a detailed picture and give it to a neighbor.</p>	<p>Find things outside that start with all the letters: A to Z.</p>	<p>Build a reading fort using a blanket, a chair, and a table.</p>	<p>Use a fan and your mouth to move a marble.</p>
<p>*Be Kind* Call a family member you love.</p>	<p>Search for a four-leaf clover.</p>	<p>Read a book to a pet.</p>	<p>Write a letter to a friend.</p>

Additional...
our student...
ords. At times, I may...
regardless, these activities sh...
times much less.

I appreciate your support as we explore a new...
forward to hearing your feedback and hearing about your...
boards.

Happy Learning!



At-Home Reading

Each night please spend 15-20 minutes reading to and with your student. Research shows that words read each year is a reliable predictor of future academic success. Additionally, reading is a fun family routine to build! Each time you read together, color a star.



<p>*Be Kind* kind note. send or e it to one special.</p>	<p>What do you want to learn to do this month? How are you going to learn it?</p>	<p>Collect your stuffed animals. Read them a bedtime story.</p>
<p>*Be Kind* Draw a picture of yourself eating your favorite food.</p>	<p>Make a book of paper. Find something to read.</p>	<p>Search for a four-leaf clover and give it to a friend.</p>

My List



Families,

Each day your student works incredibly hard to become a better reader, writer, and mathematician. They explore, write, build, sing, create and socialize - it is a long day. When students arrive home, we do not want families burdened with hours of extra work. Extra-curricular activities and family time are important. Additionally, students need the opportunity to explore, play, and be little!

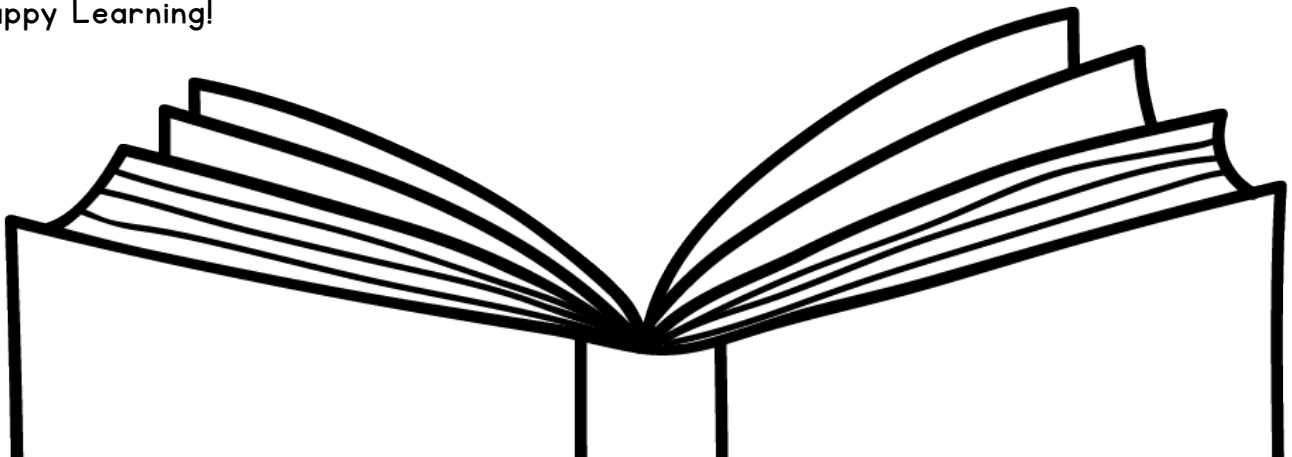
Research shows that developing fine and gross motor skills, building imaginative thinking skills, and fostering a sense of creativity are critically important skills for young learners. Additionally, these 'non-academic' skills build a strong foundation for the learning that happens inside our classroom. Therefore, this year we will be using an alternative to the traditional homework packet - an experience and play-based homework choice board.

Each month you will receive a choice board. These choice boards are not meant to be daunting or overwhelming. Rather, they are intended to build fine and gross motor skills, creativity, and imaginative skills. As students complete an activity, they may color that square in, and will be sharing their calendar with the class at the end of the month.

In addition to the attached choice board, we ask that you continue reading at home with your student each evening and practice our weekly phonics skills through our spelling words. At times, I may send home specific activities that would benefit your student. Regardless, these activities should take no more than 30 minutes of your evening, many times, it will be much less.

