

Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

MAY 2013

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 Mixed Messages

As your child races you in this game, he will build reading and logic skills.

Ingredients: storybooks, pencils, paper, scissors
Have each person choose a book. Look through your book, and secretly pick a sentence that has at least five words. Write down the sentence, and cut the paper apart so every piece has two or more words. Swap books and sentence pieces. On the count of three, race to see who can put the sentence in order and find it in the book first.

Variation: Use sentences in newspaper or magazine articles instead of storybooks.



SCIENCE Shiny Pennies

Your young scientist is sure to enjoy this chemistry experiment.

Ingredients: 3 dull pennies, soap, water, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup lemon juice, 1 tsp. salt

Ask your youngster to clean one penny using soap and water. How well does it work? Next, let her dip another penny into lemon juice. Are the results better? Finally, have your child add the salt to the lemon juice and dip in the third penny. Which penny is the shiniest?

Explain that pennies are made of copper. When copper mixes with air, copper oxide forms and makes pennies look dull. Lemon juice will remove some of the oxide. Adding salt works even better.



STUDYING Study Stars

This activity will make your youngster a study star!

Ingredients: construction paper, pencil, scissors



Have your child draw a large star on paper and cut it out. In the center, he can write a topic he needs to study (say, President Kennedy).

On each point of the star, he should write a possible test question. *Example:* What goal did Kennedy set for space exploration? On the back of each point, he can write the answer (putting a man on the moon).

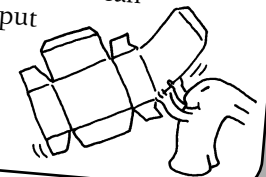
Encourage your youngster to make stars for all the topics he needs to study!

TIME

Help your child make a pendulum by tying a washer to a piece of string. Hold the string while she pulls the washer back and lets go so it swings. Tell her to count how many times it swings back and forth in one minute. Can she use that information to calculate how many times it would swing in one hour?

GEOMETRY

Ask your youngster to take apart boxes (cereal, cracker) and flatten them out. Then, have him refold them to see how the shapes fit together to form the box. *Idea:* Let him draw his own box design on a sheet of cardboard. He can cut it out and put it together to see what his box looks like.



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Character Corner

MATH Lucky 11

Let your youngster practice addition in this version of the classic Go Fish card game. Reach 11, and you hit the jackpot!

Ingredients: deck of cards (omit face cards)

Deal seven cards to each person. Put the remaining cards facedown in a pile.

The first player asks any other player for a card that will make 11 when added to one of her cards. For instance, if your child has a 6, she asks, "Do you have a 5?"

If so, she puts the 5 and her 6 on the table faceup. If not, she draws a card from the pile, and her turn is over.

The winner is the first player to use up her cards.



VOCABULARY

Say a short sentence such as, "I went to the store." Then, toss a ball back and forth with your child. With each toss, the person who catches the ball has to change one word of the sentence. ("I walked to the store.") See how long you and your youngster can keep going—on each bounce, she will work on vocabulary skills.

GEOGRAPHY

Lay a piece of tracing paper over a map of the United States, and trace a state with a pencil. Show the outline to your youngster, and ask him to name the state. He can check the map to see if he is right and then trace a state for you to identify.



HONESTY

As a family, talk about why it's important to be honest. Have each person name one or two ways to be honest. *Examples:* Admit when you've done something wrong. Don't make things up to impress others.



CARING

Have your youngster collect clippings of pictures from old magazines. When someone needs to be cheered up, he can paste pictures onto colored paper to make a card. Let him add a thoughtful message and mail or deliver the card.

GOAL SETTING

Invite family members to make a list of three skills they want to learn this summer. *Examples:* juggling, tennis, origami. Post the lists on the refrigerator or a bulletin board. Then, see if anyone wants to share your goal—you can work together to learn!



Congratulations!

We finished _____ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)

CREATIVITY

A sheet of aluminum foil can boost your child's imagination! Suggest that she scrunch and mold the foil into different shapes. She might create a sculpture of her favorite animal or make letters to spell her name. *Tip:* This is a great boredom-buster in the car.



READING

Play a game of hide-and-seek—with a twist. Instead of counting, the person who is "It" chooses a short poem to read aloud while the other players hide. When he finishes the poem, he looks for the hidden players. The last person found becomes "It" and reads another poem.

