

# SCHOOL AGE

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Week

5

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Smart Activities



SMART CHOICE. SMARTER CHILD.®

## Dollar Detective

**Materials:** one-dollar bill, markers, paper, optional: magnifying glass

**Instructions:**

Look at the one-dollar bill in your hand. It truly is an informative piece of artistic history. A dollar is full of numbers, symbols, seals, and other interesting features. You just have to look closely to discover these things.

**The front of any bill is the side with the picture and has the following:**

1. Every US bill, regardless of its **denomination** (spending power) features the face of a leader.  
The \$1 bill shows our nation's first president, George Washington.  
Check out the \$5, \$10, and \$20 bills - Whose pictures appear on those?
2. Every bill has a unique number made from numbers and letters. It's called a serial number.
3. Every bill includes a series date. This date tells the year this bill's design was made.
4. Every bill carries two signatures: On the right side is the Treasurer of the United States and on the left is the Secretary of the Treasury. That means double security.

**The back side of a bill is different depending on its dollar value. Here is what's on a \$1 bill:**

1. The number one appears as a numeral and as a word. How many times do you see 1 and one on your bill?
2. The Great seal appears in two parts. On the left, you see a pyramid. It stands for strength. On the right is our national bird, the bald eagle.
3. Look at that eagle very closely. Do you know what the bird's shield represents? What do those arrows mean above its head?

Now it's time for you to use your creativity. Use paper and markers to design a new paper bill.  
Decide on its value. How about a bill that is worth \$1.50? Less quarters or fifty cent pieces might be needed if we had a \$1.50 bill.  
Decide colors and words to use.  
Decide on the size of your new bill.

Have fun printing some unusually unique money!



## Jailhouse Rock

**Materials:** internet access

**Instructions:**

Our paper money is made at the US Treasury Mint under the most securely guarded conditions imaginable to avoid theft or forgery. Your new money designs cannot be duplicated even though some people have tried. These people are called counterfeiters and they go to jail. So, don't try to spend those new bills you just designed, or you'll be doing the **Jailhouse Rock!**

**Use this link to dance out the sittin' down kinks!**

<https://youtu.be/JbxDwaGwi2Q>

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## Fractured Friend

**Materials:** 2 sheets of white paper (9"x12"), crayons or colored pencils, glue

**Instructions:**

1. Draw a self-portrait of your face, a family member, or a friend from the neck up on one of the sheets of paper. The face drawing should cover most of the paper.
2. Color in all the facial features - hair, eyes, lips, eyebrows, etc.
3. Cut out the face you drew.
4. Using the scissors, cut the face into several different shapes. Your drawing is now in pieces. (Using shapes with straight edges works best.)
5. Glue the cut pieces onto the second sheet of paper to reassemble your face portrait but leave some space between the pieces.
6. The finished product will be fractured in the artistic style called Cubism.



Pablo Picasso is best known for this style of painting called Cubism: paintings whose outcomes resemble a piece of broken glass.

## Pass the Salt - No Hands, Please!

**Materials:** internet access, materials around the house, garage or tool shed, website:

<https://youtu.be/nORRgU8sGdE>

**Preparation:** Preview this totally ingenious video.

### Instructions:

1. Watch this incredible video for inspiration.
2. Think of a project that you could design.

**What would the design do - what would its purpose be? The purpose could be helpful or just zany fun!**

3. Look for materials that could be used – **Caution:** Don't tear things apart or destroy, especially things that belong to other family members! Scour for loose parts.
4. Design your apparatus, test, and retest. Make a video to share.



### Here are some ideas to get started:

- Make a conveyor belt
- Make a toothpaste tube squeezer
- Make a way to open and close the refrigerator, drawers, closets without using your hands
- Make a paper towel dispenser
- Use a skateboard as a delivery tool
- Use the title of the activity for inspiration and design a way to pass things at the table.
- Make a pancake flipper
- Make a bed maker



## Calendar of Family Virtual Field Trips

**Materials:** internet access

**Instructions:**

1. Use this link to see a calendar of April and May virtual field trips the whole family can enjoy:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qpFAQz\\_Qjt0ZTVTixAyuGRjsKGYI23CjlaO9eLBkThE/mobilebasic](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qpFAQz_Qjt0ZTVTixAyuGRjsKGYI23CjlaO9eLBkThE/mobilebasic)
2. Just click on a date on the calendars to start your virtual trip.
3. There are also some weekday activities that are worth checking into as well.

