



A Month in Moments - June Calendar Overview



Remember: These can go in any order unless labeled Part 1 and 2 - but you can put things between those days, etc :). Do what works!

Book Suggestions: Because of Thursday by Patricia Polacco; Bring me Some Apples and I'll Make You a Pie by Gourley; The Seven Silly Eaters by Hoberman and Frazee; Pancakes for Breakfast by dePaola; Rainbow Stew by Falwell; Dear Zoo by Campbell; The Opposite Zoo by Il Sung; What do you do with a Tail Like This? By Jenkins and Page; Gone Wild by McLimans; Under the Same Sky by Teckentrup						1 <i>In the Kitchen</i> Sensory Play in the Kitchen
2 <i>In the Kitchen</i> Grocery List Needs and Wants	3 <i>In the Kitchen</i> Dough Day 1	4 <i>In the Kitchen</i> Dough Day 2	5 <i>In the Kitchen</i> Knife Practice Day 1	6 <i>In the Kitchen</i> Knife Practice Day 2/Spread it Out	7 <i>In the Kitchen</i> Cook Book Look	8 <i>In the Kitchen</i> Grocery List Orders
9 <i>In the Kitchen</i> Simple Sides	10 <i>In the Kitchen</i> Play with your Food Day 1	11 <i>In the Kitchen</i> Play with your Food Day 2	12 <i>In the Kitchen</i> Kitchen Tours	13 <i>In the Kitchen</i> Garden Work Day + Pizza Garden	14 <i>In the Kitchen</i> Restaurant Night Prep	15 <i>In the Kitchen</i> Restaurant Night
16 <i>At the Zoo</i> We're Going to the Zoo	17 <i>At the Zoo</i> What do you Need?	18 <i>At the Zoo</i> Feeding Time	19 <i>At the Zoo</i> A Home for a Friend	20 <i>At the Zoo</i> Opposite Zoo Day 1	21 <i>At the Zoo</i> Opposite Zoo Day 2	22 <i>At the Zoo</i> Design your Zoo
23 <i>At the Zoo</i> Make your Own Animals Day 1	24 <i>At the Zoo</i> Make your Own Animals Day 2	25 <i>At the Zoo</i> A Trip to the Zoo	26 <i>At the Zoo</i> Zookeeper Tasks	27 <i>At the Zoo</i> Animals at Play	28 <i>At the Zoo</i> Where are You?	29 <i>At the Zoo</i> Map your Zoo
30 <i>Record Your Own</i> Memory Book Additions	"Cooking with Kids is not just about ingredients, recipes, and cooking. It's about harnessing imagination, empowerment, and creativity." ~ Guy Fieri					

Materials to gather in advance: (Tip: Read the descriptions before buying materials - you may think of creative substitutions using what you have on hand!)

- camera and a way to print pictures
- notebook or memory book (made in January)
- foods and utensils for sensory exploration: rice, pasta, spices, herbs, kitchen utensils, various containers
- pen and paper or marker board and markers for grocery lists and menus
- ingredients for dough for playing: flour, salt, cream of tartar, oil, air-tight container OR zip lock bag
- ingredients for or store bought dough

- for knife skills: tongue depressor, *easy to chop veggies or cheese or bread, knife*
- library card + library with cool cookbooks, bookstore, cookbooks from home
- ingredients for a simple side your kiddos might enjoy (frozen green beans and spices; mac and cheese; salad stuff)
- food to play and create with: *a few dips and dippable things + chocolate chips and berries, dry beans, glue, cardboard, string, dry pasta*

- pizza garden plants/materials to spruce up your garden: *basil, oregano, tomato plants or seeds*
- restaurant night materials: ingredients for a meal to prep together, *small vase or jar, large paper for placemats, fairy lights, clip boards, table cloth*
- materials to introduce zoo play: zoo related toys and books, *map of the Earth, zoo brochure for zoo you'll visit*

- random art materials to make animals OR printer + cardboard + mod podge; art scraps to add (felt, pom poms, yarn, chalk, pastels)
- bucket or bag to collect in when outside
- large cardboard box for zoo + xacto knife + coloring materials, recyclables
- coloring materials
- pretend food for animals (pom poms, goldfish/swedish fish, fake grass, etc) and games
- small people toys
- picnic and sunblock for zoo trip

- random art supplies for making enrichment toys
- brightly colored square of fabric (look for a wild jungle print) OR bright tablecloth OR bright towel, clothespins and spoons, sunglasses for hunting for animals*
- paper + coloring materials for a map; phone for video; printer and coloring materials for brochure

