

Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

NOVEMBER 2013

HISTORY

Who's on the Coin?

Your youngster will get to explore history with this hands-on activity.

Ingredients: coins, paper, crayons, history books or Internet

Place a coin on a flat surface. Have your child place a piece of paper over the coin (heads side up) and rub gently back and forth using a crayon. Can he name the president who appears?

Let him turn the coin over and make another rubbing. What is on the back of the coin? He should check

his answers in a book—or online—he'll learn facts about history in the process.



FRACTIONS

Let your youngster use a calendar to practice fractions. Say there are five Mondays in the month, and she has soccer practice on two of them. Ask her what fraction of Mondays she has practice. (Two out of five Mondays = $\frac{2}{5}$.) Can she find five more calendar fractions?



READING

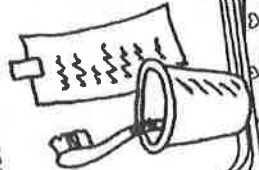
Did your child know that the first recorded U.S. volcanic eruption (Mount St. Helens) happened on November 22, 1842? Get a library book about volcanoes (try *Volcanoes!* by Anne Schreiber).

Encourage him to read for information by asking him the meaning of words like magma and plates.



SPELLING

Here's an easy way for your child to study his spelling words each day. Have him tape the list to the bathroom mirror. Then, he can read it while he brushes his teeth. How many words can he learn in the three minutes he spends brushing in the morning and evening?



Character Corner

DEPENDABILITY

Help your child learn to be punctual by letting her be the family timekeeper.

Give her a watch, and tell her what time you want to leave to visit a relative or run errands. Ask her to announce when there are 30 minutes, 15 minutes, and 5 minutes left.

RESPECT FOR THE EARTH

Encourage your youngster to appreciate the wildlife that lives in your neighborhood. He could draw the different creatures that share your space (birds, spiders). Then, take a walk together, and discuss ways you can help protect them (leave bird nests alone).



CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Teach your child how to apologize. When she makes a mistake, tell her to think about her actions and offer an explanation. ("I was mad and said things I didn't mean. I'm sorry.") Suggest that she write her apology and practice reading it a few times before saying she's sorry in person.



ART

At the park, help your youngster collect interesting leaves, twigs, nuts, and glue her finds on paper to make a picture. Perhaps she'll use a large leaf for a face, pine needles for hair, and acorns for eyes.



Congratulations!

We finished _____ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)

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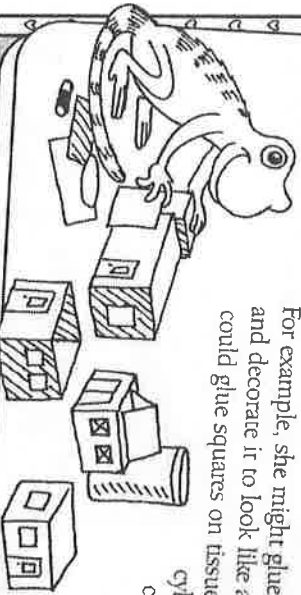
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St. Martin Parish School Board
Title I Program

GEOMETRY Shape Village

Half art project, half geometry lesson... all fun!

Ingredients: empty boxes and cans, pencil, construction paper, scissors, glue
Let your child choose boxes and cans from the recycling bin to build a miniature village. First, she should use construction paper and a pencil to trace around the faces (surfaces) of each container. Then, she can cut out the shapes she drew and glue them onto the boxes and cans. This will show her which 2-D shapes make up 3-D solids.



For example, she might glue rectangles on a shoebox and decorate it to look like a school or a barn. And she could glue squares on tissue boxes to make houses. A cylinder, such as an oatmeal container, might become a silo. Can she figure out which shapes she would need to cover it?

WRITING Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down

Turn family movie night into a reason to write.

Ingredients: paper, pencils, movie

First, brainstorm qualities that make a movie enjoyable (exciting plot, believable characters, interesting scenery). Each person should make a copy of the list.

Then, watch a movie, and take notes. When the movie ends, each write a review based on your notes. Try to include at least one sentence about each item on the list. *Examples:* "The dad reminded me of Uncle Charlie." "The plot twists were confusing, but I liked the surprise ending." Read the reviews aloud, and compare them. What is similar and different about your reviews?



READING Sequence Skits

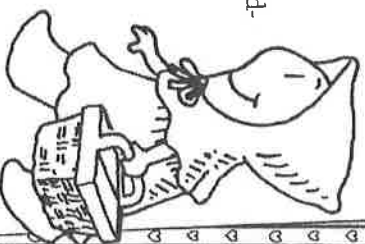
Acting out story events with family members can boost your youngster's reading comprehension.

Ingredients: book, index cards, pencil

Read a book together. On separate index cards, have your child write a sentence that sums up the beginning, the middle, and the end. Shuffle the three cards, and give one to each person.

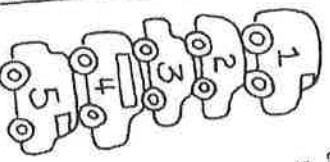
The person with the "beginning" card acts out that part of the story. The second family member acts out the middle, and the third person acts out the end. (If you have fewer people, one person goes twice. If you have a larger family, two people can act out a part together.)

Then, read another book—and act it out in reverse!



ESTIMATION

Use time in the car to practice estimation. For instance, ask your child to estimate how many cars are in a parking lot row or how long it will take to reach a certain landmark. Have her check by counting the cars or timing your trip. What else could she estimate?



HEALTH

Help your youngster get to bed on time by encouraging him to make a bedtime kit. He can place animal inside a shoebox. He'll look forward to snuggling up with his stuffed animal and reading his book by flashlight.

