

# Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

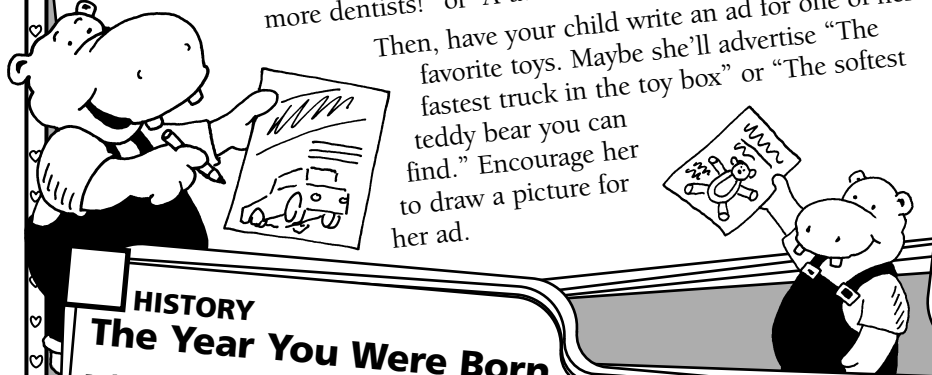
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## WRITING Words That Persuade

Your child can practice persuasive writing by creating an advertisement for a favorite item.

**Ingredients:** magazines, pencil, paper, crayons  
Have your youngster look through magazines for ads that catch her attention. Go over the ads together, and ask her which words and phrases might persuade readers to buy the products. Examples: "Recommended by more dentists!" or "A taste kids love."

Then, have your child write an ad for one of her favorite toys. Maybe she'll advertise "The fastest truck in the toy box" or "The softest teddy bear you can find." Encourage her to draw a picture for her ad.



## MATH Measuring Liquids

Here's a fun way for your youngster to measure liquids.

**Ingredients:** 3 same-size glasses, measuring cup, water, 3 different-size glass containers (jars, vases)

Help your child measure  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of water into the first glass,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup in the second, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup into the third. How much water needs to be added to the first glass to make it equal the second glass? ( $\frac{1}{4}$  cup, because  $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$ .)

Then, have her look away while you pour 1 cup of water into each container. Ask her which one has the most and the least water. Have her use the measuring cup to check. She will see that 1 cup looks different depending on the container's size and shape.



## Refrigerator Poster

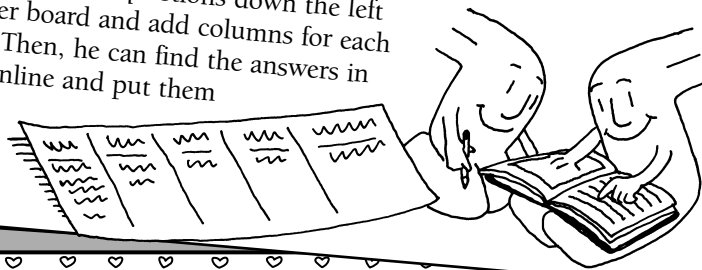
Just hang your *Recipes* poster on the refrigerator and sneak in an activity when you have a few minutes. These fun activities will help develop school success and positive behavior. Check off each box as you complete the "recipe."

## HISTORY The Year You Were Born

What happened the year each member of your family was born? With this project, your youngster will learn some history and build research skills.

**Ingredients:** poster board, markers, almanac or computer with Internet access  
Together, come up with five things to learn about the year of each person's birth. Examples: Who was president? What was the most popular song? Who won the Super Bowl?

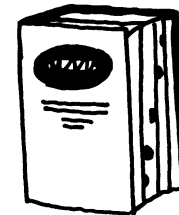
Have your child write the questions down the left side of the poster board and add columns for each family member. Then, he can find the answers in an almanac or online and put them on the chart.



## READING

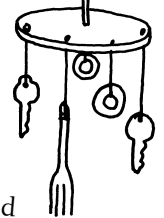
Have your child use the index of a cookbook to find three recipes made with autumn foods like pumpkin, cranberries, and turkey.

Let him pick a recipe to make together. He can read the instructions out loud as you cook.



## CREATIVITY

Let your youngster create a wind chime from household items. Help her gather metal objects (keys, washers, old forks) and tie a piece of string to each. Then, poke holes around the edge of a plastic lid. She can put the strings through the holes and knot them. Finally, hang the chime outside to hear the sounds it makes!



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## Character Corner

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### READING Syllable Seekers

Your youngsters can explore syllables with a word hunt.

**Ingredients:** newspaper, paper, pencils

First, give each player a set of instructions for finding words with a certain number of syllables. For example, you might say, "Find two 1-syllable words, four 2-syllable words, three 3-syllable words, and one 4-syllable word."

Then, everyone gets a section of the newspaper. On the count of three, players follow the instructions and write down their own sets of words. A complete list might include: *a, the, mission, even, hearing, public, yesterday, stabilize, generate, technology*. The first player to finish wins.

**Variation:** Let younger players search for fewer words or shorter words (three 1-syllable words and three 2-syllable words, for example).



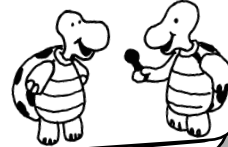
### FITNESS

Have your youngster take an activity break during homework. Set a timer to go off halfway through homework time (if he normally works for 30 minutes, set it for 15). When the timer goes off, he might walk up and down the stairs a few times or do 10 push-ups. The movement will keep his mind and body active.



### INTERVIEWING

Suggest that your child think of one question to ask your family each week ("What is your favorite season, and why?" "Where would you like to travel?"). Encourage her to interview family members and record their answers in a notebook. Then, she can report on what she finds.



### CITIZENSHIP

Together, brainstorm a list of traffic laws (stop at red lights, obey speed limits). Talk about how those laws make driving safer for everyone. Ask your child to think of some rules you have at home that make things safer for your family (don't go online without adult supervision, always lock the front door).



### PERSEVERANCE

Does your youngster ever find it tough to stick to a goal? If so, help him reach one. *Examples:* building a model airplane, running a mile. Have him map out the steps and pick a deadline to shoot for. Be sure to celebrate once the goal is met!



### COOPERATION

Turn a crossword puzzle into a family challenge. One person can be in charge of reading the clues while another fills in everyone's answers. Have someone else look up unfamiliar words in the dictionary and read the definitions aloud.



## Congratulations!

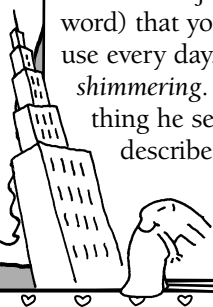
We finished \_\_\_\_\_ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)

### VOCABULARY

Name an adjective (a describing word) that your youngster might not use every day. *Examples:* *gigantic, bubbly, shimmering*. Have him choose something he sees that the adjective could describe, such as "a gigantic building." Take turns naming adjectives and finding objects to go with them.



### ADDITION

Ask your child how she would make 50 cents using the least number of coins (1 half-dollar). The most? (50 pennies). Encourage her to think of other ways to make 50 cents (5 dimes; 3 dimes and 4 nickels). Then, give her a different amount (\$1.37, \$1.82). *Variation:* For younger children, get a handful of change. They can use the coins to find all the possible combinations.

