

ST. GEORGE'S

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

Summer 2017

Dear Rising Senior Kindergarten Parents,

Soon your child will be enjoying their senior kindergarten experience. During the summer we promote a healthy balance for our students, with the main objective of this time being to rest, rejuvenate, and spend time with family and friends.

While we advocate a robust respect for time and balance, educational research indicates that the equivalent of at least one month of learning loss can take place during the summer months (Cooper et al, 2003). To protect your child's academic growth, we encourage you to take advantage of learning opportunities that occur in everyday experiences. We recommend that you create a summer routine (a set time each day for reading or math games), so that summer learning is well paced and meaningful. By doing so, you can further ensure that your child is confident and prepared as he/she enters the next school year in August.

You are your child's greatest link to learning over the summer and listed below are some helpful suggestions for supporting his/her continued growth:

Literacy

- ✓ **read** with your child *every day*
- ✓ **talk** about the world around you (play I-Spy)
- ✓ **listen** and respond to stories read aloud
- ✓ **recognize** and name the letters of the alphabet
- ✓ **connect** sounds to letters to figure out the "code" of reading
- ✓ **learn** and use new words
- ✓ **talk** about the stories you read

While reading a story with your child, ask him/her "who," "what," "why," "when," and "where" questions. Have your child retell the story. Use note cards to label objects in your house and frequently ask your child to name these objects. Drawing pictures and writing about fun summer experiences will continue your child's important connection between spoken and written words. Following this letter, you will see several options for practicing sight words and handwriting. There is no need to return these to school, rather these are helpful tools for practice.

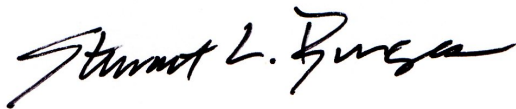
Numeracy

- ✓ **practice counting** skills by encouraging your child to point to each item counted
- ✓ **playing games** like Candy Land or Chutes and Ladders prepares your child for addition, subtraction, number sense, and counting skills
- ✓ **puzzles** support your child's patterning and spatial skills
- ✓ **sorting** items by color, size, shape, and purpose helps your child notice how objects are alike and different

St. George's offers a wide variety of learning experiences through our summer camps. Please refer to www.sgis.org for further information on rising Senior Kindergarten options. We encourage you to take advantage of this great learning opportunity for your child.

Please know that St. George's is proud to be fostering a community of lifelong learners who continue to grow beyond the school day. You are a key part of that community and on behalf of the senior kindergarten teachers we thank you for joining us as we work together to support our students.

Sincerely,



Dr. Stewart Burgess
Early Childhood Division Director

Summer Learning Loss: The Problem and Some Solutions, Cooper, Harris (May 2003), from The Clearinghouse on Early Education and Parenting (CEEP)