Supply Cabinet Tips:

- water color paper
- water colors or washable markers
- pipecleaners**
- stickers
- popsicle sticks
- felt scraps**
- yarn scraps**
- pom poms**
- forest putty** and/or Model Magic
- *Things to save: cereal boxes, packing paper, paper plates/cardboard pieces, **toilet paper tubes**

Activity Descriptions (blue highlighting = what you might want to prep ahead of time)

1) Sensory Play in the Kitchen

Set out bowls or containers of a few of the following to let kiddos explore: dry rice, dry pasta, cooked rice, cooked pasta, non-spicy spices, coffee grounds, fresh herb leaves, kitchen utensils + pots and pans. Notice what interests your child the most. What questions do they have? What comments do the share? Take pictures of the kiddos at play. Print these, look at them as a family, ask your kiddos about what's going on the pictures, add their stories as captions.

2) Grocery Lists Needs and Wants

Tear or cut some paper into small slips OR use sticky notes. At a meal, share that you'll be going to the grocery store soon. Ask what you should get. Write each suggestion on a different slip of paper. Then, on a full sheet of paper, create a T-chart with "Needs" and "Wants" labeled on the sides. Sort the items between needs and wants. Maybe discuss how many wants you can get in a week and some basics of nutrition - we need to get some healthy, fresh things :).



3) Dough Day 1

Make salt dough or forest putty with your kiddos. Work on different stirring techniques like scraping the sides of the bowl, using your hands, trying out different utensils (fork, spoon, spatula, whisk). ? Practice kneading dough!

Then, make all kinds of pretend foods with it. Can you roll a ball and flatten it into a tortilla? Can you sculpt a muffin in a pan? Can you press a pie crust into a pie pan? Can you roll a long snake and make a pretzel? Can you spin a flattish circle to make a pizza crust. ***Save this dough in a plastic bag or airtight container for Day 5.***

4) Dough Day 2

Make edible (well...tasty) dough today!

Kitchen Novices: Get a tube of pizza dough, crescent rolls, or cinnamon rolls OR a bagged uncooked pizza dough from the grocery store. Reserve most of the dough for actual eating. Take a serving's worth to play with - pull it apart, squish it, put a tiny bit in an oven as it preheats and some in after the oven is preheated - see how it cooks differently. Then, make pizza or rolls following the directions. Enjoy!
Sous Chef: Find a recipe for sugar cookies like the one [here](#). Work together to measure, mix, and roll out the dough. Cut the dough with cookie cutters, roll up the extras, roll out again, cut more, etc. Notice if any cookies are unevenly thick. Predict what will happen to those cookie bits and see what happens!

Expert Baker: Work together to make a yeast bread like the recipe [here](#). Have fun letting the bread rise and then punching it down and kneading it! Before starting, talk about where the bread should be set to rise so it doesn't end up going flat. Plan an activity to do out of the area for the 45 minutes of rising.

**If you have an oven light, try watching the baking process for a few minutes. Jot down questions your kiddos have and look up the answers. (Here's an awesome infographic for adult background.)*

5) Knife Practice Day 1

Watch a video or read an overview on knife skills for toddlers. Choose a few to share with your kiddos. Make a pretend knife for your kiddo by drawing on a tongue depressor. Using the dough you made the other day, practice some knife skills! You can roll out a flattish circle and cut pieces and then sneak in some math by counting the pieces and naming some fractions. ***Remember to take**

11) Play with your Food Day 2

Make food art. Use veggies and fruits to create and eat a rainbow or forest. Make pasta necklaces. Create a mosaic out of beans. As you work, talk about the colors, textures, shapes, sizes, smells, etc of the foods you are working with. Talk about the different nutrients in the ingredients (fats make your brain strong, cushion your body, and give you lasting energy; carbs give you quick energy right now; proteins make you strong!; vitamin C prevents sickness; calcium makes your bones sturdy, etc). Think of recipes you love that use the different ingredients. ***Remember to take pictures!***

12) Kitchen Tours

See if a local restaurant or bakery can give you a tour! Be sure to make a thank you card, perhaps with food like in yesterday's project. No luck with a tour? Go to a friend's house and compare their refrigerator or pantry to yours (you can also Facetime someone and do Facetime comparison tours :). OR Create a scavenger hunt asking your child to find different things around your kitchen. Some ideas could be: Find something yellow, find a seasoning that smells tasty to you, gather what you need to wash your hands. Another way to do this scavenger hunt would be to ask your kiddo to help you unload the dishwasher - do they know where each thing goes? You could add labels and encourage them to help you with this task in the future.