**Daily activities (weekdays only):**

Josh Gad (Olaf from Frozen) reads books every weeknight (times vary but you can also watch the recorded videos) on Twitter - #GadBookClub  
Drawing with Michael Woodside - learn to draw Disney Characters - live streamed on YouTube and Instagram daily at 10:00 am - #drawingwithwoosy (videos are recorded)  
Lunch Doodles with Mo Willems - draw with author and illustrator Mo Willems daily on YouTube at 12:00 pm #MOLunchdoodles. (videos are recorded) For more information go to: <https://www.kennedy-center.org/mowillems>  
Want more?? - Check out this spreadsheet:  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/121u24nzZE7hLduT8zdDHowZ8Vvl-IUrorUP5E5UBkts/edit?fbclid=IwAR0kYHStNFWWBbz\\_RZH9Y-mqc\\_Ohh4DGaVN6jqFiZA80wCqM2Rf3P6RxNw4#gid=560148342](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/121u24nzZE7hLduT8zdDHowZ8Vvl-IUrorUP5E5UBkts/edit?fbclid=IwAR0kYHStNFWWBbz_RZH9Y-mqc_Ohh4DGaVN6jqFiZA80wCqM2Rf3P6RxNw4#gid=560148342)

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## Sumo Wrestling with Pillows

**Materials:** large t-shirt, pillows

**Instructions:**

Put on the oversized t-shirt and stuff the inside with a bed pillow so you're thickly padded.

**Nothing like a little sumo!**



## Tie Dye Glue

**Age Group:** 5-7 and 8-12 years old

**Materials:** paper plate, glue, spoon, water, food coloring, dish detergent, bowl

**Preparation:** Mix 1 cup of glue with ¼ cup of water in a bowl. Mix well with a spoon.

### Instructions:

1. Pour some of the glue and water mixture onto a paper plate (enough to have a thin covering of glue.)
2. Tilt the plate, moving your wrists in small circles to spread the glue. You will do this until the glue and water mixture completely covers the surface of the plate.
3. Place two or three drops each of different food coloring on the glue solution on your paper plate.
4. Squeeze a drop of dish soap onto each food coloring drop and watch the magic begin.
5. If you would like to extend this activity, you can use a blank white piece of paper and lightly press it onto your tie dye plate. Watch the color transfer and leave your paper in a safe place to dry.



## Virtual Tour: U.S. Botanical Gardens

**Age Group:** 5-7 and 8-12 years old

**Materials:** internet access, website: <https://www.usbg.gov/take-virtual-tour>

### Instructions:

As trees, flowers, and plants begin to bloom around our country, take a virtual tour of the U.S. Botanical Gardens. Botanical gardens devote their resources to the study and conservation of plants. As you travel around the gardens, keep an eye out for plants that look familiar to you as well as plants that maybe you've never seen before!

Here are some things to document as you tour the gardens:

- What colors do you see the most of? What color did you see the least?
- Did you spot any plants that you have seen before? What were they?
- Were some plants inside of buildings? If so, why do you think they grow some plants inside?
- Try to draw one of the plants that you saw along your tour!

### Expansion for ages 8-12

Expand your knowledge about Botanical gardens by researching into the following questions:

- Why are botanical gardens important?
- What role do greenhouses have in helping to grow plants?
- Why are botanical gardens important to scientists?
- Can plants be rare or endangered?



## Botanical Sun Catchers

**Age Group:** 5-7 and 8-12 years old

**Materials:** paper plate, contact paper or clear packing tape, variety of flower petals and leaves, scissors, hole punch, yarn or string

**Preparation:** Go outside and gather a variety of flower petals and leaves. Be gentle with the flowers and plants as you gather some pieces for your project.

### Instructions:

1. Cut out the center of the plate. Line the back of the plate with contact paper or clear packing tape so that the sticky side faces the front of the plate.
2. Turn your plate so that you are looking at the front. Begin to arrange your petals and leaves on the sticky surface in the center of the plate. Think about making patterns as you arrange them. You can make a pattern based on alternating colors, sizes, etc.
3. Once you have finished arranging your petals and leaves the way you want them, you are going to add another layer of contact paper or clear packing tape. You will add a layer over top of the leaves and petals you arranged. Make sure you apply a light pressure to the tape to make sure it will stay in place and keep your petals and leaves in place.
4. Make two small holes near the top of the plate and attach yarn or string through the holes so you can hang your sun catcher!
5. Display your botanical sun catcher in a sunny window of your home! Make sure to observe it when the sun shines through the window. Your sun catchers will add a bit of colorful cheer!



## Songwriting with Family and Friends

**Age Group:** 5-12 years old - This can be done individually for older children.

**Materials:** paper, pencils, crayons, pens, \*optional: internet access, website:

<https://www.poetry4kids.com/rhymes/>

**Preparation:** What songwriting actually is: research, writing (drafting and revising), seeing patterns of words, repetition, playing with rhyme, using rhythm, creating an interesting story, rehearsing

### Instructions:

Something to keep in mind overall: how can you add a catchy surprise to the song? To begin:

1. Research a list of topics that you like and decide on one. It can be something general that relates to the world today or it can be something special to your family or group of friends. For example, it can be about the life cycle of a plant, Earth Day, spreading kindness, or a special memory you all share. Be creative!
2. Use the paper to brainstorm everything you know about the topic. It doesn't need to be neat or organized. You are just trying to get all the ideas down on paper.
3. Use the brainstorm to create a rough draft. Play around with rhythms and rhymes. Keep re-writing to make sure the song makes sense and sounds like it flows.
4. When performing the song, pay attention to rhythm, rhymes, and meaning. Revise as needed.

Some things to remember if you are working with other people:

- It is ok to be assertive with your ideas.
- If you have a disagreement about an idea, always be respectful.
- Find a way to collaborate and work together, so that everyone is pleased with the results.

