



Dear Parents of Rising Junior K students,

We are so excited about your scholar entering JK in August!

At BOLPA, we fully believe in developing your scholar not only academically but also socially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. That being said, the attached summer ideas holistically focus on preparing your child for JK. We hope you and your scholar will enjoy completing some of these activities together, along with the many other events and activities you have planned for the summer.

In addition, we strongly recommend that you read with your scholar daily. A fun coloring page is included where your scholar can color in one book for each book you read together this summer. We hope this allows you and your scholar to spend about 15 minutes together each day, free of technological distractions like the phone, tablets, and television. Reading together daily will help build your scholar's capacity to focus, grow and develop their vocabulary and background knowledge and increase their listening skills, which are fundamental to phonological awareness and reading readiness.

As you read together:

- Pause to ask your scholar questions: Who is this story about? What has happened? What do you think will happen next? Tell me what you see in the pictures!
- Play with sounds - for example, if the main character's name is Kesha, say the name a few times and tell your scholar, "I hear the /k/ sound at the beginning of Kesha - can you say the /k/ sound with me?" or if the book has rhyming words, review those words with your scholar after you read them.
- Have your scholar hold the book and turn the pages. Ask them to point to where you should start reading on a page. You can be silly and hold the book upside down and ask your scholar if you're ready to start reading to ensure they understand how to hold the book.
- Point underneath each word as you read to them. This builds the awareness of directionality in reading and speech-to-print correspondence.
- When you are done reading together, ask your scholar to retell the story to you or have them tell a sibling or other family member about the book.

If you do not already have a library card, the library is hosting several events this summer with free food, free Mempoops, music, face painting, and more where you can have a bit of fun

as a family and sign up for a library card!
Happy reading!

This summer, to continue learning, we ask that parents partner with us by purchasing Summer Bridge workbooks. This workbook can be purchased online at Amazon or the Summer Bridge Workbook website linked below. The workbook is divided into days and will cover a plethora of academic skills needed for Jr-K. Jr-K scholars are required to complete at least 20 days in the workbook.

Scholars will turn in the workbook (labeled) on August 11, 2023, to their teacher. The summer learning workbook includes 60 days of learning, and scholars who push past the minimum required daily learning will be rewarded.

Bronze: Complete 20 or more days of learning

Silver: Complete 40 or more days of learning

Gold: Complete 60 or more days of learning

Each group will receive a prize befitting their level (number of days completed).

Summer Bridge Website Purchase: <https://www.summerbridgeactivities.org/>

Amazon Purchase:

https://www.amazon.com/s?i=stripbooks&rh=p_27%3ASummer+Bridge+Activities&s=relevancerank&text=Summer+Bridge+Activities&ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1

Getting Ready for JK at Breath of Life Preparatory Academy!

As we get ready to welcome your scholar in August, you can help ensure their first few weeks will go as smoothly as possible by practicing the following skills over the summer:

1. **Share wants and needs:** Help your scholar learn to express what they want or need by giving them a sentence starter such as “Can you try saying, ‘Mama, I need to use the bathroom.’”
2. **Get dressed independently:** Allow your scholar to dress, including snaps, buttons, and zippers. Show them how to do what they might not know how to do yet, practice it together, and then give them space to try it on their own.
3. **Fine motor skills:** Have your scholar thread beads, play with playdough and fingerpaint, play with blocks, complete puzzles, color, and use safety scissors to try cutting paper into pieces.
4. **Recognize their name:** Help your scholar recognize their name in print by labeling their things or just writing their name on post-it notes around the house and pointing it out to them.

5. **Letter names and sounds:** Show an interest in letters and letter sounds. Point them out when you're reading, shopping, or driving! Talk about the letters and sounds in their name and other family members' names.
6. **Clean-up Skills:** Have your scholar help with cleaning up their room, their toys, a meal, or around the house. Have them clean up one toy before playing with something else.
7. **Numbers and Counting:** Count all the time! Count steps as you walk, sticks in the yard, shoes in the closet - anything! Point out numbers you encounter in the environment - prices of items while shopping, numbers on signs, etc.
8. **Sorting/matching:** Try different activities where your child can match shapes or colors. Even sorting and matching socks is a great practice!
9. **Separate from Parents:** If your scholar has separation anxiety and/or has not gone to school, practice a few times over the summer where you have to separate so their first experience is not the first day of school.
10. **Independent Play:** Have your child pick out an activity, play independently for 15-20 minutes (without technology), and clean up independently when asked.

Blessings on your summer!













Need Help?

Contact the Main Office (901-383-5546) during Summer Office Hours (M-Th, 9:00-1:00).

Get Ready for JK!

Please color one ☺ in the box each time the skill is practiced. Please practice each skill at least 3 times.

I Can...

express <u>how</u> I am feeling in a complete sentence. (sad, happy, mad, afraid) and <u>why</u> I feel that way.	get dressed by myself.	tell a friend or family member a real or make-believe story.
		
count up to 10 objects in my house (money, buttons, toys, etc).	sit quietly and play by myself for at least 20 minutes (without technology).	write my name with the letters in the correct order.
		
play with blocks, puzzles, playdough, and/or fingerpaint to help my fine motor development.	sit and quietly listen to a story.	practice rhyming words with an adult. (hat/mat, pig/wig, ball/tall, etc)
		
pick out toys, play with toys, and clean up toys by myself.	sort/match objects by shape, color, or likeness.	practice identifying letters in the alphabet and their sounds.
		

Name: _____