

# Shady Lane School Parent Newsletter September 2020

For questions and comments, contact Julie at  
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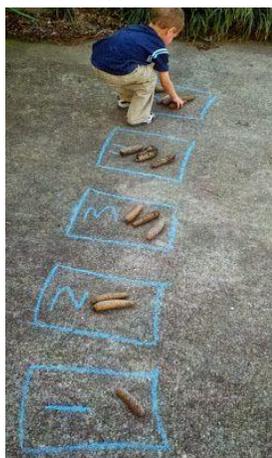
## A Message from Jodi Davenport...

Hello, Shady Lane family! Welcome to the first issue of the Shady Lane School Parent Newsletter. Inside, you will find activities, inspiration, and resources to help you continue your child's learning at home. We are so grateful to Ms. Julie Lind for volunteering her time and knowledge to put this newsletter together for our parents and caregivers. Ms. Julie was a longtime teacher in the Violet Class and we look forward to her rejoining the Shady Lane team after COVID-19 is resolved. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy these ideas, and be sure check your inbox each month for more!

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## Are you looking for ideas to reinforce number awareness with your child?

- When on a walk, play "Can you find...?" Look for numbers on traffic signs, numbers on the addresses on houses and on license plates; see if your child can find 3 trees, 4 white cars, 5 yard signs, 2 telephone poles; can you count the number of windows on the front of a house, the number of letters on a stop sign, etc.
- Make a hopscotch board on the sidewalk with chalk
- Draw boxes with chalk – one number in each box. Child collects pinecones, leaves, rocks...whatever is available...and puts the appropriate number of items in each box.



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- Some more number games –
- <https://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-and-experiments/walk-the-number-line-a-number-recognition-activity>
- <https://www.pre-kpages.com/counting-games-activities-preschoolers/>
- Check out these two videos on the Shady Lane YouTube channel for ideas you can create at home:

Numbers construction site  
<https://youtu.be/dfcRw6YCIMM>

Counting with toilet paper tubes  
<https://youtu.be/-o0PmgvTTZw>

## NPR – “Welcome To Story Hour: 100 Favorite Books For Young Readers” by Petra Mayer

<https://www.npr.org/2020/08/31/905804301/welcome-to-story-hour-100-favorite-books-for-young-readers>

# B

Raise kids who love to read.  
Get reading picks, tips, and tricks  
delivered to your inbox.

<https://www.readbrightly.com/>

I have found the book suggestions that Brightly sends to be very helpful. They deliver age-appropriate book suggestions to your email inbox.

For example, they have lists on

Books to help kids understand the fight for racial equality; 14 must-have books for 3-year-olds; Diverse books; Religion and spirituality; Science and STEM; Books boys love; Books girls love; Fairy Tales; Humor; and more!

## Carnegie Library Book Lists

If you start a librarian chat from the [carnegielibrary.org](http://carnegielibrary.org) website, you can ask the Readers' Advisory Team to create a list of books on a particular theme. Give them your child's age, the topic you would like to explore, and maybe your purpose, and they will put together a list of items for you.

# How to Make Homemade Playdough

The BEST homemade playdough recipe – make in less than 5 minutes for under a \$1 and have it last for months! It is so soft and squishy and cuts perfectly with cookie cutters. It's good for fine motor development.

## Equipment

Large pot  
Spoon for stirring  
Gallon size bag or wax paper for cooling

## Ingredients

2 cups all-purpose flour  
3/4 cup salt  
4 teaspoons cream of tartar  
2 cups lukewarm water  
2 Tablespoons vegetable oil (coconut oil works too)  
Food coloring

## Instructions

Stir together the flour, salt and cream of tartar in a large pot. Next add the water and oil. If you're only making one color, stir in the color now.

1. Cook over medium-heat, stirring constantly. Continue stirring until the dough has thickened and begins to form into a ball. Remove from heat and then place inside a bowl, gallon sized bag or onto wax paper.
2. Allow to cool slightly and then knead until smooth. If you're adding colors after, divide the dough into balls (for how many colors you want) and then add the dough into the quart sized bags. Start with about 5 drops of color and add more to brighten it. Knead the dough, while inside the bag so it doesn't stain your hands. Once it's all mixed together, you're ready to PLAY.
3. Store the play dough inside the bags to keep soft. If stored properly it will keep soft for up to 3 months.

Source: How to Make Homemade Playdough by I Heart Naptime Find full recipe notes and reviews here: <https://www.iheartnaptime.net/play-dough-recipe/>

“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.” – Benjamin Franklin

“By loving them for more than their abilities we show our children that they are much more than the sum of their accomplishments.”

– Eileen Kennedy-Moore, [Smart Parenting for Smart Kids: Nurturing Your Child's True Potential](#)



## Do you have an older child in your home who loves baseball?

Check out these activities from the Pittsburgh Pirates:

[https://www.mlb.com/pirates/fans/activities?partnerId=zh-20200830-239424-PIT&qid=32&bt\\_ee=3U%2Bm3BtvRwjMABeX%2BNPrYkR0u%2FvRwjX2Enl4tz%2F5lurAkWdhbt9Q%2F%2FGnmvZf3GC&bt\\_ts=1598793188172](https://www.mlb.com/pirates/fans/activities?partnerId=zh-20200830-239424-PIT&qid=32&bt_ee=3U%2Bm3BtvRwjMABeX%2BNPrYkR0u%2FvRwjX2Enl4tz%2F5lurAkWdhbt9Q%2F%2FGnmvZf3GC&bt_ts=1598793188172)

## Fred Rogers' Six Basic Necessities of Learning

With so many children in new learning situations, adults may be wondering about the kinds of learning and stimulation children need to continue to grow. In 1983, Fred Rogers and Barry Head considered this question. In *Mister Rogers Talks with Parents*, they introduced these six basic necessities of learning. This list may be a reminder that what children need for learning is simple and deep. Click on the link and you will find some ideas about each.

- (1) a sense of self-worth,
- (2) a sense of trust,
- (3) curiosity,
- (4) the capacity to look and listen carefully,
- (5) the capacity to play, and
- (6) times of solitude.

To learn more:

<https://www.fredrogerscenter.org/what-we-do/child-wellness/coronavirus-response#1584623471938-4f504a1c-8aa8>