



PEN Notes: Fact Sheet # 15

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Summer Fun!

"Parents and families are the first and most important teachers. If families teach a love of learning, it can make all the difference in the world to our children."

(Richard W. Riley, former U.S. Secretary of Education)

Educational research has made it clear that parents who are actively involved in their children's learning at home help their children become more successful learners in and out of school. U.S. Department of Education

Kindergarten - 3rd Grade

Reading Activities:

(Sorting, Stacking--classification skills)

- Match and stack dishes.
- Sort flatware--recognizing shapes.

(Telephonitis)

- Dialing numbers--
- Learning numbers left to right.
- Make a phone book of relatives.



(Let 'Em Eat Shapes)

- Cut bread into shapes. Make two of each. Have the kids find the same shapes and make sandwiches.

(Dress Me)

- Teach items of clothing and body parts when dressing and undressing.
- Print names of clothing and body parts on pieces of paper. Make a drawing of your child and hang it up.
- Have the child label clothing and body parts.

Math Activities:

(Sorting and Counting)

- Have kids sort laundry--socks, pants, sheets or whites, colored, towels.

- Fold napkins into large and small fractions.
- Weigh different objects, ingredients, and friends. First, guess the weight!

Writing Activities:

(Disappearing Letters)

- Promote creativity with a pail of water and a brush by having the child write anything he wants on the sidewalk.

(Comic Strip Writing)

- Cut segments of a comic strip apart and have children arrange them; have them fill in the words of the characters (orally or in writing).

(Story Endings)

- Improve listening skills and imagination by telling a story and let the child tell the ending. Then finish the story and compare endings.

(Letter Recognition)

- Build letter and number recognition by using alphabet soups, cereals, magazines and newspapers. For example, have them find 3 C's or 5 A's.

Science Activities:

- Freeze and melt ice cubes--time the processes.
- See what things float or sink in water.
- Teach cause and effect by watering one plant for two weeks and not watering the other; discuss the outcome.

4th - 5th Grades

Reading Activities:

- ✓ Read with your child; act out stories and poems.
- ✓ Put reading skills to use: follow cooking directions, read road maps, brochures; plan a vacation or day trip to the zoo.
- ✓ When reading the newspaper or watching the news, have a world map close by and find the places being discussed.

Writing Activities:

- ✓ Have children cut 4 or 5 pictures out of a magazine and tell a story about them.
- ✓ Exchange notes with your child daily.
- ✓ Keep a large calendar where children can fill in messages, birthdays, special events.

Math Activities:

- ✓ Have your child prepare a simple dish. Check supplies on hand and make a list. Let the child select the items, check prices, amounts and estimate the totals.
- ✓ On short trips have the child figure how much gas is needed and the cost per gallon. Have them read road signs and different speed limits and check your speed.
- ✓ Check the weather section of the newspaper for temperatures across the nation, along with sports scores.

Social Studies:

- ✓ Have children share in family responsibilities by making a chart of family chores, including days and times.
- ✓ Record history at home on a roll of shelf paper, marking a line 3' long. Let the child mark important dates in her life.
- ✓ Travel abroad at home by visiting ethnic shops, and restaurants in your community. Show these countries on the map and talk about their locations.

6th - 8th Grades

Reading Activities:

- ✓ Ask your child to find pages in the newspaper containing government, editorials, weather, car sales, etc., and discuss how to use this information.
- ✓ Chose an important news event and have the child gather information from radio, TV, newspaper, etc., then discuss it as a family!

Writing Activities:

- ✓ Write notes and leave them around where children can read them, i.e., "I like the way you cook breakfast", "keep your room clean," "do your homework," etc.
- ✓ Look at newspaper, magazine or TV advertisements and ask children about the main point of the ad.
- ✓ Ask children their opinion. Should teens be allowed to vote or should there be any homework? Think of pro and con answers.

Math Activities:

- ✓ Discuss household expenses and have children chart them over a period of time so they can see the results.
- ✓ Have children go through the newspaper and get scores, sale prices, bank rates, etc., and ask them what would happen if the decimal was not there.
- ✓ Teach children to budget allowances.

Social Studies Activities:

- ✓ Help your children learn about people from foreign countries by interviewing neighbors from different countries, reading books and newspapers, and watching TV specials.
- ✓ Help your child write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper about issues affecting children i.e. bike path or skateboard facility.

Health Activity:

- ✓ Do a physical activity daily with your child!
Source: Summer Home Learning Recipes; US Dept of Ed