



Stark County Board of DD Early Intervention Newsletter

June 2021

Virtual Playgroup



IN PERSON
@ Boettler Park,
Green
OR VIRTUAL

Soar into summer every Tuesday this month @ 10AM for a different rocketship activity each week!

June 1st

Rocket Art, Music & Movement

BLAST OFF INTO SUMMER with us!

We will be making amazing rocketships to use for a fun music and movement activity. While the glue is drying on your rockets we will try to launch a bottle rocket.



June 8th

Story-time & Shape Rockets

Bizzy Bear Space Rocket

We will explore space with Bizzy Bear through this interactive book then we will be building shape rockets together using shape blocks or paper shapes.



IN PERSON
@ Metzger Park,
Louisville
OR VIRTUAL

June 15th

**Moon Rocks, Asteroids and
Rockets, Off MY!**

Make straw rockets, moon rocks and asteroids with us then practice tossing and throwing your moon rocks and asteroids into the baskets. Launch your rockets by blowing hard into your straw. How high can you make it launch?



June 22nd

Kids in the Kitchen

Rocket Ship Kabob

You only need a few ingredients to make and enjoy our rocket snack with us today. You will need skewers to build your rocket kabob on and fruit, cheese, and/or marshmallows. Be creative with your ingredients and choose items your child will eat and that you have on hand at home.



June 29th

Sensory Play with Miss Chris
Outer Space Sensory Bags

No mess sensory play!

Join us to make and play with these intriguing outer space sensory bags.

Not just for kids, anyone can enjoy this activity!



IN-PERSON PLAYGROUP OPPORTUNITIES

As life is slowly starting to return to normal and COVID restrictions are beginning to be lifted we felt it was important to begin to offer opportunities for families to meet & play together in a safe way. Socialization is an important part of a child's development and COVID prevented us from providing opportunities for small children to socialize with their peers. We are excited to announce that we will be having two in person outdoor playgroups per month beginning on June 1st. They will be held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at different Stark County Parks. We will still continue to hold virtual playgroups each week at our regular time too. If you are unable to join us in person you can still click on the virtual link at 10AM & we will connect with you virtually from the park by Webex.

Playgroups will follow all agency, local, state and government guidelines for safety. For everyone's health and safety, we ask that if you are not fully vaccinated you please continue to social distance and wear your mask if you join us.

Outdoor playgroups are weather permitting. In the event of rain or extreme heat a REMIND notification and email will be sent out by 9 AM notifying you of the need to cancel in-person playgroup for the day. We will still hold virtual playgroups each week regardless. See page 8 for the heat index chart the agency uses to determine if it is safe to play outdoors.

June In-person Playgroup Opportunities:

June 1st

Boettler Park
5300 Massillon Rd
North Canton

June 15th

Metzger Park
1420 Nickel Plate S,
Louisville



June Family Fun with Rockets!!

Rocketship Run Activity

Make this awesome toilet paper tube rocketship then try this fun music and movement activity with Lauri Berkner's "Rocketship Run" song. 5-4-3-2-1 Blast off, another rocketship run!!



You will need a paper towel or toilet paper tube to make this. Directions, supplies needed, and the pattern to make it is on page 6. Below is the link to the song on YouTube and the words to the song are in the songs and finger plays on page 5.

"Rocketship Run" by Laurie Berkner

YouTube link to the song:

<https://youtu.be/W4OgPHpUjh4>

Space Rocket Snack



Get ready to blast-off with this rocket ship fruit kabob snack. A super fun snack idea to make and eat and you only need a few items to make them. You will need a wooden skewer or straw; if you are worried about your child using a skewer, just let your child lay the pieces on a plate just like they would put them onto the skewer.

Next, you will need a firm orange or yellow fruit to make the rocket flames like a cantaloupe chunk, orange slice or you can even use a chunk of cheese. Slide the flames $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down the skewer. Choose two fruits like a banana and strawberries or you could choose a fruit and a treat like marshmallows (something you can push your skewer/straw through). Strawberries are a great choice because they have a point you can use as the rocket top but you can also shape most fruits to create the top. Slice your fruit into pieces about $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick then let your child push the fruits or other treats onto their skewer ending with the pointed piece as the top of their rocket.