\*If you have trouble getting started, try using a song you already know and rewriting the lyrics.

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## Chrome Music Lab

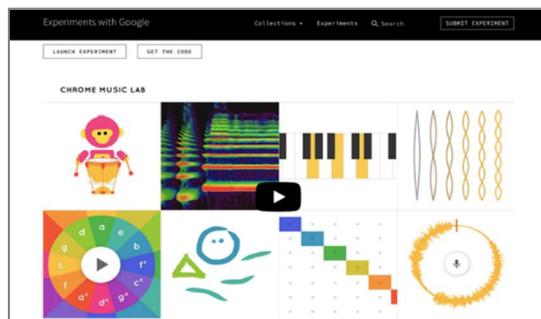
**Materials:** internet access, website: <https://musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/Experiments>

**Preparation:** This website features hands-on technology that uses artificial intelligence to create experiments for music. It is free and no account is needed. It can be related to learning about music, science, math, art, dance, and can be used alone or combined with real instruments.

### Instructions:

Use with any device.

Encourage your child to use this interactive technology to create and play with different musical effects and create beats, rhythms, and more. Enjoy!



## The Friendship Song

**Materials:** song lyrics (included), *optional; internet access, website:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5TvUQvcUtF4>

**\*IMPORTANT: Only use KIDZ BOP resources for this activity.**

**Preparation:** Use the KIDZ BOP song "Truth Hurts" with the new lyrics below to learn the song. Dance moves in table below: please elaborate and improvise as you like!

### Instructions:

#### [Intro]

Why are friends great? Tell you why we are great!  100  
Woo!

#### [Verse 1]

I just took a kindness day test - turns out I'm 100% that great! 100  
Even when I'm flying solo   
Yah, I get friend problems, that's the human in me   
Bling, bling then we solve 'em, that's the hero in me!    
I want to be a good friend, I'm committed  
We all have value - not just a little   
Worries got you down...Hey I got your back  
My friend - You're on the inside track

Shrug shoulders	
Pump both hands in air	<u>100</u>
Airplane arms	
Heart hands over heart	
Put on crown	
Dance to the beat	

#### [Chorus]

Why are friends great? Tell you why we are great!   
Feel-ing mad - or kind of out-of-place  
Good friends yeah, we're showing how we do care  
Respect and trust - because we play fair  
We're friends here; you'll never see us fighting   
New friends - yeah, a smile is so exciting  
Kindness - it's how we are uniting  
Bom bom bi dom bi dum bum bay 

#### [Final]

I got power in my heart  
You got power in your heart  
Yah we got whatever's coming our way right from the start  
Bom bom bi dom bi dum bum bay!

**\*Note: Only use KIDZ BOP resources for this activity.**

## Dada Art

**Materials:** collection of junk odds and ends, scissors, tape, glue, string

**Instructions:**

**Dada** was an art movement formed during the First World War in Zurich, Switzerland. The movement started as a reaction to the horrors of the war. Art, poetry, and performance creations produced by **dada** artists is often nonsensical and quirky in nature.



Here are the process instructions to try some creations:

- Collect and select special junk.
- Look over your collection and decide how to twist the concept of a collected piece into something it was not originally meant to do.

**Examples:**

How can an egg carton become a bed for bugs? Line each egg cup with cloth scraps and a bit of a cotton puff for a pillow. Make some creatures for each bed. Call your creation: **BED BUGS HOTEL**.

Find an old vase or pot and have it sprout knives, forks, and spoons instead of flowers. Call your creation: **MEALTIME BLOSSOMS**.

Decorate an old pair of glasses with crazy wrapping paper lenses with small round holes to see through. Call your creation: **PINPOINT THE VIEW**

Now's time to become a Dadaist artist – start collecting – look in those junk drawers first!

## Start a Virtual Comic Book

**Materials:** internet access, paper, markers, website: [www.sandraandwoo.com](http://www.sandraandwoo.com)

My best friend now is a comic book. It's always there to share a look!

Start an original comic strip and share with friend groups virtually.

### A short history of newspaper comic strips



7.6 CM X 24.2 CM  
ORIGINAL FULL-PAGE FORMAT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE LAST CENTURY



5.8 CM X 18.4 CM  
COMMONLY USED FORMAT OF DAILY STRIPS IN THE LAST CENTURY UNTIL THE 1940'S



4.8 CM X 15.2 CM  
COMMONLY USED FORMAT OF DAILY STRIPS TODAY



3.8 CM X 12.1 CM  
FORMAT OF A DAILY STRIP PRINTED IN THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Sandra and Woo by Oliver Knörzer (writer), Powree (artist) and Lisa Moore (colorist) - www.sandraandwoo.com

## Get Moving!

**Materials:** internet access, website: <https://www.gonoodle.com/>

**Preparation:** Preview the website.

**Instructions:**

**GoNoodle®** engages 14 million kids every month with movement and mindfulness videos created by child development experts. Available for free at school, home, everywhere.

Sign up and build up! This is a site the entire family can enjoy and do together. So, what's stopping you, get started!

