



Learning & Growing Together

An online newsletter for parents!

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Learning Through Everyday Activities

When we talk about a child's literacy development and learning, we most often think of reading, reading, reading. While this is an excellent way of developing your child's literacy skills, there are countless other opportunities that are also beneficial!

As you go about your typical day, you will find many occasions to interact and talk with your child in ways that will promote her early literacy development. It doesn't always have to mean sitting down with a good story book. Keep in mind that children learn best through their everyday interactions with the people they love and trust and when the learning is fun!



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you are doing. What an excellent time to talk with your child and have him help you with the shopping! Read your grocery list to your child. It doesn't matter if he doesn't yet understand what you are saying...you are exposing him to language! He needs to hear the words to learn to speak them.

Ask your child to help you look for the items you will be purchasing by describing them. For example, when you get to the item's general location you could say,

"Help me find a big box that is yellow." If your child is learning his letters you could extend this idea by asking him to find a large yellow box with the letter 'C' on the front.

The Grocery Store

Think about the amount of time that you spend in the grocery store each week. Then think of the amount of time that your child is sitting in the cart observing what

Counting oranges as you put them in the bag or cans of soup as you put them in the cart are also examples of what you can do

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Snuggle Up With a Good Book!

Here are some suggested titles about growing up to help make the most of your read aloud experiences with your child.

The single most important way to help your child become a good reader is to read to her often in her early years.

Little Fox Goes to the End of the World

Ann Tompert

Doctor Rabbit's Foundling

Jan Wahl

Growing Up is Hard

Laura C. Schlessinger

Grandpa

Barbara Borack

How a Baby Grows

Nola Buck

How Kids Grow

Jean Marzollo

The Growing Story

Ruth Krauss

Leo, the Late Bloomer

Robert Kraus

Go! Go! Maria!

Robie H. Harris

Little Rabbit's Loose Tooth

Lucy Bate

May I Visit?

Charlotte Zolotow

The Snuggle Bunny

Nancy Jewell

Someone New

Charlotte Zolotow

Wemberly Worried

Kevin Henkes

Hello Benny!

Robie H. Harris

The Growing-up Tree

Vera Rosenberry

The Growing-Up Feet

Beverly Cleary

Growing Up with Tamales

Gwendolyn Zepeda



Finger Plays to Do Together!

Finger plays are valuable activities that help children acquire the skills essential to their development and learning. Finger plays help improve memory and language skills, while also aiding in the development of hand-eye coordination, large and fine motor skills.



Baby Mice

Author Unknown

Where are the baby mice?

Squeak, squeak, squeak.

(hide your hands behind your back)

I cannot see them peek, peek, peek.

(bring your fist forward)

Here they come out of their hole.

One, two, three, four, five, and that is all.

(open your fingers one at a time)



The Family

Author Unknown

This is mama, kind and dear.

(point to baby's thumb)

This is papa, standing near.

(point to pointer finger)

This is brother, see how tall!

(point to middle finger)

This is sister, not so tall

(point to ring finger)

This is baby, sweet and small.

(point to little finger)

This is the family one and all.

Learning through Everyday Activities *continued*

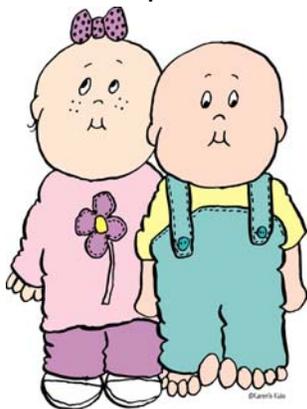
(Continued from page 1)

while shopping.

Talk about the items you are seeking; talk about how you will use them for meals; talk; talk; talk. This not only helps your child's literacy development, it helps keep him occupied and entertained for the duration of your shopping trip!

Sorting Laundry

No matter what, the laundry needs to get done. Here is an excellent time to talk with your child and foster her sorting and grouping skills. Have your child help you sort the laundry ~ either before you wash or after



you are finished. Even very young children can be taught to put all the towels and wash

clothes together or everything that is white in one pile. Use whatever sorting methods you use for accomplishing this task. When the laundry is finished she can help you

put the clothes in groups by the family members the items belong to. Your child can even help you put the items away!

These types of activities are good pre-math behaviors to do with your child. It will foster a good foundation for later formal math instruction. Starting your child on

household chores early also teaches her about responsibility.

Waiting in Line

Doesn't it always seem like you are waiting in a line for something? Whether you are waiting to see the latest children's movie at the theater, at the coffee shop, or your favorite retail store, this presents a wonderful opportunity for learning! Count the number of people in line; ask your child what color shirt the person in front is wearing; count the number of people wearing tennis shoes or shorts; find the tallest tree in the parking lot; talk about what you see, hear, or smell; pick out letters or words on signs or menus...the possibilities are endless!

Craft a Snowy Scene



Try this crafty activity to help your child build small muscle coordination and have fun!

WHAT YOU NEED:

Ivory Snow laundry detergent
Water
Pine cones, sticks, leaves

Mixer and bowl
Piece of cardboard (any size)

WHAT YOU DO:

1. Go for a walk and collect items from nature such as those suggested on the left.
2. Mix the laundry detergent with water. You'll want the consistency of mashed potatoes.
3. Beat it with a mixer.

4. Help your child spread the soap onto the cardboard so it looks like snowy hills.
5. Add pinecones and other materials you have gathered to create your snowy scene.
6. If your child has some animal figures, your child may want to add them to her scene.
7. Your child could also build a snowman into his scene, if he would like.



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Learning on the Go!

The amount of time that children spend in the car, strapped in car seats has risen dramatically over the last several years! Finding creative ways to take advantage of this time will not only foster your child's development, but keep him amused and entertained as well!

Literacy development takes many shapes and forms.

Whenever possible, read, read, read, with your child. For the



times when that is not feasible, here are some 'on the go' suggestions that will still foster your child's literacy development:

- ☑ **Sing songs** ~ Sing the songs you know or make up new ones by changing the words to fit your child's current interests.
- ☑ **Tell stories** ~ Children love to hear stories where they are the main character! Be creative...use your imagination...make up stories with your child as the star! Start a new adventure

each time you have to travel in the car. Your child will begin to look forward to this special story time.

- ☑ **Say rhymes and poems** ~ Your child will learn to say them with you! Make some new ones up together!
- ☑ **Do finger plays** ~ Action helps reinforce learning and memory. Try a finger play such as "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" the next time you are traveling! (Also see the suggestions on page 2 or make up your own about your child!)