Whew! We are almost to the end! I hope everyone has a fantastic summer! We will be closing out our classroom themes with Desert and Ocean. This newsletter has some fun ideas to get you through the summer!

**Games for Car Rides:**

These fun games target speech and language as well as cognitive skills such as memory and categorization and academic skills such as rhyming and sound and letter awareness!

1. **I Spy**—some people like to do this with things outside the car, but things move fast when your going down the highway at 75, so I like to do things inside the car!
2. **Travel Bingo**—you can find premade cards or make your own either on a computer or hand drawn, using items you think you will see depending on where you are traveling!
3. **Going on a Trip**—great game for auditory memory! Each person says something they are going to take on a trip, and the next person has to list all of the items plus a new one!
4. **Rhyme Time**—shout out a word and see how many rhyming words your children can shout it in response! Remember, nonsense words are even better! You can model going through the alphabet replacing the sounds!
5. **20 Questions**—great way to work on asking questions and thinking of categories! You can make your categories broad like the traditional person, place or thing, or narrow, like I am thinking of a pet!
6. **Category Game**—Pick a category, for example, farm animals, and go around listing something from that category until no one can think of any more. Similar game is Letter Game—Pick a letter or sound, such as s, and go around until no one can think of any more words that start with that sound!

**Self Help: Packing for Trips**

I know it’s easier to pack for your kids, but teaching them now can make your life easier in the future! Have them help you lay out outfits, reminding them they need underwear, pants, shirt, and socks. Putting each item in a gallon ziplock bag is an easy way to organize outfits! Talk about what else they need, such as toothbrushes, swimsuits, jackets, shoes.

**Social Emotional: Changes in Routines**

I know how hard traveling can be with young children: the schedule is a mess, the food is different, nobody is sleeping well! Check out this article from Scholastic on how to navigate all those changes for a (mostly) meltdown free vacation!

*Traveling with Preschoolers Made Easy*
Fine Motor and Sensory:

Check out these links for some great ideas on activities to further motor development and some fun sensory activities with summer themes!

Summer Developmental Activities
Summer Sensory Activities

Gross Motor:

As the school year is coming to an end, the summer is a great time for your preschool kids to try out an activity they may be interested in (or you’re interested in getting them interested in :) including but not limited to swimming, soccer, tumbling, etc. At this early age most of the kids are new to the sport and the playing field is even. Not only are sports a great way to improve strength, coordination, and balance but they also provide a great way to keep them engaged over the summer, continue to work on following directions, and provide a great social connection. Here’s a list of activities you can engage your child in at home or on your trips this summer.

50 Screen Free Gross Motor Skills and Activities for Home

Books:

Fun Activities:

Summer Swim Activities-Improve Balance, Coordination, and Strength
Having fun, staying cool, and continuing developmental skills!

Treat Time: Make an ice cream sandwich! Practice licking the ice cream!
Semi Home-Made Ice Cream Sandwiches