

Educational Materials and Kid Websites - FREE

www.activityvillage.co.uk - tons of stuff from coloring pages, puzzles, games, origami, craft ideas, kid jokes, game piece printables, seasonal stuff, and etc..

www.allkindsofminds.org – Tons of resources for parents, ideas for academics, articles, resources, and lots more geared for children with learning disabilities.

www.childcareland.com/free.html - tons of file folder games, and etc... (You can purchase from this site other activities not under the “free” section.)

www.childcarelounge.gotop100.com – top 100 preschool – 2nd web sites – very cool ☺

www.earobics.com/gamegoo/goeey.html - Free online games and activities that focus on auditory processing, reading, vocabulary, and spelling skills. Awesome site!! ☺ ☺

www.filefolderfun.com – free membership required then access to lots of file folder games you can print out and put together. Also, tons of ideas for others on the member forum boards

www.handwritingforkids.com – customize worksheets for your student – handwriting and math

www.handwritingworksheets.com – Customize handwriting worksheet for your kid in print or cursive or several other formats. Really Cool!

www.kinderprintables.com – activities, recipes for play-doh, puzzles, early academic, and etc..

www.make-stuff.com – Huge resource for craft and make it ideas including recipes for kid concoctions and gift ideas... Lots of fun!

www.mes-english.com – cool site ☺ Tons of activities and lots of pictures with vocabulary... can customize for your kiddo... developed for students learning English but perfect for visual learner

www.ooeygoeey.com – Lots of great tactile activities, and it explains the importance of tactile and messy play and how it relates to learning.

<http://www.patrickecker.org> – This site was developed by a teacher to help kids communicate. There are activities to print including file folder games and mini books along with concept activities. It also has several picture libraries for building PECS boards and communication pictures... Very Cool!

www.positivelyautism.com/downloads_foldergames.html - several file folder games to print out

<http://printables4kids.com> – Free printable educational and for fun color pages, mazes, activities, pencil games, and etc.. Some cool stuff also listed by themes.

<http://schooexpress.com> – 16,000 + free worksheets to print off. WOW!!

www.starfall.com – This is a reading and phonics site for elementary prek-2nd grade with interactive books and phonics games. Many of the elementary schools in the Anchorage School Dist use this site. ☺

www.thetoymaker.com – Tons of patterns for paper toys to print off, cut out, and glue. There is everything from animals to fairy wands. Lots of fun!

Educational Materials and Kid Websites-cost

www.a-zlearning.com – A great resource with tons of activities for reading, vocabulary, and phonics for grades prek-6th. You can also look up activity by theme or season. \$84.00 year... do a free trial and then get on e-mailing list for the specials they do several times a year.

www.brainpop.com- Online games and activities for various math subjects geared for grades K-6th.

www.childcareland.com – preK-2ish -tons of activities for various costs including lacing cards, games, and file folder activities. Prices vary

www.heidisongs.net – educational songs on DVD or CD with additional activities that teach preK-2nd grade reading skills and math – cost varies but very reasonably priced.

www.ixl.com – Online math program for grades prek-6th great for kids with skills at different levels. Also shows alignment with AK state standards. Tracks the student answers and generates questions to fit the student's level. \$79.00 a year for 1 kid (\$20 more a year for each additional student in a family)

www.myfilefoldergames.com – grades prek-5th - a huge package of file folder games and activities with a 1 year membership - \$30.00

www.PECS4Autism.com – Tons of activities for visual kids from early grade all the way through middle school including social skills and academic. Uses real life pictures and very well done. All activities were developed by a mom for her kids. Not just for Autism but any kid. Price varies

www.Raz-kids.com – online interactive and animated books by levels from prek – grade 6 ... very cool ☺ The student/parent can read the books or the program will read them to you. \$79.00 year.. Do a site trial and get on their e-mail list for specials and discount subscriptions.

www.rocknlearn.com – This is very fun stuff for grades K-6th or even older for remediation activities. Videos done to rock music with cute characters, animation and factual information for subjects such as phonics, science, math including higher level such as money and fractions, social studies, and test taking strategies. These guys have received tons of awards and have these videos you can rent from youtube.com before purchase. Worth checking out!! Prices vary

www.scholastic.com – has printables and leveled reader subscriptions that are very useful. Many of the scholastic workbooks are in the printables section. The cost varies. Recommend the yearly subscription, just a few monthly payments pays the yearly cost.

Curriculum Examples

www.explorationeducation.com – Science kits for science grades K- High School (approx 36 lessons) - The format of this program is great. There is a DVD and each lesson is talked about and shown visually. There then is an experiment and an activity sheet that goes with each lesson. These lessons are geared very age appropriately and the kit has everything, minus household things like water and baking soda, you need to do the experiments. One of the best science programs I've seen that isn't overly abstract especially for early elementary. The upper levels looks good too, I just haven't had my hands on them. Prices vary but reasonable.

Handwriting Without Tears – Anchorage school district handwriting curriculum for preK-2nd. This program works well for most kids. It has many components and is a multi-sensory program. You can purchase individual parts of the curriculum at Chickabitty Books. www.hwtears.com – Handwriting Without Tears – program for handwriting with materials

Kumon Workbooks – prek to later elementary - Material is presented in a simple easy to understand format that are colored and fun. These are available at Barnes and Nobles, Borders, Over the Rainbow, and Amazon.com and others I'm sure... Amazon often runs these as buy 3 get 1 free.