You could boost simple math and language skills by encouraging your child to make a simple pattern by alternating the fruits as they add them to the skewer, counting the pieces or even talking about the colors, shapes, sizes, and textures of the fruit.

Shape Rockets

Look at some pictures of rockets together and talk about the different shapes on the rockets. Have blocks or cut different shapes—circles, squares, triangles, rectangles, stars, etc. out of paper for your child. If your child uses scissors you can have them cut shapes out by themselves. You can use different colors of paper or your child can color the shapes with crayons or markers.



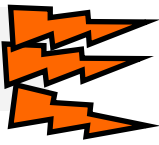
Have your child use the shapes to create different rockets. Talk to your child about the shapes they are using, why they used that particular shape, and if you are using different colored shapes you can talk about the different colors too. Your child is learning math and language skills at the same time!

If your child wants to keep the rocket he makes have them glue the pieces together on a piece of paper.

5-4-3-2-1

BLAST OFF!!

More Family Fun with Rockets!!



Rocket Science

Give this fun science activity a try too! Place rubber stopper into an empty 2-liter bottle. Turn it upside down and tape the 3 pencils eraser side down. Adjust them so that all of the erasers are touching the ground and the bottle is vertical. Remove the stopper and turn the bottle right side up. Pour 2 cups of vinegar into the bottle. Measure 2 Tablespoons of baking soda onto a tissue or paper towel. Pick the sides up gently to move all of the baking soda to the center. Fold the bottom of the tissue up, then fold the sides in. Continue to fold over so it looks like a tube or scroll. Pick it up and let the baking soda slip down into the bottom fold. Begin to insert your baking soda tube/scroll into the opening of the 2-liter bottle being careful not to let it fall. Once you have it about 3/4 of the way in push the stopper back in to hold the packet. Rip off the tissue still hanging out to release the packet. Give it a quick shake, and turn it over so the stopper is facing the ground. Step back and wait (it shouldn't take more than a minute)...

5-4-3-2-1...BLAST OFF! Your rocket has launched!

Materials needed:

- 2 liter bottle
- baking soda
- Vinegar
- #4 rubber stopper
- measuring cup
- tablespoon
- 3 pencils
- packing or duct tape
- Kleenex or other tissue

Moon Rock / Asteroid Toss

Make "moon rocks" or "asteroids" out of pieces of aluminum foil. Tear off sheets of foil and have your child crush them into balls.



Take turns throwing the moon rocks and asteroids into the container. Count how many land in the basket. This is great for hand strengthening, ball throwing skills, and hand-eye coordination. You will also be counting and having fun!!

Soaring Straw Rockets

Use the pattern and directions on page 7 to make a few of these. Challenge your child to BLOW on the straw and see whose rocket goes higher. While your child is having fun blowing their rockets up to the sky they are also improving their oral motor skills (mouth skills) which include using the jaw, tongue, cheeks, and lips by increasing awareness, strength, co-ordination, movement, and endurance.



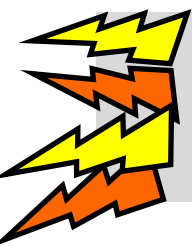
Cardboard Box Rocketship



I am sure you can relate...you purchase a toy for your child then find them playing with the box and not the toy they had to have. Something about a cardboard box entices children to play with it. Give them a cardboard box and they will be entertained for hours, the toy that came in the box, maybe 5 minutes. Why?? Boxes are open-ended, they can be anything your child imagines- a spaceship, rocket, race car, castle, boat, anything your child wants. So what does open-ended mean? It means it has no limitations on how it can be used or played with and you don't need to buy anything to play with it. Because it can be anything your child imagines it can be a rocket one minute and the next it might be a house. They can spontaneously change what it is depending on their mood and play at the time.

Find a box, it doesn't matter what size but, the bigger the box the more enticing it is. Build a rocketship out of the box for your child to play in. Add a blanket, stuffed animal or two, pretend food and set off to the moon with your child in their rocket.





Soaring Rocket Sensory Activities to Enjoy with your Family!!

