

# Home & School CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

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MSAD #70 Elementary Program  
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## SHORT NOTES



### Spell check

Help your youngster become a better speller by having him keep a “spelling book.” When he misspells a word in homework or class work, he can look it up and jot down the correct spelling in a small notebook. Then, he can refer to his notebook the next time he writes those words.

### Social school nights?

Your child is invited out on a school night. Should she go? Consider the reason (birthday dinner, special television show, or just to hang out), and decide how important it is. If you say yes, have her finish her homework first and be back before bedtime.

### Build support networks

Let school staff know if your youngster experiences unusual stress, such as moving to a new home or losing a pet. That way, his teacher and guidance counselor can help keep an eye on him and offer support as needed.

### Worth quoting

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

## JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** What do you find at the end of everything?

**A:** The letter “g”!



## Prime-time learning

Children’s brains are working all the time—not just while they’re in school! Here are some ways to turn home and family time into prime learning time for your youngster.

**Observe closely.** Learning starts with observation. Help your child explore the world around him by offering items such as magnifying glasses, bug-catching jars, thermometers, and rulers. Then, your youngster can view objects and living things up close. Ask him questions: “How big is it?” “How many legs does it have?”

**Get into the kitchen.** Your child can learn many math and science concepts in the kitchen. Let him use measuring cups and water to compare fractions ( $\frac{1}{2}$  cup,  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup). Ask him to help when you bake cookies, and he’ll witness chemical reactions firsthand.



Have him add baking soda (sodium bicarbonate), and explain that it makes the cookies rise when they bake.

**Opt for hands-on.** To develop creativity, encourage your youngster to build castles and cities with construction toys (blocks, Legos, Tinkertoys). Set up an “art table” stocked with paper, colored pencils, glue, watercolor paints, and clay. Suggest that your child make a sculpture or draw a cartoon strip.♥

## Now I remember!

There’s no getting around it—memorizing facts and formulas is crucial to school success. Share these three memory-boosting techniques with your youngster:

**1** Color-code key facts. Your child can write history dates in orange or underline science terms in blue. During a test, thinking of those colors will jog her memory.

**2** Link facts to small movements. Suggest that your youngster snap her fingers or tap her knee when she studies a new vocabulary word. Repeating the movement later will help her remember the word.

**3** Sing lists to a favorite tune. Setting the words to a rhythm and singing it out loud will help store them in your child’s memory.♥



# Friends forever

Would your child like to have more friends? The first step is to help her learn how to be a friend.

Start by explaining what makes a good friend. Use examples from your own life (“Susan listens when I have a problem.” “Megan helps me when Dad is away on business”). Encourage your youngster to remember these “friend” traits.

A friend is...

**Thoughtful.** Friends consider your needs: “Your backpack is so heavy. Here, I’ll carry your violin for you.”

I’m so glad we’re friends.”

**Caring.** Friends want to hear what you are thinking and how you are feeling: “Hey, Holly! How was your game Saturday?” ♥

**Supportive.** Friends encourage each other: “You’re doing great! Keep trying, and you’ll get it perfect.”

**Respectful.** When friends borrow something, they take care of it: “Thanks for lending me your DVD. I’ll be careful not to scratch it.”

**Loyal.** Friends say nice things to you and don’t talk about you behind your back: “Kayla, you’re fun to be with.



## ACTIVITY CORNER Snail race

Your children can get in some quick math practice with this snail-paced game.

**Materials:** 3 dice, paper, pencil

Draw rows of boxes around a sheet of paper to make a “track,” and mark a starting line at one of the boxes. Have each player take turns rolling two dice together and the third die separately.

If a child rolls a 1 or 2 on the third die, he adds the first two numbers together.

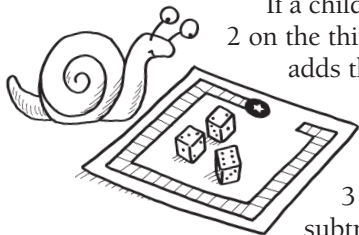
If he rolls

3 or 4, he

subtracts the

lower number from the higher one. If he rolls 5 or 6, he multiplies the two numbers together. Then, he moves that number of boxes ahead. The first player to complete three laps wins!

*For younger children:* Add the numbers if a 1, 2, or 3 is rolled on the third die. Subtract if a 4, 5, or 6 is rolled. ♥



## Q & A No-skipping zone

**Q:** I know my kids should be in school every day. But is there any harm in picking them up early once in a while to do errands or get a haircut before the after-school rush?

**A:** Although it may be tempting, try to resist the urge to take your children out of school unless absolutely necessary.

When youngsters are not in school, they miss valuable lesson time, homework assignments, and activities. The more they’re absent, the harder it is for them to catch up, and their grades may suffer. Plus, they miss out on experiences, such as recess and lunchtime, that build friendships.

Keep your kids in school all day, every day, unless they’re ill, there’s a family emergency, or they have a medical appointment that can’t be scheduled at another time. ♥



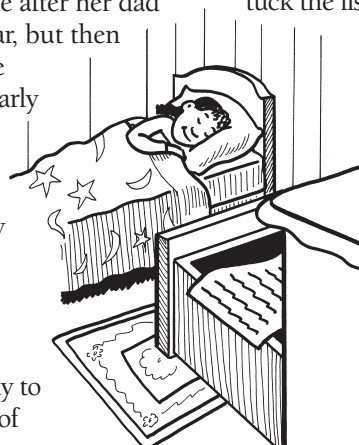
## PARENT TO PARENT Pack up your troubles

My daughter seemed fine for a while after her dad and I divorced last year, but then she began acting more anxious. Eventually Carly got to a point where she could hardly sleep.

I figured her anxiety was related to the divorce, so Carly, her dad, and I visited the school counselor. The counselor advised Carly to make a list each night of

everything she was worried about and tuck the list in a drawer. Then, once she had “put away” her worries, she could fall asleep.

Sure enough, my daughter started sleeping better. I think writing everything down helped her get her problems off her mind. We saw the school counselor a few more times, and now Carly only makes her worry list occasionally. And thankfully, she seems more like herself again. ♥



**OUR PURPOSE**

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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