

Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

DECEMBER 2014

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."



READING

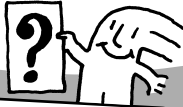
Story questions

Asking questions will help your child think about—and better understand—what he's reading.

Ingredients: 6 index cards, pencil, books

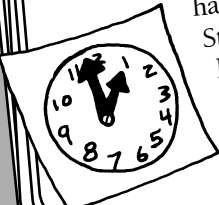
Have your youngster write one question word—"Who?" "What?" "When?" "Where?" "Why?" "How?"—on each index card and lay the cards face-down. Next, he can read a story or chapter aloud, stopping halfway through to choose a card. He should make up the rest of the question and answer it. *Examples:* "Who is the main character?" "What is wrong with the lock?"

Then, you choose a card, and pose a question. You might create one that helps him think about what will happen next: "Where is the family driving?" As your child reads the book, he'll find out how his predictions match what the author wrote.



TIME

Although most homes have digital clocks, your child still needs to be able to read an analog clock. Ask her to draw a clock face and to separately cut out an hour hand and a minute hand. Call out times (1:00, 2:30), and have her arrange the hands to match. **Tip:** Start with times to the hour and half-hour, then go to quarter-hours and so on.



CREATIVE THINKING

It's Backward Day! What creative ways can your youngster come up with to celebrate it? He might wear his shirt backward, put sunglasses on the back of his head, or write a note to you with backward letters. Now ask him to think about how a dog or cat would celebrate Backward Day.



SCIENCE

A water-cycle model

Your youngster can see for herself how the water cycle works.

Ingredients: about $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of dirt, zipper sandwich bag, water, spoon, tape

Help your child put the dirt into the bag, stir in water until moist (but not muddy), and tightly seal. Tape the bag to a sunny window.

Encourage her to observe the bag in a few hours and again over the next few days. First she should see a misty cloud form, and eventually drops of water will drip inside from the top of the bag down the sides. Ask her to think about clouds and rain. What connections can your youngster make? (In a similar way, clouds fill with water, and then rain falls.)

DIVISION

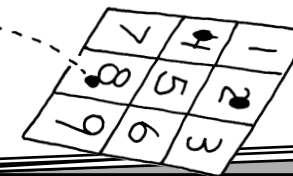
Toss-up

Turn division into an outdoor activity with this driveway game.

Ingredients: sidewalk chalk, 3 pennies, paper, pencil

Let your child draw a large 3 x 3-foot grid on the driveway (or on a sidewalk or playground blacktop) and number the boxes 1–9.

Take turns tossing the pennies onto the grid and using paper and pencil to turn the numbers they land on into a division problem. Combine the first two into a two-digit number and divide it by the third. For instance, if a penny lands on 2, 4, and 8, your youngster would write " $24 \div 8 =$ " and give the answer (3). That is his score. **Note:** If the number doesn't divide equally, ask how many whole sets of the smaller number are in the larger number. For $25 \div 6$, the answer—and his score—would be 4.



Continue playing until someone reaches 50 points.

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Character Corner

HISTORY

Family artifacts

Make it fun to learn about and share family history by discussing your heirlooms.

Ingredients: items special to your family (a photograph, a piece of jewelry, or a birthday card from long ago)

Hold up one heirloom, and let your youngster ask five yes-or-no questions about it. This helps her investigate like a historian and uncover information. She might ask, "Is this Grandpa as a baby?" "Is that ring made of silver?"

Using what she learns, your child can pretend she's the object and tell its story from a first-person point of view: "I arrived in the mail when Mom was 10 years old. She had never seen a stamp or a postcard from Canada. Her Uncle Tommy was living far away in Montreal."

SPELLING

Your youngster can practice her spelling words by spraying shaving cream onto a cookie sheet. Say a word from her list. She can use her finger to write it in the shaving cream. Check it, and have her "erase" the word and try another one. (If it was wrong, give her that one again.) Tip: Saying each letter as she "writes" may boost her memory, too.

STUDY SKILLS

Use this activity to help your child remember facts from his textbooks. While reading a chapter, he should record each fact or important idea on an index card—as a question on the front and an answer on the back. Suggest that he quiz himself to see which facts he knows and which need review. Encourage him to make time throughout the day to work through the cards.

SAFETY

Together, think of three family safety rules. Ask your youngster to explain why each one is important. He might say, "We need to make sure the door is closed so Mikey doesn't try to crawl downstairs and get hurt," or "I must put my shoes away so no one trips over them in the hall."

APPRECIATION

Who is your child especially thankful for? And why? Have her write the person's name down a sheet of paper and use each letter in a word describing him. Tim could be *Terrific, Intelligent, and Musical*. Then, she could decorate the page and present the artwork to the person.

COURAGE

Brainstorm things your youngster fears (a dental visit, a friend moving away). Together, draw a "bubble map" with the event in the center and ways to prepare for it in bubbles around it. For the dentist, he might write: "Dr. Wilson tells jokes" and "My teeth will stay healthy."

DEPENDABILITY

Think of a dependable person (the school bus driver) or thing (the refrigerator). Ask "What if... (the bus driver came late every morning; the refrigerator didn't stay cold)." Talk about the importance of being dependable.

PRIME NUMBERS

Work on prime numbers with this sorting activity. (Note: A prime number can only be divided by itself and 1; for example, 1, 3, or 5. Composite numbers are the rest.) Have your youngster number small paper squares 1–20, turn them facedown, and make a two-column table for "Prime" and "Composite." Take turns flipping over a square and placing it in the correct column.

Congratulations!

We finished _____ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)