

Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

JANUARY 2016

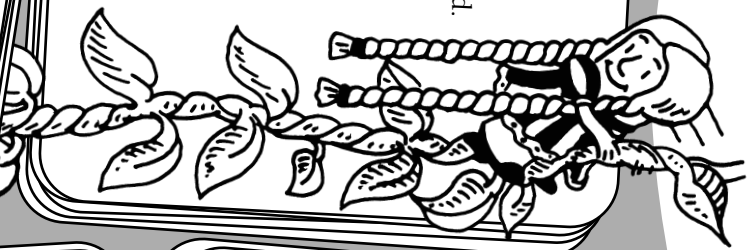
READING Fairy tale swap

Build your child's reading comprehension—and imagination—with this activity.

Ingredients: book of fairy tales

Let your youngster choose two fairy tales. Read them aloud. Then, ask her to pick a character from one story and pretend that it appears in the other. For example, how would *Jack and the Beanstalk* be different if Rapunzel were in it?

Have your child tell you the new story. Maybe Rapunzel lets her hair down to help Jack climb the beanstalk. Then, instead of having a goose that lays golden eggs, perhaps Rapunzel's hair turns into gold whenever it's cut—and the couple lives happily ever after.



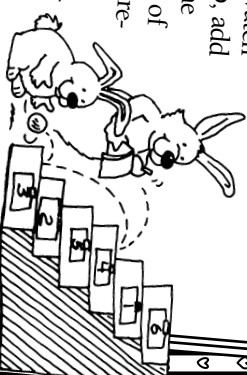
ADDITION Bounce and add

Your youngster can practice multi-step addition with a ball and a staircase.

Ingredients: 10 index cards, pencil, stairs, tape, small ball, paper

Have your child number the cards 1-10 and tape one card to the front of each step in random order.

Take turns gently tossing the ball up the stairs, and watch it bounce back down. Each time it bounces on a step, add that number to a running total. So if it bounces on a step, add steps with 3, 2, and 7, add $3 + 2 + 7 = 12$. Keep track of your scores on paper, and add each new sum to the previous one. The high score after five rounds wins. **Tip:** Encourage your youngster to "bounce" strategically—he should try for the steps with the largest numbers.



SCIENCE A jar of clouds

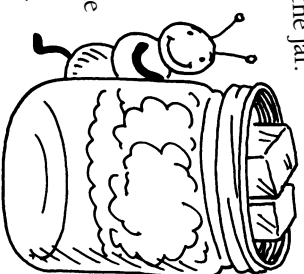
Let your child make this cloud-in-a-jar to discover how clouds form in the sky.

Ingredients: glass jar with metal lid, very hot water, 2-3 ice cubes, hairspray

Fill a glass jar about halfway with hot water, and swirl it around so it heats the sides of the jar. Tell your youngster to turn the jar's lid upside down, place 2-3 ice cubes in it, and lay the lid on top of the jar.

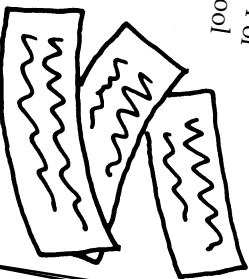
Wait about 45 seconds. Then, have her lift the lid, squirt hairspray into the jar, and quickly replace the ice-filled lid.

Watch as clouds form. The hairspray particles give water droplets something to condense onto as the warm, moist air in the jar rises and is cooled by the ice. This is similar to how warm air rises outside, cools in the atmosphere, and combines with particles (mainly dust) to create clouds.



SEQUENCING

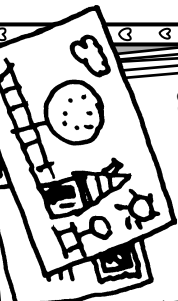
Clip a recipe from a magazine or print one from the Internet, and cut apart the steps. Ask your child to put them in the correct order. Help him think about what would make sense. For instance, "Cool completely" would come after "Bake at 350° for 30 minutes."



WRITING

Homemade postcards let your youngster practice writing. On a blank index card, she might sketch a landmark or scenic view from your area. Have her divide the other side in half and put a friend or relative's address on the right. On the left, she could write a few sentences about her winter break.

Now she can add a stamp and mail her postcard.



Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

JANUARY 2016

Character Corner

CURIOSITY

Spark your child's curiosity with a weekly question on the refrigerator. ("How many seeds are in an average orange?") Share your ideas, and then find the answer by reading, asking people who might know, or experimenting.



SYMPATHY

If a friend, teacher, or someone in your family loses a relative or pet, suggest ways your youngster might comfort them. She can write a poem to let her teacher know she's thinking of her. Or she could put together a box of pictures of a friend's dog.



CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Have family members each share a time they resolved a conflict. Your child might tell how he and a friend both wanted the last jump rope at recess, so they found another student who had a jump rope and teamed up for double-dutch.



FINANCIAL LITERACY

Tear out a blank page from your checkbook register, and write "\$50.00" at the top. Then, have your child "shop" from a catalog (buy sale items, skip expensive name brands) to afford more. She can write each item and its price and subtract the amount from the total. How many items will she "buy"? **\$50**

\$50

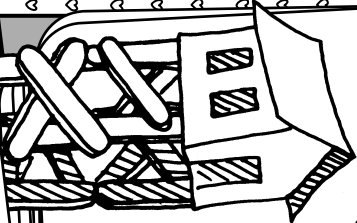
SOCIAL STUDIES

Home sweet home

Your youngster will explore houses from all over the globe with this building activity.

Ingredients: books or Internet, craft supplies (clay, craft sticks, construction paper, scissors, glue, cardboard boxes)

In textbooks, library books, or online, you and your child can find examples of different kinds of homes. Then, have him build his own mini world village. He might use brown clay to create a mud house from West Africa or craft sticks and construction paper to make a house on stilts like those in South-east Asia. He could also stack boxes to form a high-rise apartment building—common in many big cities around the world.



Talk about the models your youngster built and about their real counterparts. Why would people build with mud? Why might a house need to be on stilts?

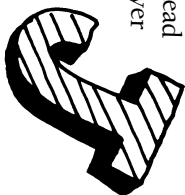
RHYMING

Let your youngster place an object on a table, and count how many rhyming words he can say for it. **Example:** fish and wish for a dish. The next player gets a different item and says rhyming words for his object. Put away the item with fewer rhyming words. Take turns selecting an object and naming rhymes to see which item is the "rhyming-est"!



CAPITALIZATION

This game will help your child remember to capitalize proper nouns. Let him choose a letter (say, J). Then, have each player list 10 proper nouns beginning with that letter (*January, Jack, Jupiter*). Read your lists aloud. The player with the most items no one else wrote picks the next letter.



TIME

A hula hoop (or a length of string in a circle) makes a great clock face. Your youngster can number sticky notes 1–12 and attach each one around her "clock." Use strips cut from poster board for the hands. Now from poster activities (wake up, eat dinner), and have her move the "hands" to show the time.



Congratulations!

We finished _____ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)