Sight Word List

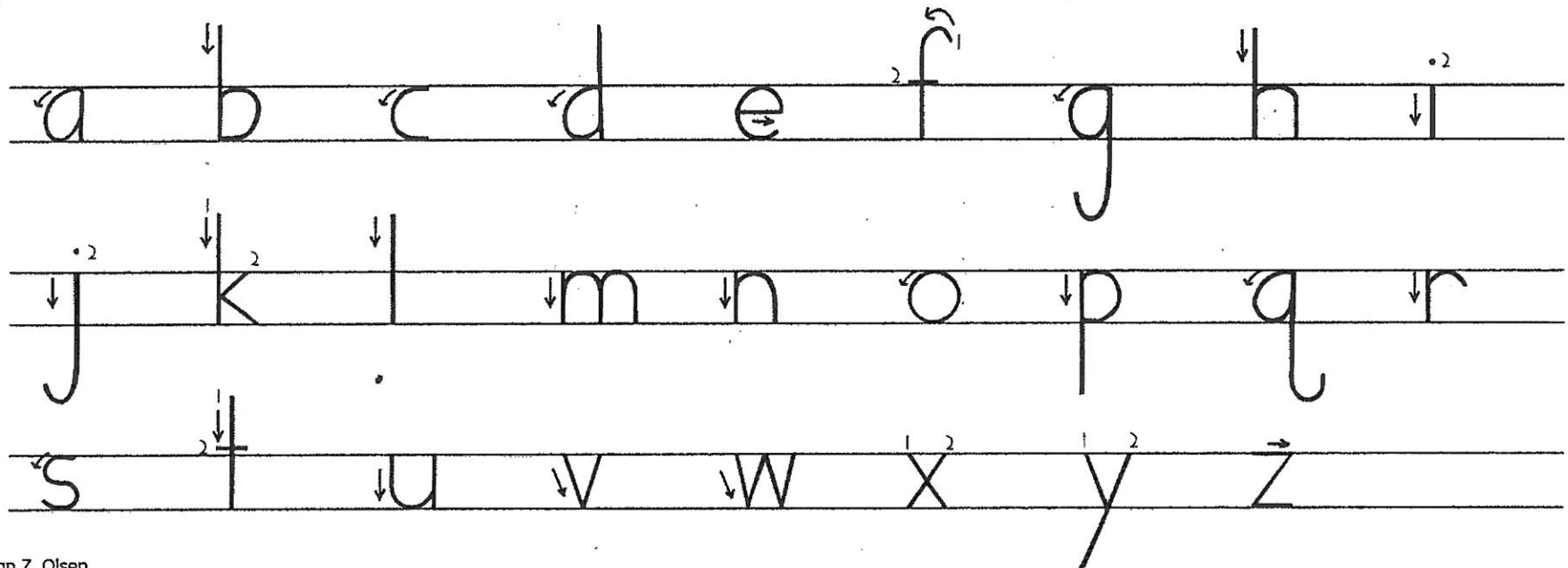
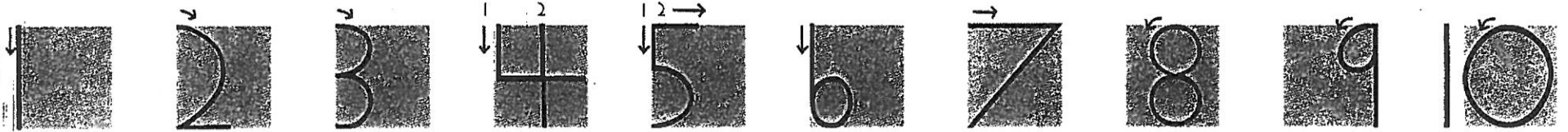
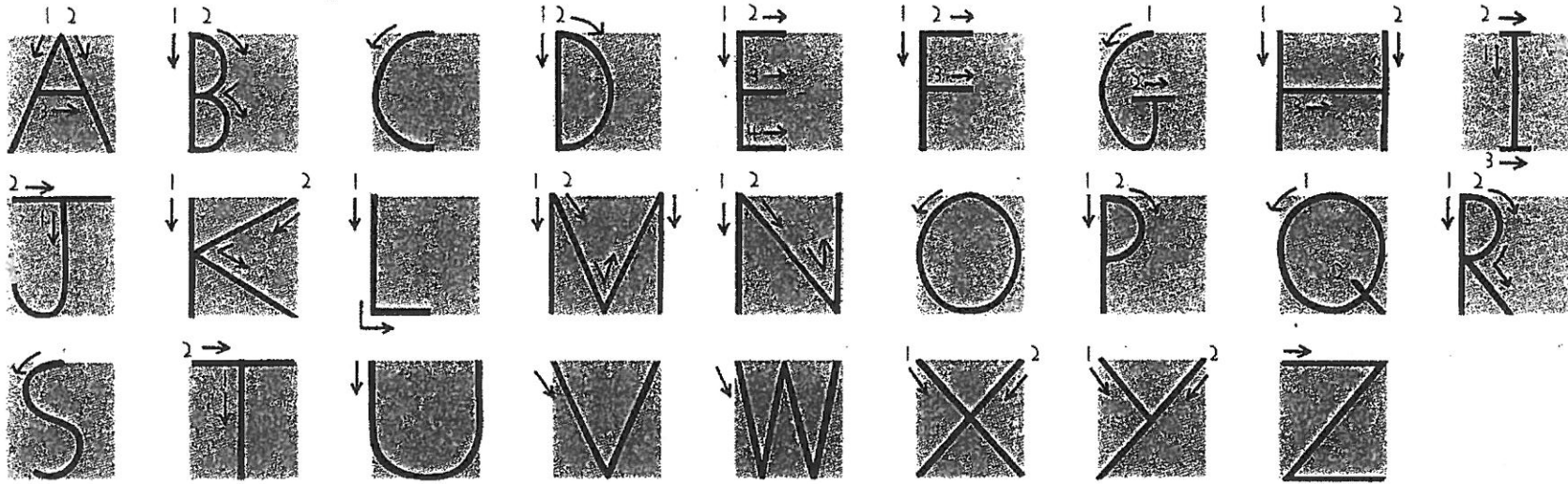
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boy
three

down
work
put
were
before
just
long
here
other
old
take
cat
again
give
after
many

Capitals, Numbers, and Lowercase Letters



John Smith

