

Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

MARCH 2010

Refrigerator Poster

Just hang your *Recipes* poster on the refrigerator and sneak in an activity when you have a few minutes. These fun activities will help develop school success and positive behavior. Check off each box as you complete the "recipe."

SPELLING Secret Code Spelling

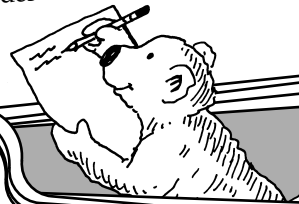
Here is a creative way for your child to study spelling words.

Ingredients: paper, pencil

Have her write the alphabet across a sheet of paper. Then, she can make a code underneath it by writing the alphabet backward so that each letter corresponds with the one above it (A = Z, B = Y, and so on).

On another sheet of paper, your youngster should list her spelling words. Under each word, she can write it using the code. For instance, *their* would become *gvri*.

When she finishes, have her write the code words on a third sheet of paper and decipher them back into the correct spelling. Each time she codes and decodes her words, she'll be practicing spelling.



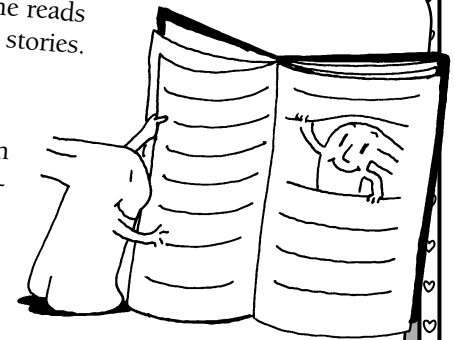
READING Reading Between the Lines

Build your child's understanding of what she reads by teaching her to spot an author's clues in stories.

Ingredients: book

First, explain to your youngster that authors don't always tell exactly what is happening in a story. For instance, a book might say, "Marvin froze, his heart pounding." By "reading between the lines," or making an *inference*, a reader can figure out that the character is scared.

Next, read a storybook or a chapter of a longer book together. From time to time, point out places where your child may need to read between the lines. Can she explain what the author means? Also, have her try to think of a different way to say the same thing ("Marvin was shaking").



SCIENCE Backyard Field Guide

Your youngster can explore nature and practice sorting living things into groups by making a field guide to your backyard.

Ingredients: paper, stapler, pencil, crayons

Help your child staple four sheets of paper together. At the top of each page, he can write one category of living things that he might discover outside: mammals, birds, plants, and insects.

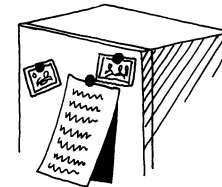
Together, walk around your yard or a nearby park and find examples for each category. For instance, if your youngster sees a squirrel, he can draw a picture and write a description of it on the mammal page ("A gray squirrel was climbing our tree").

Idea: Suggest that he explore at different times of the day. Does he see more living things in the morning, afternoon, or evening?



WRITING

Help your child see all the ways that writing is useful in daily life. Have him post a piece of paper on the refrigerator. Each time someone writes (a phone message, grocery list), he can add it to the sheet. At the end of a week, have him count the items on the list.



FRACTIONS

Use pocket change to help your youngster understand fractions. Place 10 pennies on a table and explain that 1 penny = $\frac{1}{10}$ of a dime. Then, have her count the pennies, $\frac{1}{10}$ at a time, until she's counted 5. Point out that $\frac{5}{10}$ is the same as $\frac{1}{2}$. **Tip:** Give her a dollar's worth of quarters, dimes, and nickels, and let her experiment (1 quarter = $\frac{1}{4}$ dollar).



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Character Corner

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MATH The Total Is 10

Your child can practice addition with this math game.

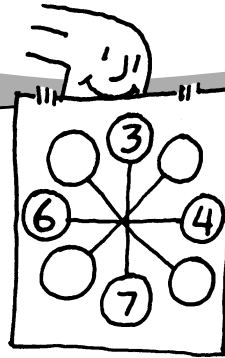
Ingredients: paper, pencil, 11 milk caps, marker, small bag

Have each player draw a large asterisk on a piece of paper and put a circle at the end of each line. Number the milk caps 0 through 10, and put them in the bag.

To play, take turns drawing a cap and writing the number in any empty circle. The catch? The numbers connected by a line must equal 10.

For example, if there's a 3 in one circle, you'll need a 7 in the opposite circle ($3 + 7 = 10$).

After each turn, return the cap to the bag. If you draw a number you can't use, your turn is over. The winner is the first player to fill in all his circles.



VOCABULARY

Your youngster can build her vocabulary and practice reading with this activity. Say a word (*blue, dog, spider*) and have her look through a magazine for a rhyming word (*glue, frog, glider*). She can circle the words with a pencil or pen.

Tip: Encourage her to look in articles, ads, captions, and the table of contents.



Welcome

HOSPITALITY

Your youngster can welcome guests to your home by creating a colorful "mat" on your porch, walkway, or sidewalk. Give her sidewalk chalk to draw and decorate a large rectangle. Suggest that she choose bright colors and include a message, such as "We're glad you came."

CONFIDENCE

Here's a simple way to build your child's confidence. Let him help you do a "grown-up" job like washing the car or cooking dinner. Pick tasks that fit his abilities (rinsing the car, making a salad, setting a timer). You'll get help, and he'll gain a sense of accomplishment.



SUBTRACTION

Does your child know how much his backpack weighs? Have him weigh himself twice—with the backpack and without it. Then, he can subtract the second weight from the first one. For example, if he and the backpack weigh 75 pounds together, and he weighs 70 without it, the backpack weighs 5 pounds ($75 - 70 = 5$).



SPORTSMANSHIP

Does your youngster play a team sport? Have her brainstorm positive comments, such as "Way to hustle!" or "Nice shot!" to boost team morale. The next time she plays a game, remind her to use her ideas to cheer on her teammates.



Congratulations!

We finished _____ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)

GEOGRAPHY

Product labels can help your child learn about geography. Suggest that she read toy and clothing tags. For instance, she might have a toy from China or a shirt from Vietnam. Ask her to find the locations on a globe or map and name the continent that each one is on.



READING

Motivate your youngster to read by letting him plan a comedy night for his friends. He should ask everyone to bring a book of jokes. Then, they can share a snack and take turns reading favorite jokes aloud to each other.

