

Home & School CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION[®]

March 2007

MSAD #70 Elementary Program
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SHORT NOTES



“Flashy” words

To help your youngster learn vocabulary words, suggest that she make flash cards. She can write the word on one side of an index card and the definition on the other. You can drill her—or she can drill herself—each day until she knows all the words.

The sharing habit

Want to raise a child who is considerate? Suggest that he share something each day with a classmate or family member. *Examples:* books, markers. At night, ask your youngster what he shared that day. He’ll learn how good it feels to be kind.

What is it?

Boost creativity and thinking skills with this simple game. Tape a large piece of paper to the wall. Start drawing something, such as an airplane or a dog. Draw one line at a time until your child guesses what it is. Then, have her draw a picture for you to guess.

Worth quoting

“The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time.”

Dean Acheson

Just for fun

Q: Why did the music students get in trouble?

A: They were passing notes.



Be a math whiz

Good math students know how to do simple problems without a calculator. Pass these tips on to your child to help her build math confidence and do well in school.

Turn it around

Encourage your youngster to use addition to learn subtraction. *Example:* If she knows $8 + 7 = 15$, she can reverse the problem to $15 - 8 = 7$ or $15 - 7 = 8$. This also works for multiplication and division. If $3 \times 7 = 21$, then $21 \div 7 = 3$ and $21 \div 3 = 7$. *Tip:* Suggest that your child turn problems around to check her answers on homework and tests.

Think zero

Here’s a trick for multiplying by a number that ends in zero. To multiply by 10, add one zero. *Example:* For 16×10 , add a zero to 16 (160). To multiply by 100, add two zeros ($15 \times 100 = 1,500$),



and so on. To multiply by 20, she can multiply the number by 2 and then add a zero. For 4×20 , do $4 \times 2 (8)$, and add a zero (80).

Round it

Remind your child to round numbers for a quick estimate. *Example:* She’s trying to see if she has enough allowance to buy one item for \$1.69 and another for \$3.19. Suggest that she round \$1.69 up to \$2.00 and \$3.19 down to \$3.00 ($2 + 3 = 5$).♥

Parent power

Did you know there are many ways you can support your child’s learning and school? Here are a few ideas:

- Spend a few minutes every evening looking over handouts your youngster brings home. Fill out forms to return the next day.
- Tell your child’s teachers if you can help them out at school or home.
- Make sure teachers know you appreciate their efforts. From time to time, send a thank-you note or e-mail.
- Contact your child’s teacher immediately if you see a problem. Working together will help your youngster succeed.
- Attend conferences, parent meetings, and school events regularly.♥

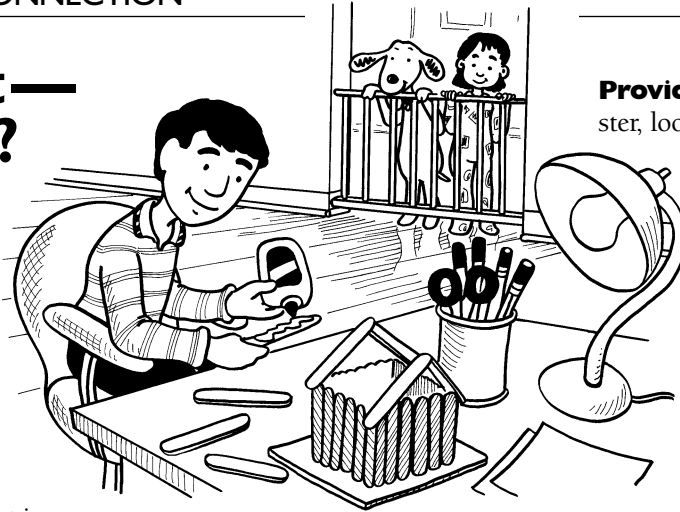


School project— whose project?

“This project is so big. I need you to help me!”

