

Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

APRIL 2009

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."

MATH Roman Numeral Challenge

Learning about this ancient number system is as easy as I, II, III!

Ingredients: book or Web site, paper, pencil

Research roman numerals with your child. Check out a book like *Fun with Roman Numerals* by David Adler, or visit a Web site such as <http://mathforum.org/dr.math/faq/faq.roman.html>. Then, help him make a list of roman numerals:

I = 1, V = 5, X = 10, L = 50, C = 100, M = 1,000.

Next, have him change everyday numbers into roman ones. Your youngster might write his age (8 = VIII), translate his birth date (August 9 = August IX), or figure out your address (120 Maple Street = CXX Maple Street). Finally, let him give you numbers to translate (the year you were born, your phone number).



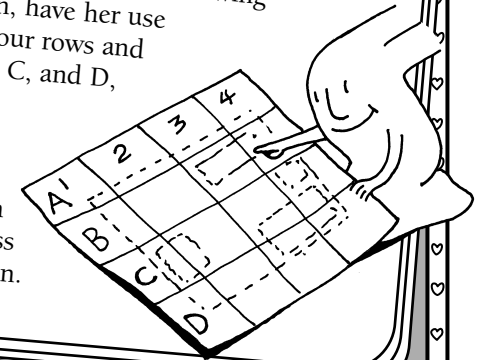
GEOGRAPHY Map It Out

A treasure hunt makes working with map coordinates an adventure.

Ingredients: paper, crayons, pencil, ruler

Help your youngster make a simple map of her bedroom showing her bed, desk, chair, and other items. Then, have her use a pencil and ruler to divide the map into four rows and four columns. She can label the rows A, B, C, and D, and the columns 1, 2, 3, and 4.

When she's finished, hide an object in her room. Look at her map, and tell her which coordinate location it's in ("The sticker is in B3"). Show her how to slide her finger across the "B" row until she reaches the "3" column. Can she find the treasure?



PHONICS Amazing Acronyms

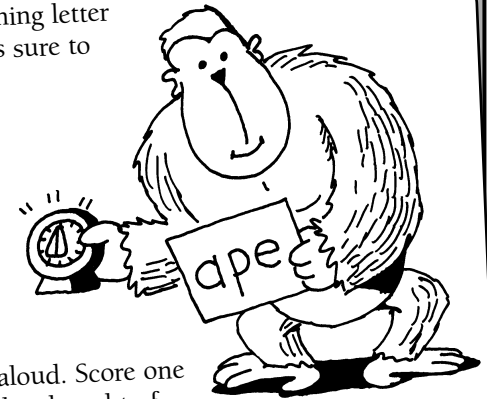
Get your child thinking about beginning letter sounds with this fun word game. It's sure to become a family favorite!

Ingredients: paper, pencil

Take turns choosing a three-letter word (cat, out). Set a timer for one minute, and have the players write down phrases that start with each of the letters (cat = coffee and tea; out = over, under, through).

When time's up, read the answers aloud. Score one point for each phrase that no one else thought of. After five rounds, the player with the highest score wins.

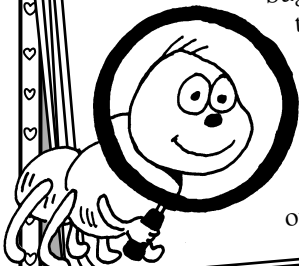
Variation: For older children, use words that have four or more letters.



SCIENCE

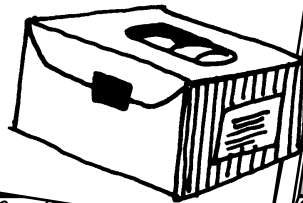
Scientists learn about the world by observing things closely. Give your child a magnifying glass and head outdoors. She'll be surprised at how leaves, flowers, and bugs look when they're enlarged.

Ask her to tell you what details she sees (legs on an ant, lines on a blade of grass).



GEOMETRY

At the grocery store, challenge your youngster to find different shapes. He might spot canned tomato sauce (cylinder), an orange (sphere), or a sign (rectangle). Choose one shape, and see who can find the most different items of that shape before you reach the checkout.



