



Family Celebration Guide: Celebrating 20 Years of VPK Families

**Your family can join in celebrating the 20th birthday of VPK at home.
Below are 20 fun activities that you can do together at home.**

Language and Literacy Activities:

1. Sing the **"Happy Birthday, VPK"** song with your child and talk about the fun things you can do at a birthday party!
2. Ask everyone at the dinner table to share *"news"* about their day and what they saw that looked like **20** items (**20** cars, **20** toys, **20** green beans, etc.).
3. While preparing dinner, ask children to count out the number of carrots, green beans or celery sticks needed on each plate to reach **20**. Celebrate by clapping **20** times, when they have placed **20** food items on each plate.
4. Ask your child to put the plates, napkins and utensils on the table at dinner time. Add the items together. Are there less than or more than **20** items altogether?
5. Provide back-and-forth talk during daily routines and discuss the number of places the child went. Did you go to **20** places (i.e., restroom, playground, restaurant, car ride, grandma's house)?
6. Point out things in the home or during outside play and see if you can find **20** items (i.e., cups, butterflies, pinecones, red leaves, etc.).
7. Visit the zoo or nearest museum and have children count the different animals they saw while there. Did they see **20** animals? Families can make a list or draw pictures of all the different animals.
8. Play games with children such as "I Spy" (e.g., "I spy **20** round items in the kitchen. Can you find **20** items?").
9. When traveling with children, take time to count the cars you see! Count all the red cars, blue cars, etc. until you reach **20** of each color.
10. Set a goal to read **20** books each month. Track the number of books you read with your child and celebrate when you get to **20!**



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Mathematical Thinking Activities

1. Ask your child to help put out the family fun snack for a movie night, giving each family member **20** items for their snack (i.e., fish crackers, gummies, carrots, mini cookies, etc.).
2. Play a game with your child by displaying a set of **20** objects on the table. Tell your child to look, then cover objects with your hand or cloth and quickly ask them to name some of the items that are under the cloth.
3. Gather a basket of **20** small toys, shells, pebbles or buttons and count them with children. Sort them based on size, color or what they do (i.e., all the cars in one pile, all the animals in another).
4. Have children collect **20** items like rocks and leaves on a walk. Arrange them in a pattern such as one rock, two leaves, one rock, two leaves.
5. Provide clay or playdough and allow your child to form both big and small number **20s**.
6. Cut a cereal box into 2 large numbers (2 and 0) to form the number **20**. Using glue children can decorate the numbers with various items such as cereal, cotton balls, stickers, etc. Families can hang these in a window or on a door to celebrate the number **20**.
7. Use nonstandard measuring tools, including paperclips, straws, pieces of yarn and plastic spoons, measure things round the home that are equal to **20** (i.e., the chair is **20** blocks high, the plate is **20** paperclips wide).
8. Make a chart where children can place a sticker each time it rains, or each time it is sunny. At the end of a month, count how many rainy and sunny days there were. Were there **20** sunny or rainy days?
9. Play *Simon Says* asking children to follow Simon's directions (i.e., "take **20** baby steps backwards, **20** giant steps forward, clap **20** times, say the number **20 - 20** times, count to **20**").
10. Provide children with opportunities to play with wooden blocks, plastic interlocking blocks, empty boxes, milk cartons, etc. Encourage children to build objects containing **20** items.