Outer Space Sensory Bag

You probably have all the items you need at home or you can purchase them at your local dollar store to make these simple, inexpensive outer space sensory bags. It only takes a few minutes to make them and when they are done playing there is **no clean-up!** For children who prefer to not touch different textures using a bag is another way to introduce them to those different textures.



For this sensory bag you will need:
Ziplock storage bags (your choice of size)
Clear hair gel
Confetti stars and/or buttons
Black paper or poster board

Optional:
Glitter
Duct tape or packaging tape to reinforce the zip seal

To make your bag, you will add the clear hair gel into the Ziplock bag. The size of your bag will determine how much hair gel you will need. Add your star confetti and buttons for planets. If you want to add glitter you will want to do that now too. Before sealing your bag, lay it flat and squeeze out as much air as possible there should be enough gel in the bag to squish and push your fingers through leaving a trail. If needed, add more gel to the bag before sealing it. At this point, I recommend using Duct or packaging tape to seal it shut so curious kiddos do not pull it open.

Do you want to make the stars stand out? You can tape the bag down onto a piece of black paper or poster board. If there is a label on your bag a Magic Eraser will remove it.

This activity promotes a lot of skills. It encourages fine motor skills; pushing, squeezing, and moving the stars and planets around in the bag. Just moving the stars and planets can be a challenge; to add more challenge for older kids, place a pattern below the bag for them to push and match the stars and planets to. You can talk about the star and circle shapes and colors and the feel of the gel, stars, and planets to build vocabulary too! Not only will your child be entertained and engaged with this activity you will too! Just feeling the coolness and squishiness of the gel in the bag can be soothing not to mention how pretty the stars and planets are.

Moon Sand

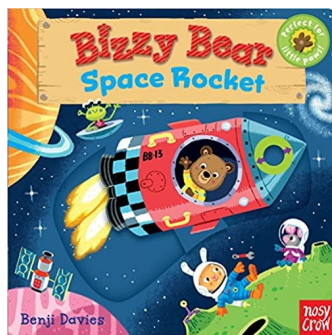


Ingredients

4 cups of flour
1/2 cup of baby oil
A few drops of food coloring

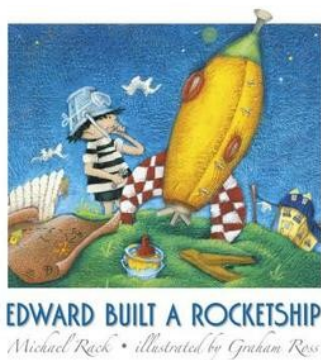
Begin by mixing your flour and oil **really well** in a large bowl. You can use different varieties of oil if you choose such as canola, vegetable, olive or coconut oil. Once your moon sand is a smooth texture you can add food coloring if you want colored sand, a tiny bit at a time until you get the color you want. You can also add sparkles, glitter or even little foil balls for moon rocks. You can make craters in your moon sand by using your moon rocks to push into the sand or by throwing them into the sand. Store your moon sand in an airtight container to play with again later.

BOOKS TO READ IN JUNE

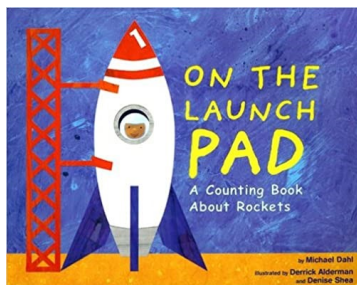


Bizzy Bear is exploring space! With sliders and tabs to push and pull, there's lots of interactivity for toddlers as Bizzy blasts off, glides past aliens, and jumps around on the moon.

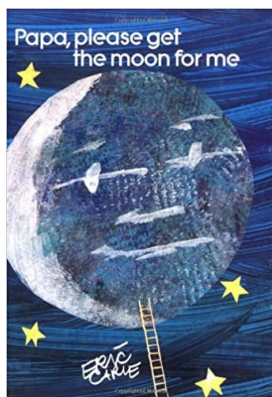
Edward blasts into space on a magical tour of the Milky Way with meteor showers, asteroids, aliens, and even a message for Mom from Mercury.