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Character Corner

READING

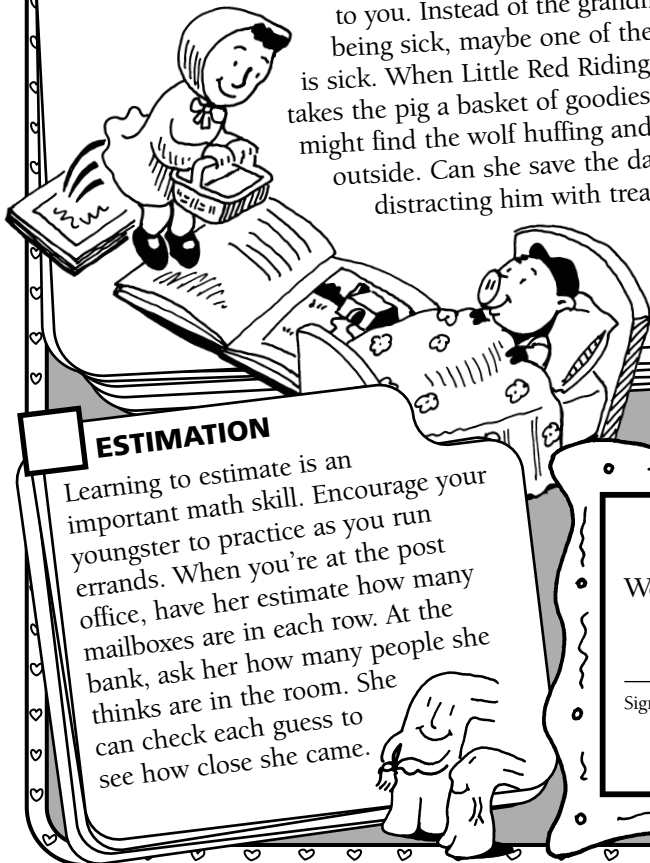
Fairy Tale Swap

Build your child's reading comprehension and imagination with this activity.

Ingredients: book of fairy tales

Let your youngster choose two fairy tales. Read them aloud. Then, ask him to pick a character from one story and pretend that she appears in the other. For example, how would "The Three Little Pigs" be different if Little Red Riding Hood were in it?

Have your child tell the new story to you. Instead of the grandmother being sick, maybe one of the pigs is sick. When Little Red Riding Hood takes the pig a basket of goodies, she might find the wolf huffing and puffing outside. Can she save the day by distracting him with treats?



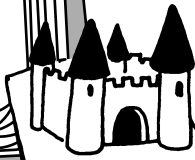
HANDWRITING

Give your child writing practice by letting him make a family menu. Have each person write his favorite main dish, side dish, and dessert on separate index cards. Your youngster can divide them into three piles and pick one from each to create dinner menus. Let him copy them on a sheet of paper and post his menus on the refrigerator.



SOCIAL STUDIES

People and animals live in many kinds of shelters (houses, apartments, trees). Ask your youngster to name as many as he can. Encourage him to think creatively. For example, a queen lives in a castle, and a turtle lives in a shell. Give him crayons and paper to design a shelter of his own.



HOSPITALITY

Your child can learn how to be a good host by inviting friends over. You might suggest that he plan ahead by coming up with a few activities, such as playing baseball or building model airplanes. Then, when his friends arrive, encourage him to share nicely.

PATIENCE

Some things are worth the wait. Help your youngster become more patient by talking about things that get better with time. For instance, homemade soup is tastier after it simmers, and flowers are prettier once they bloom. How many ideas can she come up with?



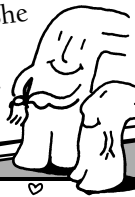
BULLYING PREVENTION

Teach your youngster to stand up for others. If a bully is teasing a classmate at recess, your child could ask him to play a game. Remind your youngster not to respond to the bully. *Note:* Explain that if someone is being hurt, he must get an adult right away.



ESTIMATION

Learning to estimate is an important math skill. Encourage your youngster to practice as you run errands. When you're at the post office, have her estimate how many mailboxes are in each row. At the bank, ask her how many people she thinks are in the room. She can check each guess to see how close she came.



Congratulations!

We finished _____ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)

SPELLING

Word searches are a fun way to study spelling words. Use your child's weekly list to make word searches online with the free tool at <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com>. Print them out, and have her circle the words. She can cross them off her list as she finds them. Then, let her make a word search for you.