13) Garden Work Day + Pizza Garden

If you began a garden in May (or earlier) spend some time today out in your garden. Help your child identify plants you want and don't want and weed as necessary. If they are not full of seeds and aren't an invasive plant (one that spreads very fast and kills other plants), consider leaving the weeds in a pile - this will enrich your soil and create a home for animal friends. Water your plants if it hasn't rained recently. Take a few minutes to simply sit and observe your garden and the plants and animals around. If you'd like to add to your garden, consider components of a pizza garden - like tomatoes, oregano, and basil. Don't want to grow these? Consider going to the grocery store and seeing pointing out what goes into pizza sauce from the produce section (tomatoes, garlic, onions, herbs) or go to a garden store and smell different herbs.

14) Restaurant Night Prep

Work together to plan a restaurant night. Share the names of your favorite restaurants. See if you can draw pictures of them and name foods you like to eat there. Then say, "Let's create our own restaurant right at home tomorrow! What food should we make? What should we do to make our kitchen look like a restaurant?". Some tasks you could work on together might include choosing a recipe, making placemats, gathering decor (vase, table cloth, candle, fairy lights), writing menus, etc. Choose jobs for tomorrow. What jobs will each of you have in preparing the meal? Who will take pretend orders? Who will help serve food? ***Print a few of the pictures from the past two weeks and tape them into your memory book for the year or a notebook.***

15) Restaurant Night

Continue preparations for restaurant night! Gather flowers for your vase, set the table, review roles, and prepare your meal. Talk about restaurant etiquette and tipping if you'd like. Enjoy your meal together! Look through the pictures from the past two weeks and note what your kiddos say about the pictures whether it's lists of what they see, a whole story, or a facial expression. Look at these again later, read their captions back to them, and



21) A Home for a Friend

Choose an animal friend and build a home for it using recycled materials working together. Then, let kiddos add on to their zoo. A simple way to make trees is to cut a slit on each side of the top of a toilet paper tube, cut a circle out of scrap cardboard, color the circle green, and slide it in the slits. Dead plants could be collected, rinsed, dried and added. If the animal you choose lives in a tree, see if the home you create will balance in a nearby bush. Take a walk outside and notice the homes animals in your neighborhood love. ***Remember to take pictures!***

22) Opposite Zoo Day 1

Read the wonderful book The Opposite Zoo by Il Sung Na or watch a recording today. Sort your animals into different opposite piles (large, small; fast, slow; nocturnal, diurnal, etc). Decide if you want to add to your animal collection based on the animals you've seen in any books you've read this week. You could also invite kiddos to add some more color to their animals (again using yarn, tissue paper, chalk, etc).



23) Zoo Design Day 2

Add on to your cardboard zoo. For nocturnal animals, draw a dark background or glue dark paper to the side of the box near that enclosure. Create a pond for animals that live in the water using aluminum foil. Keep adding on! Notice how far the monkey traveled in The Opposite Zoo. Decide if you should add trains (random toys or tiny matchboxes) or zip lines (string with a pipe cleaner) or bike trails (strips of black paper) to your zoo.

24) Opposite Zoo Day 2

Add on to your animals again! This time, aim for opposites! Add pom poms or felt scraps or cotton balls to soft animals. Cut felt to create feathery wings or glue leaves to birds as wings. Once you're done and the animals have dried, put them in a pile. Each pick an animal and act it out. See if you can walk sloooooow as a turtle or roar as fiercely as a bear or squeak as quietly as a mouse. Then, look for an animal that is different from and similar to the one you have in some way. ****If you are going to the zoo tomorrow, talk about it! What should you bring (snacks, hat, sunblock, good walking shoes, etc)?**

25) A Trip to the Zoo

If you can, go to a zoo or wildlife center near you. If that is a stretch, go to a pet store or shelter and meet a new animal. If that's a stretch too, simply go for a walk and notice all the animals around you! Alternatively, grab some small people toys and invite them to your zoo for a day! Think about what you might need to add to your zoo to make it a great place to visit (a place for food, a playground, etc). ***Remember to take pictures!***

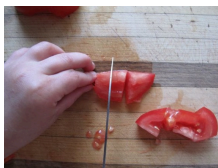
26) Zookeeper Tasks

Be a zookeeper today! Weigh different animal toys from around your house (or the ones you created - but they may be very light). Clean up the zoo you made. Practice carrying buckets or containers of water or pretend food (sticks, leaves, etc) outside. Work on using a shovel to move dirt or sticks and talk about what zookeepers might have to move (poop). Use loose parts again (sticks, pipe cleaners, pom poms) and feed your zoo animals in their box.