3 . . . 2 . . . 1 . . . blastoff!
In award-winning author Michael Dahl's, *On the Launch Pad: A Counting Book About Rockets*, a space shuttle awaits lift-off. Each page features bright illustrations with hidden numbers in the artwork to introduce the concept of counting.



Monica wants to play with the moon, but she can't quite seem to reach it. The pages extend both outward and upward, and readers will empathize with Monica's longing for the moon as well as be reassured by her father's willingness to try to make her dream come true.



June Songs and Fingerplays

Rocketship Run

By Laurie Berkner

5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

Blast off!

Another rocketship run

5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

Blast off!

Another rocketship run

Take me to the sun

Take me to the sun

When I get there

I'll go spinning through the air

Spinning round the sun

5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

Blast off!

Another rocketship run

5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

Blast off!

Another rocketship run

Take me to the moon

Take me to the moon

When I get there

I'll go dancing through the air

Dancing on the moon

5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

Blast off!

Another rocketship run

5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

Blast off!

Another rocketship run

Take me to the stars

Take me to the stars

When I get there

I'll go jumping through the air

Jumping from star to star

5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

Blast off!

Another rocketship run

5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

Blast off!

Another rocketship run

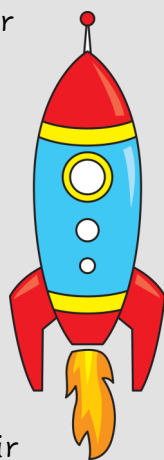
Take me to the earth

Leave me on the ground

When I get there I'll be home

10 - 9 - 8 - 7 - 6 - 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

Blast off! Another rocketship run!

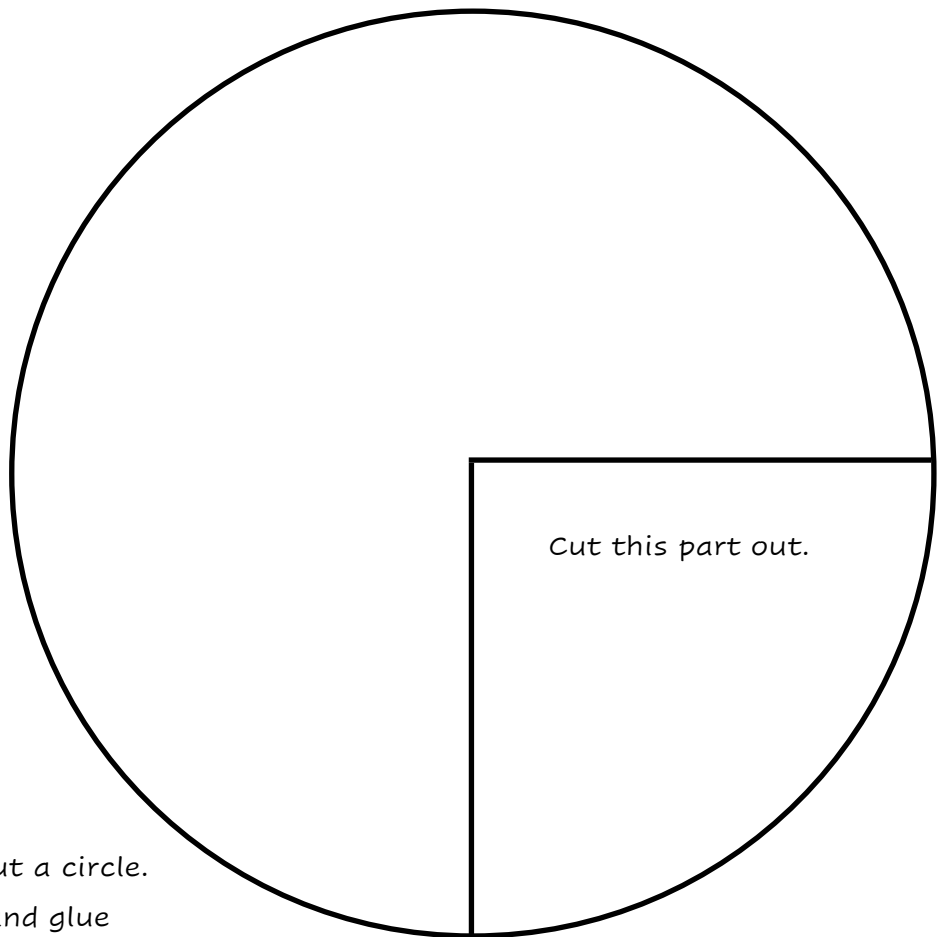
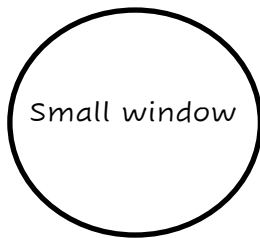
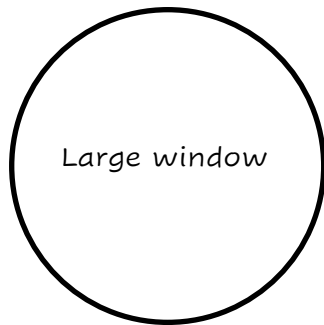


