

## Getting Ready for America week

### Suggested Books:

The Story of America's Birthday by Patricia A. Pingry  
America the Beautiful by Katharine Bates  
My First Book of Cutting (Kumon Workbooks) by Shinobu Akaishi  
Good Night America by Adam Gamble  
Many Nations: An Alphabet of Native America  
Happy Birthday America by Mary Pope Osborne  
The Fourth of July Story by Alice Calglish  
Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Jenny Sweeney! By Leslie Kimmelman  
Red, White, and Blue (All Aboard Reading) by John Herman

### Vocabulary Words:

Fourth of July, Holiday, fireworks, flag, American, United States, Constitution, fire cracker, Liberty

### Songs and Fingerplays:

#### Red, White and Blue

*(Tune: 3 Blind Mice)*

Red, white & blue  
Red, white & blue  
Stars and stripes, too!  
Stars and stripes, too!  
We celebrate Independence Day  
Each 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the American Way  
Have you ever seen such a fireworks display!  
Oh, Red, white and blue!

#### Wave the Flag

*(Tune: Row, Row, Row Your Boat)*

Wave, wave, wave the flag!  
Hold it very high.  
Watch the colors gently wave  
Way up in the sky!

#### Statue of Liberty

*(Tune: I'm a Little Teapot)*

I'm a giant statue, with a torch and crown,  
Symbol of freedom and peace all around.  
See me in the harbor so straight and tall,  
Welcoming the people, one and all!

#### Our Country's Flag

Please sit down, everyone...  
I'm going to tell a story (point to mouth).

About our country's famous flag,  
Its nickname is Old Glory (point to flag).

Stars and stripes are on our flag,  
They're red and white and blue! (Point to flag colors)

It tells the world that we are free!  
And proud to be here, too! (Place hand over the heart)

#### American Flag

*(Tune: Mary had a Little Lamb)*

Our flag is red, white & blue  
Red, white, & blue  
Red, white & blue!  
Our flag is red, white and blue  
In the U.S.A.

Our flag has 50 stars,  
50 stars, 50 stars!  
Our flag has 50 stars  
In the U.S.A.

Our flag has 13 stripes  
13 stripes, 13 stripes!  
Our flag has 13 stripes!  
In the U.S.A!

### Materials to Gather:

**Dramatic Play:** Set out patriotic decorations for the house-play area, like a red table cloth, red, white and blue paper napkins, a small flag, some patriotic bunting, or crepe paper streamers. Or you can let your child help you decorate the house-play area! If you have red, white and blue clothes for dolls, make them available.

**Blocks:** Stick tiny American Flags in a mound of playdough, let child put them up in front of his block buildings this week. When you run errands, point out the buildings in your community that have flags, like the post office, library, Eagle's lodge, banks, etc.

**Music:** Nothing says "Fourth of July" more than a cheerful march by the American composer, John Phillips Sousa! I also really enjoy my Lee Greenwood CD, "I'm Proud to Be and American." Consider teaching your child the words to either Greenwood's song, or the National Anthem. Both are a little challenging for preschoolers, but it's worth a try. Some children enjoy singing more than others.

### **Projects:**

Patriotic Shakes: Put frozen strawberries and bananas in a blender, with a bit of milk and honey. Puree until smooth. Pour into large glasses. Top with whipped cream and blueberries. Add a straw and enjoy!

Star Painting: Cut sponges into star shapes. Provide a shallow tin of white paint for dipping the sponges, then press onto blue paper.

Star Banner: Trace star shape (at end of lesson) onto red, white, and blue construction paper or thin poster board. Let child decorate. Use markers, or glue and glitter, or whatever appeals to you. When finished, fold over the tip of one star point, glue or staple down, and string all the stars onto a length of yard or thin string. Hang over your dinner table or porch railing, to decorate for your Fourth of July family gathering.

Red, White and Blue Shadow Art: Child stands on sidewalk on a sunny afternoon. Trace his shadow with red, white, and blue chalk. Let child color in his shadow. Spray it with hose to "erase" when you are ready.

Red, White and Blue window art: In a large picture window or glass slider. Mix red tempera paint with a

small amount of clear dish soap in a shallow pie tin. Mix white tempera paint with dish soap in a separate tin, and blue tempera paint with dish soap in a third tin. Cover the floor/carpet with newspapers, or work on the outside side. You will paint a solid blue box on the upper left hand corner. Next, you and your child dip your hands in red paint until palms and fingers are covered. Press along the bottom of the window in a line. Skip a row. Then print hands in a line above the first one, leaving room for a row of white hands in between. Continue working up the window, until you have thirteen rows of red hand prints, or until your child is bored with this activity. Allow paint to dry. Later, press hands in white paint and make rows of white hand prints between each of the red rows. Allow to dry. To finish, you and your child may make star prints over the blue using star-shaped sponges and white tempera. Enjoy your flag for a few days. After the holiday, rinse off with a hose. As you and your child paint, talk about the flag, the stripes, the colors, the shapes, and the meaning, to your child's ability to understand.

Home-Made Playdough: Make a fresh batch, but divide into thirds. Color one-third red, one-third blue, and one-third leave plain or color white. Let child play with all three colors. By the end of the week, it will turn purple; but for now, he can enjoy a red, white and blue display.

Fireworks painting: Drop blobs of bold colorful paint onto dark blue or black paper. Child blows the paint around with a straw to create a "fireworks" display. If you prick tiny holes near the top of the straw, the child cannot suck up the paint into his mouth.

Liberty Bell: Attach a craft stick to the bottom end of a paper or plastic cup with tape or hot glue (Parent). Make a small crack in the edge of the cup with scissors. Let child wrap entire cup and handle in tin foil. Tie a pony bead to the end of a piece of yarn and attach inside the cup for the clapper. Decorate the bell as desired with foil stars or stickers.

Star Matching: Using a star punch (available at craft stores in their scrapbooking section), cut out stars in a wide variety of colors and prints. Put them in a zip-bag. Child matches up the stars. You can add a small refrigerator magnet to the back of each star, and put them on a metal cookie sheet, to make the activity easier for the child. This simple activity also makes a good car toy! You can easily replace the pieces if they get lost.

Pow! Explosion Painting: prepare paint “pillows” ahead of time. Cut a large paper towel into four squares. Place 2 tablespoons of baking soda into the center of each piece of paper towel. Make a pillow, by folding sides and then the ends over the mound of baking soda. Place each pillow into a separate zip-type small baggie (sandwich size). Add two teaspoons of tempera paint to each baggie – a different color in each. Spread a large sheet of paper on dry ground outside. Take baggies and vinegar and your child outside. Now, add a cup of vinegar to each baggie. Zip baggie shut, and place on the paper. Stand back and watch. Listen. As the vinegar and baking soda react, it produces a gas that will eventually explode the baggie. Paint splatters all over the paper! What a glorious messy surprise. Allow to dry, then clean up the mess and display the painting.

Let’s Have a Parade: Purchase the tricycle and/or wagon decorating kit from Amazon.com, or purchase a supply of red, white and blue crepe paper, stickers, balloons, streamers, etc. Help your child to decorate his tricycle or wagon or both. If your community has a children’s parade, enter your child. If not, have a parade of your own around the neighborhood. You and your child could sing some of the patriotic songs learned this week. Invite his friends to join you on the parade.

Stars and Stripes collage: Parent precuts red and white construction paper into stripes. For younger children, make stripes about 1” thick. Stripes can

be different lengths. Set out large sheets of blue construction paper and self-adhesive silver stars. Let child glue stripes and stars to the blue paper in any design. Let child make several collages, and use them to decorate your home.

Marble Painting: Place a sheet of white paper in the bottom of a large jelly-roll pan or cookie sheet with edges. Use an eye dropper (or small spoon) to drop splats of red and blue paint on the paper. Add several marbles. Tilt the pan to roll the marbles through the paint.

Glitter-Glue Fireworks : Use colored glitter glue, cotton swabs, and dark construction paper (blue or black). Child squirts spots of glitter glue on the paper, and spreads it out with a cotton swab. Allow to dry.

Birthday Cake: Celebrate the nation’s birthday with cupcakes. You and your child can bake your favorite recipe or box mix. Pour into a cake pan or cupcake pan and back according to directions. Frost with white frosting. Let your child decorate with red and blue sprinkles, colored sugar, or icing. Stick a birthday candle in each cupcake. After dinner on the fourth, light the candles and sing “Happy Birthday, America! Happy Birthday to you!”

Star Rubbings: Cut star shapes from paper doilies and sandpaper. Adhere them to the top of a picnic table with double-stick tape. Set out red and blue crayons with the paper removed. Child places thin white paper on top of stars, and rubs the side of a crayon over the paper. Watch the shapes appear!

Beaded Sunglasses Strap: Using elastic string, and tie it securely around one earpiece of a pair of children’s sunglasses. (Parent - Put a dot of hot-glue on the knot to hold it). Child strings red, white and blue beads onto the string. Tie to other earpiece, knot and dot of glue again. Wait a few moments for glue to cool before letting child wear.

**Fourth of July Week: Monday**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Concepts: Ff, red, white & blue, stripes, 13

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity; Practice vocabulary words & concepts. Teach "Red, White and Blue" song.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Play lotto. (Make your own patriotic lotto game with matching stickers and index cards)
8:15	Free Play: Set out props in dramatic play, blocks, music, & books areas.
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack: Patriotic Shakes (Frozen strawberries, pureed, with whipped cream and blueberries)
10:15	Outside time: Play with balls. Child can toss balls to you or a playmate, or roll balls back and forth.
11:15	Project: Star Painting. Blue paper, white paint, star-shaped sponges, pie tins.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash hands
3:15	Snack: Animal Crackers, Red (Cherry Pomegranate) Juice
3:30	Outside time: "Car Wash". Bowls of soapy water, wash rags, hose. Let child wash his trike and other outdoor toys.
4:30	Table Time: Worksheet #1 -Flag Coloring Page. Have child practice coloring within the lines.
4:45	Project: Star Banner. Child cuts, decorates multiple stars, hangs on a string to decorate room.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journals
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed

**Fourth of July Week: Tuesday**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Concepts Ff, red, white & blue, stripes, 13

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity; Vocabulary words; Review Concepts, Songs. Teach "Wave the Flag".
7:45	Breakfast:
8:00	Table Activities: Puzzles. Do you have a Patriotic puzzle to work on?
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time: Shadow Art.
11:15	Project: Listen to a Sousa march. March around the room or yard, playing rhythm instruments (drum, shakers, tambourine, etc.) Practice marching.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: ride tricycle.
4:30	Table Time: Worksheet #2, F is for Fruit
4:45	Project: Paint a Giant Flag on your Window! Use handprints, tempera paint and dish soap. Work outside, if weather permits.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journals
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

**Fourth of July Week : Wednesday**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Concepts: Ff, red, white & blue, stripes, 13

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity; Vocabulary words; Review Concepts, Songs. Teach "Statue of Liberty" song.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Playdough. Make red, white and blue playdough. Let child make red, white and blue things, even though playdough will eventually turn purple.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside: Hula Hoops. Let child invent ways to use them, or encourage her to get started. Twirl hoop on an arm, around middle. Roll a hoop on the ground. Jump in a hoop.
11:15	Project: Fireworks painting. Use spots of paint on paper, and blow around with a straw to create a fireworks display.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: Sandbox time.
4:30	Table Time: Worksheet #3: Beginning Consonant Sounds
4:45	Project: Liberty Bell craft
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journals
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

**Fourth of July Week: Thursday**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Concepts: Ff, red, white & blue, stripes, 13

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity; Vocabulary; Concepts, Songs. Teach "Our Country's Flag".
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Star Matching activity. (Parent prepares ahead of time).
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside: Bubble play.
11:15	Project: "Pow!" Explosion painting. Do outside!
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: Let's Have a Parade! Decorate tricycle and/or wagon
4:30	Table Time: Worksheet #4, Trace and write number 13
4:45	Project: Stars and Stripes collage
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journal
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

**Fourth of July Week : Friday**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Concepts: Ff, red, white & blue, stripes, 13

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity; Vocabulary words; Concepts, Songs. Teach "American Flag".
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Scissors practice. Worksheet #5, cutting curved lines
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack:
10:15	Outside: Star Rubbings
11:15	Project: Marble Painting or Glitter Glue Fireworks pictures
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack: Patriotic Birthday Cakes
3:30	Outside
4:30	Table Time: Worksheet #6 and/or #7 Statue of Liberty coloring page, Patriotic coloring page
4:45	Project: Beaded Sunglasses Strap.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journal
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.



Star Template for Patriotic Banner:

Print on sturdy card stock. Cut out, use as a template to trace on red, white, blue paper. Child may cut out, or parent, depending on child's skill level.