*pictures!**

6) Knife Practice Day 2/Spread it Out

If you're ready to let your kiddo use a real knife, work together to prep a salad or some sliced up veggies. An easy place to start would be with a cucumber. You can slice long ways down the side of the cucumber so the cucumber can be placed on the cutting board without rolling to make cutting even easier. Cutting cheese cubes could be another great place to start.



Not ready for sharp knife use? Work on spreading. You can use a butter knife or even a spoon. If you made sugar cookies the other day, you could spread frosting on those.

7) Cook Book Look

Go to the library or a used bookstore and find some cookbooks. Choose one or a few to bring home. Notice the parts of a recipe. Choose a recipe and go on a scavenger hunt to see which ingredients you have or don't have. Perhaps let your kiddos suggest a recipe or two to try in the next week. Write your own recipes for real or imagined meals.

8) Grocery List Orders

Show your kiddo your **grocery list**. Talk about why you have one. If you organize your list in a certain way (like the order of the grocery store, etc) share that with your kiddo. Talk about how you know what to put on your list (needs, wants, recipes you'll be making). Then, give your kiddo a piece of paper and writing utensil. Ask them to go to each family member, ask what they need from the grocery store, and write it down or draw it (scribble writing counts and is truly wonderful!). When your kiddo comes back, ask them to tell you what their list said and write the words next to their marks.

9) Simple Sides

Choose a side dish you can prepare together and create it! One that is oddly often a hit with little kids I've babysat is to take frozen green beans or broccoli and to let them add some seasonings like garlic, salt, pepper, italian herbs, etc (I often add a squeeze of mustard, a drop or three of maple syrup, and some balsamic vinegar and olive oil). What I've found is that even if the dish ends up tasting a little funny, kids are more likely to try their own creations :). Other simple sides might include making mac and cheese from a box, cutting up cucumbers (you can quick pickle them by adding boiling water, rice wine vinegar, a pinch of sugar, and some salt), prepping a salad, or helping stab potatoes before baking. ***Remember to take pictures!***

10) Play with your Food Day 1

Cut up some veggies and lay out some different healthyish chips. Put small amounts of different dips in containers. Let kiddos play with different combinations of flavors as they work on dipping. End by melting some chocolate chips in a double boiler or microwave, stirring them together, and dipping strawberries or animal cookies (use a skewer to prevent burnt fingers). Refrigerate these and enjoy later. Want a healthier option? Roll blueberries in yogurt, spread out on wax paper, freeze for a cool and healthy treat later!

add on!

16) We're going to the Zoo

Lay out some zoo related toys and items such as a map from a zoo in your state, a book about the zoo, a bucket and broom, animal toys, etc. Ask your kiddos where you could see the animal friends you have set out. You can show them where they live in the natural world and then talk about how zoos make animals homes in different places so we can all learn about them. A great read aloud could be Dear Zoo today! **If you actually plan to go to the zoo, share that today and maybe mark it on the calendar and count down the days til you go!!**

17) Make your Own Animals Day 1

Work together to choose 5-10 animals to create for your own zoo! Some ideas: Polar bear, lemur, giant tortoise, kangaroo rat, elephant, bat, lion, penguin, grey squirrel, owl. To create these animals, you can use random art supplies you have on hand and make loose interpretations of the animals using pom poms, pipe cleaners, your dough, etc. Alternatively, you can print pictures of the animals, mount them on cardboard, coat with mod podge, let dry, and cut out. You may want to cut on your own with a xacto knife, but painting with glue is loved by kiddos. Kiddos can add some more elements like sticking on tissue paper scraps and yarn into the mod podge if you'd like. ***Remember to take pictures!***



18) What do you Need?

Work together to choose 2-3 animals you want to learn more about today from the ones you made yesterday. Ask your children where these animals live, what they eat, etc. Use books and videos to find answers if needed. Use a few loose parts to create something your animal friends need - make a pond out of a pot, create shade using a paper plate and toilet paper tube, gather grass and pine straw to make a nest, pile up rocks to make a cave, etc.

19) Zoo Design Day 1

Grab your big cardboard box. If it's large and deep, open it and cut the sides down with an xacto knife so it's easier to access the bottom. If you have a flattish box, cut off one side. Work together to sketch a map of the zoo of your own imaginations in the bottom of your box. Then, add color. You can begin adding additional materials or wait a few days. Show your animals around their new home!



