



Voices for
Mississippi's
Children, Inc.
Starkville, MS
May 2011

Monthly E-Newsletter

FAMILY TIME

How can you inspire your child to keep learning while school is out? It's easy when the whole family is learning...

Here are some activities everyone can enjoy.

POETRY READING

Visit the library to check out poetry books and encourage family members to memorize their favorite summertime poems. Then set aside an evening for reading and reciting poetry.

STARGAZING

Go outside together on a clear, moonless night to look for constellations. Try a sky map.

COOKING

Make healthy treats with your youngster. Using a recipe teaches them to follow directions, and measuring ingredients builds math skills. You might find a muffin recipe and add berries.

RESEARCHING

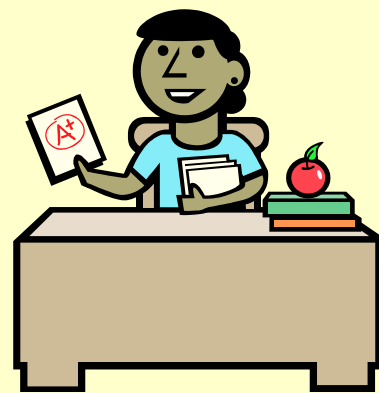
Ask everyone what they'd like to know about your family's history. Your child can write all the questions down. Beside each question, have them write the name. Together, call or visit relatives to find the answer.

Source: Home & School Connection

THANK TEACHERS

Letting a teacher know what your youngster enjoyed this year is a great way to show appreciation. These ideas can help...

- A younger child could draw a picture of her favorite field trip or classroom activity. Perhaps he/she specific things the teacher did throughout the day.
- An older child might make a mini-book with a page for every subject. On each sheet, she can write about something she enjoyed learning and illustrate it. Then have them present it to the teacher.



Become More Independent

This summer, your youngster may take step toward becoming more independent. She might learn how to swim, or she could sleep over at a friend's house for the first time. Consider the following suggestions to help her feel comfortable trying new things:

- Allow extra time. Have your youngster get their bag together ahead of time.
- Encourage your youngster to find out things she doesn't know and get information on her own. For instance let her call the business and find out their hours & if they have what she needs.
- Show your child that you must trust their growing independence. Allow her to spend the night with friends if it doesn't work, she can try another time.

Source: Home & School Connection 5/2011

PARENT BULLETIN

There's not just one right way to raise children. And there's no such thing as a perfect parent or a perfect child. But here are some guidelines to help your children grow up healthy and happy:

- **Show your love.** Every day, tell your children: "I love you. You're special to me." Give lots of hugs and kisses.
- **Listen when your children talk.** Listening to your children tells them that you think they're important and that you're interested in what they have to say.
- **Make your children feel safe.** Comfort them when they're scared. Show them you've taken steps to protect them.
- **Provide order in their lives.** Keep a regular schedule of meals, naps and bedtimes. If you have to change the schedule, tell them about the changes ahead of time.
- **Praise your children.** When your children learn something new or behave well, tell them you're proud of them.
- **Criticize the behavior, not the child.** When your child makes a mistake, explain what the child did wrong. Then tell the child what to do instead
- **Be consistent.** Your rules don't have to be the same ones other parents have, but they do need to be clear and consistent. (Consistent means the rules are the same all the time.) If 2 parents are raising a child, both need to use the same rules. Also, make sure baby-sitters and relatives know (and follow) your family rules.
- **Spend time with your children.** Do things together, such as reading, walking, playing and cleaning the house. What children want most is your attention. Bad behavior is usually an attempt to get your attention.

Upcoming Training Events

- June 11, 2011 - MSU Coastal Research & Extension Center, Biloxi, MS
- July 23, 2011 - ICC, Tupelo, MS

* Participants can earn up to 6 contact hours & .6 C.E.U.s
For registration information please contact our office at (662) 320-4171 or email us at vmc@hotmail.com

SUMMER READING

The number one golden rule is to make time to read over the summer – parents should designate an hour a day just for books, or set aside a time once a week to go to the library. There's so much going on in the summer, so much temptation to be outside, that it's important to schedule time just for reading. Have kids keep a reading journal – even if it's just the book titles. Once the journal gets filled up, there's a real sense of accomplishment that's very rewarding.

Research shows that if kids continue to read during the summer they don't lose any of the skills, so try to find ways to motivate kids like having them keep reading logs and giving rewards and prizes.

Visit your local public library because there is so much going on and the enthusiasm of the librarians is infectious. So many libraries do wonderful summer reading programs for all ages.

Source: www.scholastic.com



THANK YOU!

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