Paper Towel Roll Rocket

Directions:

1. Start with an empty paper towel roll or toilet paper roll
2. Cover the roll with paper, foil, fabric, felt, or paint.
3. Use one of the “window” patterns below to decorate your rocket or make drawings, use stickers, shapes or whatever you have on hand.
4. Staple, tape or glue on the “fire”. You can use streamers, fabric or paper strips, tissue paper, etc.
5. Cut out the nose cone and glue it to the top of the rocket (this takes time to dry)

(Tip: you may want to do steps 2 and 5 ahead of time especially since the cone needs drying time before it can be handled.)



Rocket cone top:

Use the large pattern to cut a circle.

Cut out the triangle part and glue the two straight edges together to create a cone.

Glue on top of rocket

Soaring Rocket

Supplies:

- 2 straws with different diameters (so one can slide into the other)
- Tape
- Rocket

Instructions:

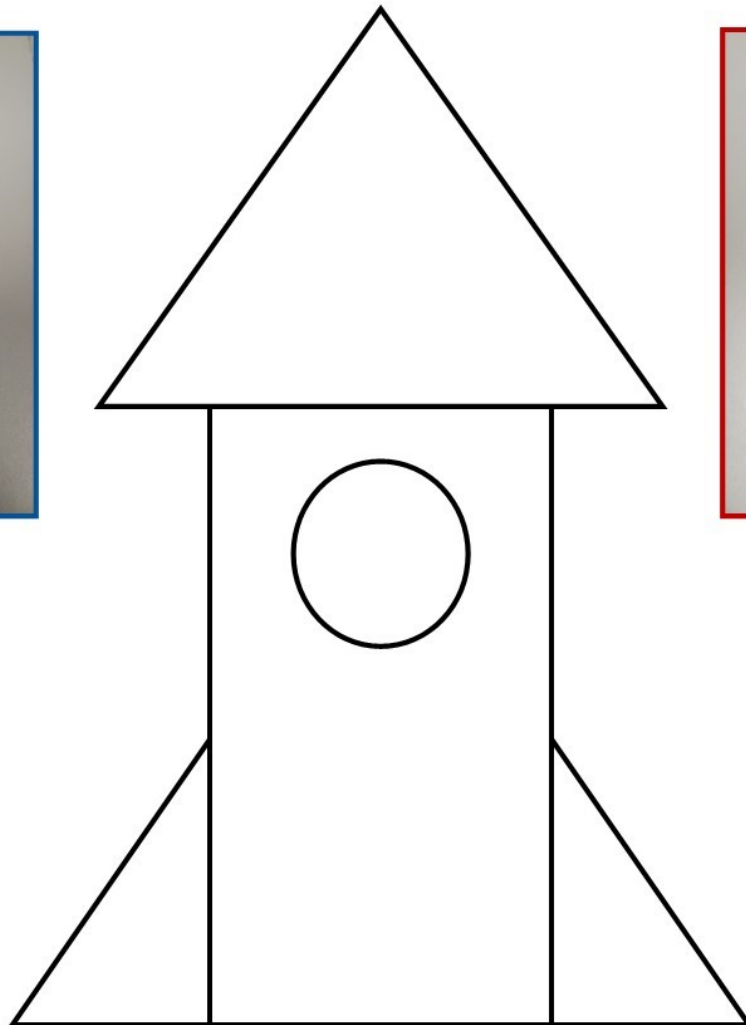
1. Color your rocket and cut it out
2. Cut the larger straw so that it is shorter than your rocket. Seal one end of the straw with tape and then tape the straw to the back of the rocket so that it is hidden.
3. Slide the smaller straw in the larger one and BLOW!