Loops and Other Groups –available on various websites- a Kinesthetic Writing System- Great for teaching cursive.

www.mathuSee.com – grades K- High School - Visual Math Program with instructional DVD and manipulatives for each level. - This is awesome for any kid a multi-sensory see it & do it type program that is affordable. Really nails the foundation in math before going on. It may seem to run “slow” but when kids go on they have mastered the skills. They use this with both gifted and remedial kids. Price varies depending on program. Often Chickabitty Books, or Back 2 School have these programs in the used section and I believe that Chickabitty carries them New.

SRA Numbers Words – This is a great program but really pricy. I got ours off e-bay but also check Amazon Used. Look on the SRA Numbers Worlds website to see what level your student needs. They are leveled as A, B, C, etc.. The CD-ROM that goes with this program is \$79.00. It has all the levels from prek to the upper elementary level on it and is a really good math game program that kids seem to like.

Touch Math - www.touchmath.com - preK-upper elementary -basic math skills to multiplication and division, money, fractions, and time. Uses touch points on numbers for a multi-sensory approach -This is an awesome program!! Many of the schools in the Anchorage area have this program often you just have to ask for it to be used with your kiddo. It is very pricy to order the full kits. Sign up for their catalog and you can get free samples in the mail. Also the downloadable packages on line are affordable. Just pick and choose what best meets your kids needs. They have a new Kinder software program that looks great for kids starting off.

Zoo Phonics – www.zoophonics.com – a beginning phonics program – AWESOME!! This program teaches a hand motion for an animal for the sound of each letter... Example “f” is fish and there is a hand motion for a fish. This is a fantastic multi-sensory approach to phonics, a true see it, hear it, and do it type program. Many of the Anchorage school district schools also have this program, and often you just have to ask. Buying from the site can be pricy, but often you can find it on e-bay, or at Back 2 School in the used section. Really to get started all you need is the letter cards and the video/DVD of the animal motions. (You could even get creative and make your own animal motions ☺)

Websites to Order various Learning Supplies and Materials (that ship to Alaska for somewhat reasonable cost)

www.amazon.com – Tons of stuff and free shipping for most orders over \$25.00

www.curreclick.com – Tons of educational resources from preK – High School, also online group classes. They have very reasonable prices on most things.

www.happyscribecopybooks.com – leveled handwriting activities to copy in print & cursive. Theme based with cute and useful sayings and facts... Very reasonably priced you download and print as many copies as you want.

www.hearthsong.com – toys & games, crafts

www.irlen.com - Irlen Overlays- Variety of color overlays that help some children with learning disabilities with reading

www.lakeshorelearning.com – lots of educational manipulative stuff (shipping 20%) Sign up for their e-mails and you'll get sale notices that help set off shipping costs.

www.learningresources.com – educational stuff

www.orientaltrading.com – lots of craft projects, holiday related crafts

www.superduperinc.com – speech and therapy stuff – free shipping to AK

www.teach2talk.com – very good DVD series that are geared toward autism and language. These are kind of spendy but good stuff.

Local Stores:

Back 2 School – Has a used section if you're up to digging. They will order things if they don't have them in stock.

Barnes and Nobles

Borders

Chickabitty Books – Has new and used. Cindy the owner is very helpful will order things for you if you ask or tell her what your looking for.

Classic Toys

JoAnn's – Use the 40% off coupon to save \$\$ (They will also accept Michael's coupons)

Michaels – Use the 40% off coupon to save you some \$\$ (They will also accept JoAnn's coupons)

Over The Rainbow Toys

Things to Think About when Teaching your Kids

1. **Observe your child and really find out what interests them.** What makes them the happiest? What do they really enjoy doing? Learning has to be fun.
2. **How does your child learn?** Do they learn by hearing it, seeing it, doing it, or a combination of styles? Most kids do better with a combination but often have strength in one area.
3. **Think about your child's strengths and build on those...** If writing is hard limit the amount of time writing is required. Do the same activities but "take away" the hard parts some of the time. Think about what you're trying to accomplish. If it's spelling use pre-written letters and let them spell without writing. If your focus is reading and cutting is hard pre-cut the pieces ahead of time for a reading lesson. Don't make every part of the lesson hard.
4. **Look for learning activities in daily life.** Examples... Sorting by size can be putting the silverware away or stacking the big cups together and the little ones together. Do color sorting when doing laundry. Do math while cooking dinner... We have 3 forks but there are 4 people how many more do we need to set the table?
5. **Make simple goals and only stick to a few key ones.** You can always make new goals. Keep record of what you're doing to encourage you to keep on keeping on. It's really cool when your child has met a goal you've been working on. You can always add to them when they're mastered. Ex: Mary will read 10 words by the end of July. Then make a list and check them off as she knows them. If she reads 10 by July 10 make another goal. Not only will you see the progress but you can take the sheet, along with saved samples, to school in Aug and show what was accomplished over the summer
6. **Ditch preconceptions of "school" and be flexible.** (SEE JACKIE'S LIST) Take breaks, do the un-traditional, play, have fun, use your imagination. If your kid is doing something fun, figure out how to incorporate learning. If something doesn't work after a couple times try something else. Stuff and curriculum doesn't work for each kid, even if someone says it's great it may not be for your kid. Remember this is a journey! You are allowed to change course. You need to let your child show you how he'll learn best and chances are you'll see them soar!

7. **Ask for help!!** Your child's therapists, other parents, and on-line resources are there to help. If you get "stuck" or something just isn't working talk to someone and brain storm for a solution.

8. **HAVE FUN!!!!!!!**

"When kids play, they remember. They may not be aware they are learning, but they sure are aware they are having fun. When you have a good belly laugh with your siblings or parents or friends it stays with you. And the great thing is that it comes so naturally...if we only let it."

--Rebecca Krook, play facilitator for kids with disabilities