

Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION[®]

December 2011



SHORT NOTES

Homemade gifts

Does your family celebrate a holiday by giving gifts? Have everyone draw names from a hat and make gifts for each other. You'll spark creativity and teach your child generosity. *Ideas:* Put a seed packet in a flowerpot and paint a design on the pot; decorate plastic coat hangers by wrapping them in colorful ribbon.

Unplugged games

Cut back on video games by suggesting that your child act out his favorites instead of playing them. If he enjoys a game with characters who dodge obstacles, help him design an obstacle course in your living room using pillows and boxes. If he likes racing games, he can set up a race-track for toy cars.

Busy hands

Make handwriting practice fun and keep your child occupied during errands. Carry postcards, paper, and pens in the car. Let her write notes to friends and relatives to mail at the post office. On the way to the store, dictate a shopping list, and have her add her own items.

Worth quoting

"Kind words do not cost much. Yet they accomplish much."

Blaise Pascal

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What do you call a snowman with a suntan?

A: A puddle.



H. Peroni, Principal

Good thinking!

Like our muscles, our brains need workouts. Your youngster will do better in all subjects if he knows how to think logically, solve problems, and use his imagination. Here are ideas for keeping your child's mind in top shape.

Hide-and-seek clues

Pick a theme, such as winter. Choose several objects related to your topic (warm hat, ice scraper). Place a sticker on each item, and have your youngster search the house for things with those stickers. When he has them all, ask him to guess the theme.

Recycled creations

What can your child make from a milk jug? He might create an indoor basketball goal, a space station, or an ice cream truck. Encourage him to use art supplies (markers, colored tissue paper) and household materials (aluminum foil, paper clips) to finish his masterpieces.

1, 2, or 3?

Place 11 small objects (coins, crayons) on the table. Take turns removing



1, 2, or 3 items. Whoever takes the last object loses. See if your youngster can figure out a way that the first player can always win (*answer:* on your first turn, take two, and on your second turn, leave five for the other player).

Circle of meaning

Ask your child to choose two random words and try to find a connection between them. For example, he might pick *surfing* and *tigers*. People go *surfing* in the *ocean*. *Whales* swim in the *ocean*. And whales are *mammals*, like *tigers*. Then, let your youngster give you two words to link. ♥

School spirit

Showing interest and pride in your child's school activities will motivate her to do her best. Try these ideas.

■ Plan school-related fun. Meet your youngster for lunch in the cafeteria once a month. Attend school events together, such as an art fair, a math night, or a talent show.

■ Recognize success. If your child writes a creative story, surprise her by "publishing it." You can type it and staple the pages together into a book for her to illustrate. When she brings home a good grade on a vocabulary quiz, congratulate her at the dinner table and post it on the refrigerator. ♥

