Thinking Abilities and General Knowledge
Activity for 54 to 60 Months

Link-by-Link Calendar

Using this hands-on approach allows children to learn about calendar days in a concrete way, making the concept of date and time more engaging and easier to visualize. Children also track the days in the calendar by counting, which will serve as a useful introduction to the concept of numbers, dates, and time.

Materials:
- Construction paper, cut into 1.5-inch strips

What to do:

1. Assign a number to each strip (this will represent each calendar date until the event).

2. Allow the child to decorate the strips, making sure she includes the assigned number on the strip.

3. Demonstrate how to create the first "link" by securing both 1.5-inch ends of the strip together with tape.

4. Have the child line the strips up in numerical order.

5. Instruct the child to link her strip by looping it into the center of the one after it and securing the ends together with tape.

6. Have the child do the same — one by one and in numerical order — to create a chain.

7. Have the child at the end of the day unlink the numbered link corresponding to the calendar date. The chain allows young ones to "see" how many days are left until the special day by looking at their chain and counting.