20) Feeding Time

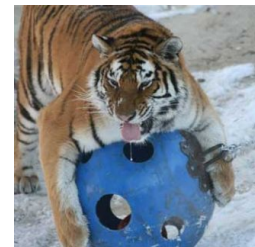
Hide some animal food for two different animal friends around your house (ideas: stuffed elephant - Easter basket grass; polar bear - goldfish crackers or Swedish fish). Set an alarm to go off during a family meal. Say, "OH NO! It's time to feed our friends but their food is missing! We need to find it fast!" and begin to hunt for food together. Challenge kiddos to re-hide the food for each other OR to think about where they might find the item in the real world (you could put grass in any indoor plants or by the door and fish in a sink to help make connections). Make the animals eat the food in a very overdramatic way and see if your kiddos want to try it to :). Go back to your cardboard zoo and have children draw the food each animal might want in it's enclosure.



27) Animals at Play

Learn a bit about how zookeepers enrich the lives of the animals in their care with your kiddos or on your own (Look [here](#) (great videos!) [here](#) or [here](#) (pick an animal and then choose "Care and Wellness").

With this info in your head and your experiences so far, write "zoo animal enrichment - helping zoo animals play" at the top of a big piece of paper. Ask your kiddos how animals might play in the wild and whether or not they can do that at the zoo. Ask what toys they might like. Ask them how they could enrich the lives of their pretend animals. Add their ideas and share some ideas you learned from the resources to the paper. Encourage them to try out some of these methods. Maybe a toy animal comes with you while you walk the dog. Perhaps they create a new food with art supply scraps to add to an animal's section of the zoo. Place some art supply scraps out and see what they imagine (a jingle bell could be a ball for a seal, a felt scrap could become a hammock for a bear, a toilet paper tube could be a log for an animal to hide in). ***Remember to take pictures!***



28) Where are You?

Hide some of the animals around your house. Set a feeding time alarm on your phone again. When the alarm goes off, kiddos can discover that someone let all the animals out of the zoo! (There are some great read alouds for this like Goodnight Gorilla.). Begin the hunt for the animals. Notice which ones are hidden well and blend in with their environments (camouflaged) and which ones stand out. Lay out a brightly colored fabric square or towel. Turn down the lights. Give one kiddo the pile of animals and turn away. Ask your kiddo to toss the animals on the fabric. See who has the biggest pile of animals once they've all been collected. You can try wearing sunglasses and picking up animals with spoons or clothespins to add another layer of challenge.

29) All About Our Zoo

Share your zoo with others! You can draw a map of your zoo, create a video of your kiddos showing a toy or someone around the zoo, or use the template below to create a zoo brochure. Mail, text, or email your work to friends or family members (or post it on social media and tag [@watchwonderbloom](#) so I can see it!!!!). Tuck a copy of your work and/or pictures of your zoo into your your memory book or notebook.

30) Record your Own

Tell an "and then..." story at dinner where each member of the family talks about something you've done in the month and "passes" when they share a memory or two by saying "and then...". Use this, the crafts you made, and pictures you took to add to your memory book! Throughout the month, you may have added pictures to your memory book. Today, look through those pictures and add captions with what your kiddos say about the pictures. If you wrote captions earlier, read those out loud and add on!

Sharing your creations on social media? Please tag [@watchwonderbloom](#) or use [#watchwonderbloom](#). Thank you for helping spread the beautiful messes and family time fun!

Welcome to _____'s Zoo

Picture of our zoo:

Zoo created by:

Front Cover

About the Zookeepers:

(copy table below as many times as needed)

Zookeepers Name:	Favorite Animal:
Picture:	Favorite Enrichment Activity:
	Favorite Zookeeping Task:

Zookeepers Name:	Favorite Animal:
Picture:	Favorite Enrichment Activity:
	Favorite Zookeeping Task:

Back Cover

About Our Zoo:

At our zoo, you will see the following animals:

Our zoo animals like to play games like:

When you visit the zoo, remember to...

Inside Cover

Animal Profiles:

Here are two animals you'll meet at our zoo!

Animal Species:	Animal's Name:
Picture:	Description of the animal:
	This animal likes to play...
	This animal eats...

Animal Species:	Animal's Name:
Picture:	Description of the animal:
	This animal likes to play...
	This animal eats...

Map of our Zoo:

Legend: