

PRIME TIME

Parent Newsletter of the
Title I and Intervention Programs
December 2024

Mr. H. Jared Cardillo
Director of Instruction
Boardman Local School District



West Blvd
Elementary
School

Natalie Cagno
Jerry Gentile
Maria Gentile
Kelly House
Colleen Kather
Ashley Lines
Lisa Rucci
Melissa Seiple

Daily Learning Planner

Ideas Families Can Use to Help
Children Do Well in School

Try a New Idea Every Day!

1. Have a contest with your child. Who can name the most parts of the body? (Organs count, too.)
2. Many people celebrate holidays in December. What holidays can your child name? Talk about why they are special.
3. Post a list on your refrigerator of contact numbers your child should call in an emergency. Role-play what to say.
4. Ask about an inexpensive activity that your child would like to make an annual family tradition. If possible, start it!
5. At breakfast, find an interesting word in the dictionary. Challenge family members to use it three times during the day.
6. Give your child a gift certificate good for one special activity with you.
7. Ask a librarian to recommend some award-winning books for kids your child's age.
8. Get out a large piece of white paper. Ask your child to draw or paint seasonal scenes. Use the paper to wrap gifts.
9. Use math to give instructions. For example, ask your child to pick up $3 + 2 + 1$ toys.
10. Challenge your child to do a secret good deed for a classmate or teacher this week.
11. Turn off screen devices tonight. Read or play games as a family instead.
12. Ask your child to add up all the change in your pocket or purse. Together, practice making change.
13. With your child, think of examples of *onomatopoeia* (words that sound like what they mean), such as *buzz*, *hiss* and *thunk*.
14. Trace around your elementary schooler on a big piece of paper. Have your child research and draw what human insides look like.
15. Teach your child to make paper snowflakes. Decorate your windows.
16. Look at family photos together. How many relatives can your child name?
17. Enjoy some physical activity as a family.
18. Hide an object and provide three easy clues to find it. When your child is successful, offer praise for following directions.
19. Pay your child a specific compliment today.
20. Have each family member make a list of personal strengths. Read them aloud. Add to one another's lists.
21. Today is the *winter solstice*, the darkest day of the year. Give everyone in the family a flashlight so they can read in bed.
22. Try blowing bubbles with your child in freezing weather. How does the cold temperature affect them?
23. Ask your child to help you make dinner.
24. Read a poem with your child today.
25. Have your child talk to older relatives about their childhood days.
26. Let your child see you enjoying reading. Say, "I love to read!"
27. Do you know a student who is home from college? Ask the student to talk with your child about what college is like.
28. Watch or read the weather forecast together today. Locate the hottest and the coolest locations on a map.
29. Help your child write and mail a letter to a friend.
30. At the grocery store, have your child compare two sizes of the same product. Which is the better buy?
31. Help your child make a time line of the past year.

Promote Thinking Skills with Engaging Conversations

In elementary school, teachers expect students to think about what they've read and then draw conclusions. To give your child practice developing this ability:

- **Ask open-ended questions** that require your child to think. For example, after you watch a TV show together, have a discussion. "Why do you think the character did that?" or "Do you think things like that happen in real life?"
- **Share your thoughts when you are making a decision.** You might say, "I am still not sure which refrigerator to buy." Then, talk about the pros and cons of each choice. Your child may see some insights.
- **Set aside time to read together and then talk about what you've read.** Some families make one meal a week their "reading dinner." Family members bring a book to the table and talk about it and ask questions about what everyone else is reading.
- **Make the most of car time.** The best conversations often take place in the car while you are driving so ask about what's going on in your child's life.
- **Keep a shared journal.** Try reading the same book. Take turns writing notes to each other about your reactions to what you've read.
- **Explore different perspectives.** When discussing a topic, encourage your child to think about other viewpoints. Ask "How do you think someone else might feel about this?" or "What would you do if you were in their shoes?"



SOURCE: Elementary School Parents make the difference, Dec., 2024, Vol. 36, No. 4

Boost Your Child's Vocabulary with Five Simple Strategies



Reading at home is one of the best ways to build your child's vocabulary. That is because reading exposes your child to new ideas, concepts, and words.

Here are five effective strategies for increasing your child's vocabulary:

- 1. Read different kinds of books with your child.** If you usually read fiction, go to the library and get a book that explains how something works instead. Check out a book about a sport or activity your child enjoys, or read a biography about a person your child admires.
- 2. Look for words your child might not know as you read.** "It says here that George Washington went to school to become a *surveyor*. What do you think that word means?" Then, look up the definition together.
- 3. Listen for new words as you are watching TV.** News programs often include words your child may not know. "Have you ever heard the word *tsunami* before? Let's look it up to see what it means."
- 4. Consult a thesaurus.** Together, find synonyms for words your child uses often when writing or speaking.
- 5. Help your child create a personal dictionary.** When your child discovers a new word, suggest writing it and its definition in a notebook. Review those words from time to time.

SOURCE: Elementary School Parents make the difference, Dec. 2024, Vol. 36, No. 4