Tips:

- * If your child does not want to blow the straw you can use an empty condiment bottle to blow air into the straw.
- * If you don't have 2 straws try anything round in a pinch— uncooked rigatoni even works!
- * Paper straws do not work as well as plastic.



Step 2



Finished Rocket

Agency Policy



If the heat index is 86 or above we do not let the kids go outside.

We will check the heat index when outdoor playgroups are planned and notify families through Remind and email if we need to cancel our outdoor playgroups by no later than 9AM.

You can still join in play with us that day virtually for playgroup if you choose.

		Relative Humidity (%)																				
		5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	
Temperature (°F)	80	77	78	78	79	79	79	80	80	80	81	81	82	82	83	84	84	85	86	86	87	
	81	78	79	79	79	79	80	80	81	81	82	82	83	84	85	86	86	87	88	90	91	
	82	79	79	80	80	80	80	81	81	82	83	84	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	93	95
	83	79	80	80	81	81	81	82	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	90	91	93	95	97	99	
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	87	82	83	83	84	84	85	86	87	88	89	91	93	95	98	100	103	106	109	113	116	
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	89	84	84	85	85	86	87	88	89	91	93	95	97	100	103	106	110	113	117	122		
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	92	86	87	88	88	89	90	92	94	96	99	101	105	108	112	116	121	126	131			
	93	87	88	89	89	90	92	93	95	98	101	104	107	111	116	120	125	130	136			
	94	87	89	90	90	91	93	95	97	100	103	106	110	114	119	124	129	135	141			
	95	88	89	91	91	93	94	96	99	102	105	109	113	118	123	128	134	140				
	96	89	90	92	93	94	96	98	101	104	108	112	116	121	126	132	138	145				
	97	90	91	93	94	95	97	100	103	106	110	114	119	125	130	136	143	150				
	98	91	92	94	95	97	99	102	105	109	113	117	123	128	134	141	148					
	99	92	93	95	96	98	101	104	107	111	115	120	126	132	138	145	153					
	100	93	94	96	97	100	102	106	109	114	118	124	129	136	143	150	158					
	101	93	95	97	99	101	104	108	112	116	121	127	133	140	147	155						
	102	94	96	98	100	103	106	110	114	119	124	130	137	144	152	160						
	103	95	97	99	101	104	108	112	116	122	127	134	141	148	157	165						
	104	96	98	100	103	106	110	114	119	124	131	137	145	153	161							
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106	98	100	103	106	109	114	119	124	130	137	145	153	162	172								
107	99	101	104	107	111	116	121	127	134	141	149	157	167									
108	100	102	105	109	113	118	123	130	137	144	153	162	172									
109	100	103	107	110	115	120	126	133	140	148	157	167	177									
110	101	104	108	112	117	122	129	136	143	152	161	171										
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112	104	107	111	115	121	127	134	142	150	160	170	181										
113	104	108	112	117	123	129	137	145	154	164	175											
114	105	109	113	119	125	132	140	148	158	168	179											
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116	107	111	116	122	129	137	146	155	166	177												
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122	111	118	125	134	143	154	165	178														
123	112	119	127	136	146	157	169	182														
124	113	120	129	138	148	160	172															
125	114	121	130	140	151	163	176															

Heat Index



Extreme Danger	Heat stroke likely.
Danger	Sunstroke, muscle cramps, and/or heat exhaustion likely. Heatstroke possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.
Extreme Caution	Sunstroke, muscle cramps, and/or heat exhaustion possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.
Caution	Fatigue possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.

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