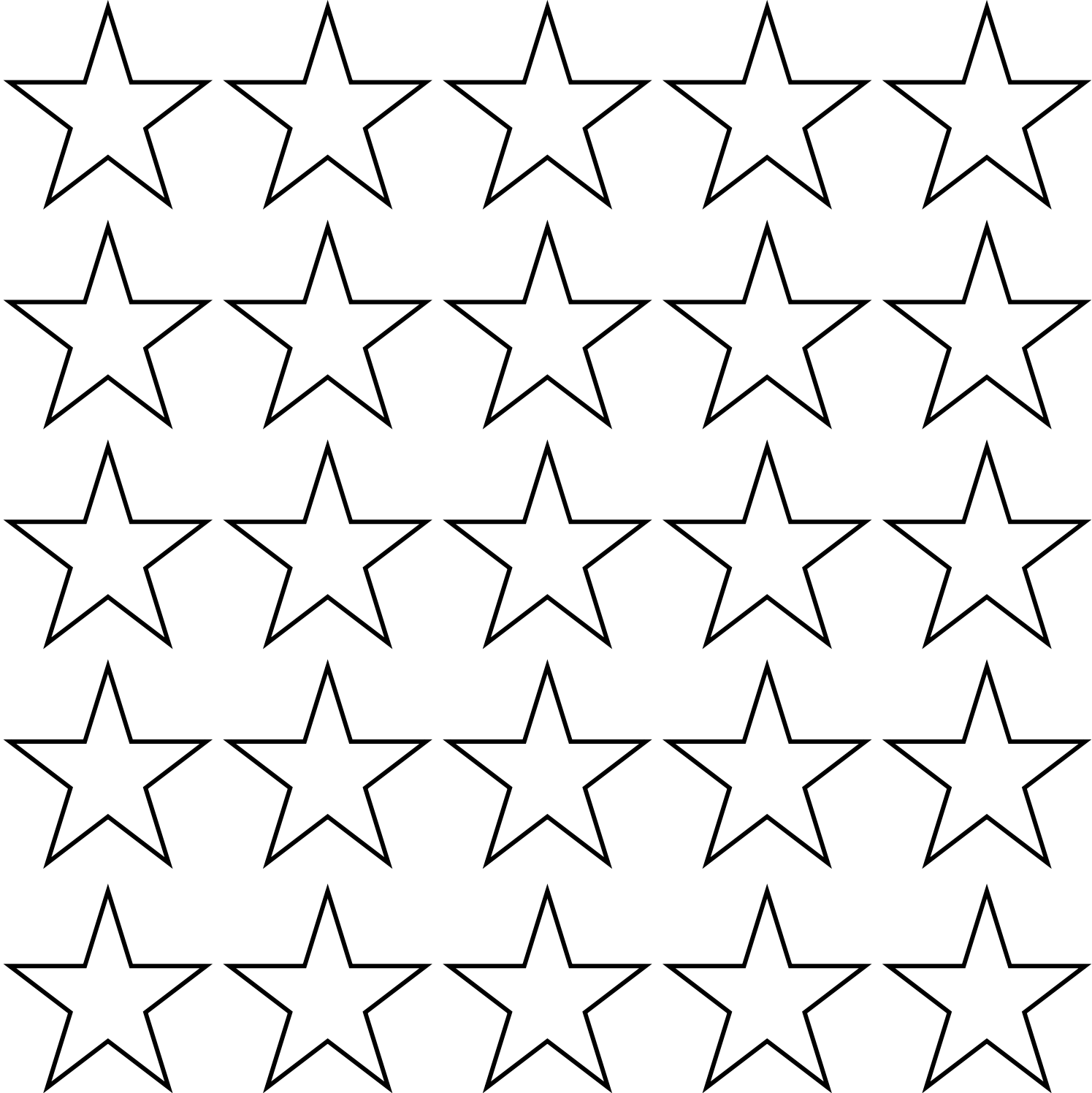
I appreciate your support as we explore a new avenue for monthly homework. I look forward to hearing your feedback and hearing about your experience with these choice boards.

Happy Learning!

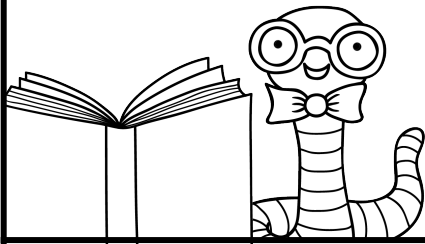


At-Home Reading

Each night please spend 15-20 minutes reading to and with your student. Research shows that the number of words read each year is a reliable predictor of future academic success. Additionally, reading is a fun family routine to build! Each time you read together, color a star.



This month, I read _____ times!



AUGUST

Below are 16 fun ideas for an after-school adventure. See how many you can complete in a month with your family! Share pictures and stories with your teacher throughout the month.

<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Draw a detailed picture and give it to a neighbor.</p>	<p>Find things outside that start with all the letters: A to Z.</p>	<p>Build a reading fort using a blanket, a chair, and a table.</p>	<p>Use a flashlight and your hands to make shadow animals on a wall.</p>
<p>Take a walk. As you're walking, tell a story about a frog, a rock, and a sailing boat.</p>	<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Call a family member you have not spoken to in a long time.</p>	<p>Search for a four-leaf clover and give it to a friend.</p>	<p>Recycle all the paper, aluminum, and plastic you can today!</p>
<p>Make a paper airplane and fly it outside.</p>	<p>Pick up trash around your neighborhood with an adult.</p>	<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Write a kind note. Then, send or give it to someone special.</p>	<p>Ask an adult about what they were like as a child.</p>
<p>Use chalk to create an outdoor mural.</p>	<p>When it is dark, go outside with an adult and look for stars.</p>	<p>Make a paper boat and float it in a sink. How many pennies can it hold?</p>	<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Help someone with a chore or job that is not their favorite.</p>

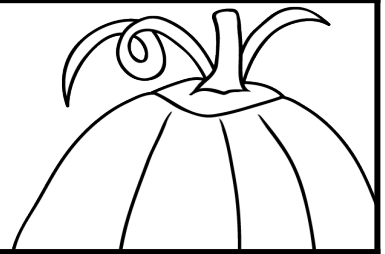
SEPTEMBER



Below are 16 fun ideas for an after-school adventure. See how many you can complete in a month with your family! Share pictures and stories with your teacher throughout the month.

<p>*Be Kind* Write a thank-you note to someone and give it to them.</p>	<p>Look at a map of the United States. Make a list of all the places you want to visit.</p>	<p>How many jumping jacks you can do in 1 minute? Sit-ups? Push-ups?</p>	<p>Read a story to an animal or to a stuffed friend.</p>
<p>See who is the best actor/actress while playing charades.</p>	<p>*Be Kind* Hold the door for every person you see today.</p>	<p>Make a list of all the things you can do with a paperclip. Be creative!</p>	<p>Collect 6 items from around your house and use them to make music.</p>
<p>Help make dinner and then set the table without being asked.</p>	<p>Watch the sunset. Draw a picture of what you saw.</p>	<p>*Be Kind* Write a thank-you note for the mailman or sanitation worker.</p>	<p>Lay on a blanket outside and enjoy reading.</p>
<p>Make binoculars (out of toilet paper or paper towel rolls) for exploring outside.</p>	<p>Go outside and make a list of all the sounds you hear.</p>	<p>Have a family skipping contest. Who won?</p>	<p>*Be Kind* Smile at every person you see today.</p>

OCTOBER



Below are 16 fun ideas for an after-school adventure. See how many you can complete in a month with your family! Share pictures and stories with your teacher throughout the month.

Be Kind

Play with a friend or sibling. Ask them what they want to play.

Create a maze and have someone try to finish it.

Play "I Spy" while taking a walk with an adult.

Have everyone in your family tell their best joke.

"Paint" a sidewalk with water.

Be Kind

Tell everyone in your house one reason you love them.

Count how many books you have in your house.

Turn on music and have a dance party.

With an adult, watch what happens when you put sugar in warm water.

Look at a picture for 30 seconds. See if you can draw exactly what you saw.

Be Kind

Write a thank-you note to our school custodian.

Turn off the TV for an entire day!

See if you can find 15 things that are pink in your house.

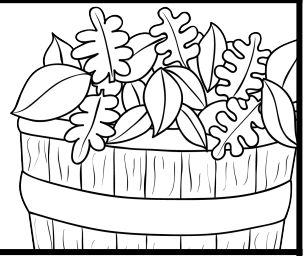
Teach yourself to juggle.

Play tic-tac-toe. Best of 5 wins!

Be Kind

Sit next to someone you have never sat next to at lunch.

NOVEMBER



Below are 16 fun ideas for an after-school adventure. See how many you can complete in a month with your family! Share pictures and stories with your teacher throughout the month.

<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Make a list of 10 things you are thankful for in your home.</p>	<p>Find 3 things outside and make a rubbing of their texture.</p>	<p>Clean-up someone else's mess without saying anything.</p>	<p>Make a fort out of blankets and play under it.</p>
<p>Reuse trash to make a beautiful collage for your room.</p>	<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Make a list of 10 things you are thankful for at school.</p>	<p>Make something old or recyclable into something new.</p>	<p>Find 15 things in your house or outside that start with the letter "W".</p>
<p>Re-read your favorite book.</p>	<p>Make a secret handshake with a friend or a person in your family.</p>	<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Make a list of 10 things you are thankful for outside.</p>	<p>Count how many birds you see today.</p>
<p>Play hide-and-seek inside of your house!</p>	<p>Clean your room before being asked.</p>	<p>Draw your favorite place in your house. Make sure to use lots of details.</p>	<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Make a list of 10 things you are thankful for in your town.</p>



DECEMBER

Below are 16 fun ideas for an after-school adventure. See how many you can complete in a month with your family! Share pictures and stories with your teacher throughout the month.

Be Kind

Draw a picture of yourself reading your favorite book. Give the picture to your school librarian.

Find 5 coins and make rubbings of their fronts and their backs.

Read while you are in the bathtub. Be careful to keep your book dry!

Dress up in someone else's clothes. Make sure to ask first!

Play Simon Says with everyone in your house. You are 'Simon' first!

Be Kind

Smile at every person you see today.

Create a beautiful picture only using circles, squares, and triangles.

Make a tall tower out of the pillows in your house.

Find things in your house that start with all the letters: A to Z.

Turn off all the lights and read with a flashlight.

Be Kind

Make a flower out of paper and give it to someone special.

Create a word search with 4 words. Have someone try to finish it.

Make a list of all the things you can do with a piece of paper. Be creative!

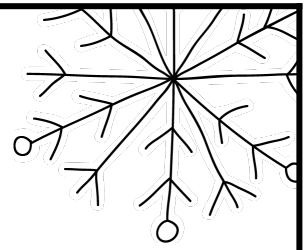
Draw a person out of 2 circles, 2 triangles, and 3 rectangles. Tell a story about the person you drew.

Take a walk around your house like it is a museum. What do you do see?

Be Kind

Write a thank you note to someone in your family.

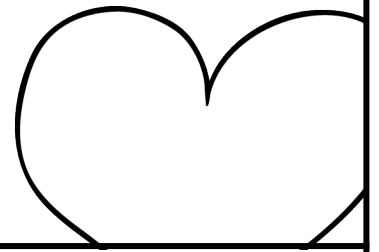
JANUARY



Below are 16 fun ideas for an after-school adventure. See how many you can complete in a month with your family! Share pictures and stories with your teacher throughout the month.

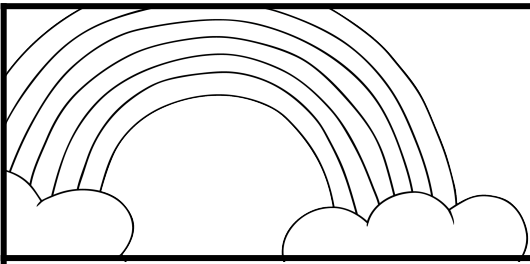
<p>*Be Kind* Write a thank-you note to a custodian at your school.</p>	<p>Sit in your favorite place in the house. For 5 minutes make a list of everything you see.</p>	<p>Become a teacher. Teach an adult how to do something you are great at!</p>	<p>Pretend to be Michelangelo. Tape a piece of paper to the underside of a table and draw upside down.</p>
<p>Make music using 5 things from your kitchen.</p>	<p>*Be Kind* Write a thank-you note to a specials teacher at your school.</p>	<p>Watch the clouds and make a list of all the animals you see!</p>	<p>Hide a special item around your house and have scavenger hunt.</p>
<p>Make up a Snow Dance and perform it for your family...even if it doesn't snow where you live!</p>	<p>With an adult, run as fast as you can for 30 seconds. How far did you go?</p>	<p>*Be Kind* Write a thank-you to someone at school who makes you happy.</p>	<p>Gather your stuffed animals and teach them something you learned at school.</p>
<p>Make a list of 10 things you have learned how to do this year.</p>	<p>Find these shapes in your house: a sphere, a cylinder, a cone, and a cube.</p>	<p>Collect boxes and make a tall tower out of them.</p>	<p>*Be Kind* Write a thank-you note to a secretary at your school.</p>

FEBRUARY



Below are 16 fun ideas for an after-school adventure. See how many you can complete in a month with your family! Share pictures and stories with your teacher throughout the month.

<p>*Be Kind* Give 10 high-fives today, all with a big smile.</p>	<p>For 1 minute, listen to the sounds around you. Then, make the favorite sound you heard.</p>	<p>If you could be any animal, what would you be? Why? Draw a picture of yourself as this animal.</p>	<p>How many books are in your house? Count them!</p>
<p>Make new (kind) names for everyone who lives in your house.</p>	<p>*Be Kind* Pick up 5 pieces of trash and throw them out.</p>	<p>Who in your house can do the most jumping jacks? How many did they do?</p>	<p>Make a paper airplane and measure how far it flies.</p>
<p>Hide something in your house and create a treasure map to help someone find it!</p>	<p>Make up a story about a rock, a cloud, and a very tiny chicken.</p>	<p>*Be Kind* Ask an adult in your house, "How may I help you?"</p>	<p>Make a list of all the things you can do with a piece of paper. Be creative!</p>
<p>Find the most beautiful thing in your house and draw every detail.</p>	<p>Make a list of 5 things you want to do this year.</p>	<p>Instead of talking, sing all of your ideas for an entire hour.</p>	<p>*Be Kind* Help an adult tie their shoes today.</p>

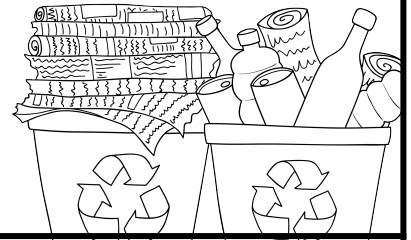


MARCH

Below are 16 fun ideas for an after-school adventure. See how many you can complete in a month with your family! Share pictures and stories with your teacher throughout the month.

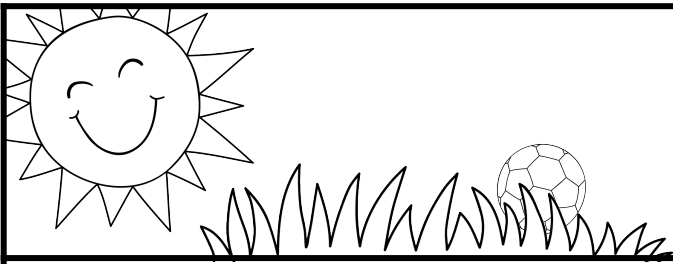
<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Make a list of 3 ways you can be kind this week. Do all 3 things.</p>	<p>Re-read your favorite book.</p>	<p>With an adult, count how many stars you see in the sky.</p>	<p>Make something new out of something that is old or recyclable.</p>
<p>How many hops can you take in 1 minute? How many jumps?</p>	<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Call someone who is not feeling well or you haven't seen in a while.</p>	<p>Invite a friend to play outside with you. Make up a new game.</p>	<p>If you were a bird, where would you fly? Draw a picture of where you would go.</p>
<p>Make a megaphone out of paper and sing a song for your family.</p>	<p>Go outside and play "I Spy" with a friend. Let them be 'it' first.</p>	<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Tell someone in your house 3 reasons they are awesome.</p>	<p>Go outside and make a list of all the textures you can feel.</p>
<p>How many times can you write your name in 1 minute?</p>	<p>Count how many animals you see today.</p>	<p>Find 15 things in your house or outside that start with blend bl- or fl-.</p>	<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Help pick-up your home without being asked.</p>

APRIL



Below are 16 fun ideas for an after-school adventure. See how many you can complete in a month with your family! Share pictures and stories with your teacher throughout the month.

<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Invite a friend over to play. Let them choose what you do.</p>	<p>With an adult, take a walk outside, backwards.</p>	<p>Build a reading fort using a blanket, a chair, and a table.</p>	<p>Make a puzzle and have someone try to solve it.</p>
<p>Make a list of 5 things that are great about being a kid.</p>	<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Do your least favorite chore without being asked <u>and</u> before playing.</p>	<p>Find 10 things in your house that are a rectangular prism.</p> 	<p>Launch rubber bands with an adult. Whose rubber band went farther?</p>
<p>Pretend you're a grasshopper. Only move by hopping when you get home.</p>	<p>Think of something new to invent and draw a diagram of your creation.</p>	<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Smile and say, "Hello!" to everyone you pass today.</p>	<p>Make a secret signal with a person in your family and use it all night.</p>
<p>Pick a book and read it using only the pictures.</p>	<p>Look at your kitchen for 30 seconds. See if you can draw exactly what you saw.</p>	<p>Having a skipping contest with your family. Who is the best skipper? Who needs more practice?</p>	<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Draw a picture of a beautiful place and share it with someone special.</p>

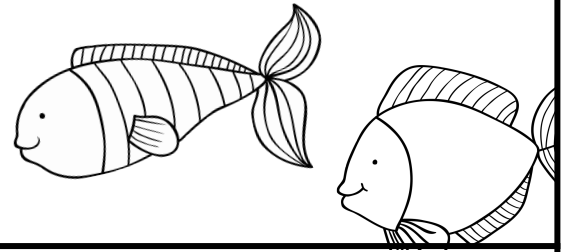


MAY

Below are 16 fun ideas for an after-school adventure. See how many you can complete in a month with your family! Share pictures and stories with your teacher throughout the month.

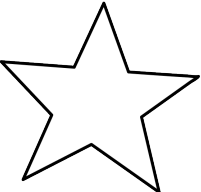
<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Write a kind note. Then, send or give it to someone special.</p>	<p>What do you want to learn to do this month? How are you going to learn it?</p>	<p>Take a walk and collect flowers. Put the flowers in water when you get home.</p>	<p>Practice crab-walking outside and then, race with a friend.</p>
<p>Find a basketball. How many times can you dribble it in 1 minute?</p>	<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Draw a picture of yourself eating your favorite food. Give it to the school cafeteria.</p>	<p>Collect your stuffed animals. Read them a bedtime story.</p>	<p>Make a box out of paper. Then, find something special to put inside of it.</p>
<p>Find 10 things in your house that are cylinder-shaped.</p> 	<p>With an adult, walk as fast as you can for 60 seconds. How far did you go?</p>	<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Make a paper airplane and give it to a friend to fly.</p>	<p>Imagine you lived on the moon. Draw what your house would look like?</p>
<p>Go for a walk with an adult. Take turns telling a silly story about a cloud.</p>	<p>With an adult, search for a ladybug outside. Draw what it looks like.</p>	<p>Make a list of all the things you can do with a box. Be creative!</p>	<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Make a list of 5 beautiful things you see outside.</p>

JUNE

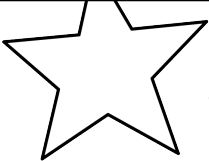


Below are 16 fun ideas for an after-school adventure. See how many you can complete in a month with your family! Share pictures and stories with your teacher throughout the month.

<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Draw a detailed picture and give it to a neighbor.</p>	<p>Find things outside that start with all the letters: A to Z.</p>	<p>Build a reading fort using a blanket, a chair, and a table.</p>	<p>Use a flashlight and your hands to make shadow animals on a wall.</p>
<p>Take a walk. As you're walking, tell a story about a frog, a rock, and a sailing boat.</p>	<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Call a family member you have not spoken to in a long time.</p>	<p>Search for a four-leaf clover and give it to a friend.</p>	<p>Recycle all the paper, aluminum, and plastic you can today!</p>
<p>Make a paper airplane and fly it outside.</p>	<p>Pick up trash around your neighborhood with an adult.</p>	<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Write a kind note. Then, send or give it to someone special.</p>	<p>Ask an adult about what they were like as a child.</p>
<p>Use chalk to create an outdoor mural.</p>	<p>When it is dark, go outside with an adult and look for stars.</p>	<p>Make a paper boat and float it in a sink. How many pennies can it hold?</p>	<p>*Be Kind*</p> <p>Help someone with a chore or job that is not their favorite.</p>



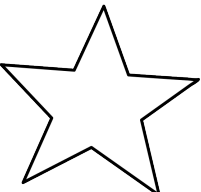
WAY TO GO!



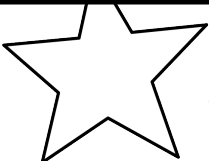
_____ worked hard this month and
completed _____ activities on our Homework Board.
You are growing your mind in so many different ways.
I am SO proud. Keep up the great work!

(Date)

(Teacher Signature)




WAY TO GO!



_____ worked hard this month and
completed _____ activities on our Homework Board.
You are growing your mind in so many different ways.
I am SO proud. Keep up the great work!

(Date)

(Teacher Signature)

[illegible]

Name:

Giving Credit



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Additional Resources