You can lend a hand with school projects by providing support, but without actually doing the work yourself. Help your youngster gain independence and succeed in school with these suggestions.

Get information. When a project is assigned, ask your child about it (When is it due? Is he working alone or with a group?). You’ll show your interest, and you’ll get him thinking about how to start.



Provide a space. With your youngster, look for a well-lit and pleasant place to work. Also, find a space to store his project away from pets and younger siblings.

Plan it out. Encourage your child to write a schedule and keep it nearby. Seeing a daily reminder will help him stay on task. Ask if he’ll need rides to the library or a group member’s house.

Gather supplies. Have your youngster make a list of tools and materials he needs. Together, find the items, or take him shopping if necessary.

Pack it up. When his project is complete, show him how to pack it carefully for walking or riding to school. ♥

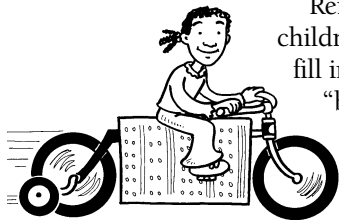


Q & A Test prep

Q: My girls have to take standardized tests this year for the first time. How can I help them prepare?

A: Kids do best on tests when they know what to expect. Start by asking your youngsters’ teachers about the test format and what material will be covered. Perhaps they can offer a study guide or give your girls practice tests to take home. You could set a timer while they take a sample test so they get comfortable with the time limits.

Remind your children to neatly fill in the answer “bubbles” and to completely erase any answers they change.



Suggest that, if they have time left at the end, they check over their work. But tell them that first instincts are usually good—they shouldn’t change an answer unless they’re really sure they made a mistake. ♥

PARENT TO PARENT

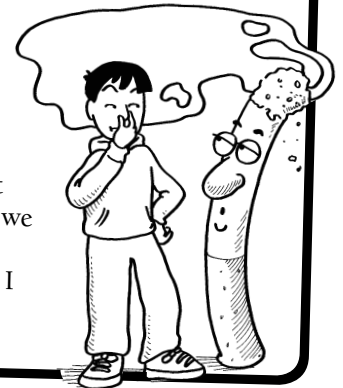
No-smoking zone

Just before my son started first grade, he asked me why our neighbor smoked. I realized this was a good opportunity to begin talking to Jeremy about smoking.

I started by telling him I was sorry our neighbor smoked, because it’s very bad for her health. I explained what “addiction” is (a habit you can’t stop) and how hard it can be to quit smoking.

I didn’t want to scare Jeremy, but I did want to warn him that secondhand smoke can be dangerous, too. I suggested that he go in another room if a friend’s parent begins smoking around him. I also told him that is why we ask for a no-smoking section in restaurants.

My son now says he’s never going to smoke. I’m glad I started talking to him early—and I hope he keeps this attitude for life! ♥



Building family memories

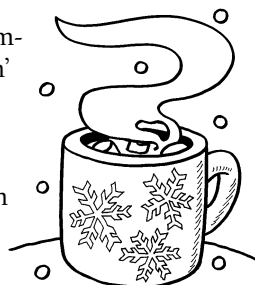
The best family memories are usually about the little things—activities and rituals unique to your family. Create your own traditions with ideas like these:

- Pick a song your family enjoys, like “Rockin’ Robin.” Play or sing it to celebrate special times, such as the beginning of a vacation or a good report card.

- Serve a favorite food or treat. Maybe Wednesday night can be pasta night, or snowy afternoons could bring homemade cocoa in “snow day” mugs.

- Have a regular video-and-popcorn night. Some families do this on Sunday nights, to ease back into the school and work week in a fun way.

Tip: Take photos of special times together, and put them in an album to preserve your family memories. ♥



OUR PURPOSE

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

Resources for Educators,
a division of Aspen Publishers, Inc.
3035 Valley Avenue, Suite 103, Winchester, VA 22601
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www.rfeonline.com

ISSN 1540-5621