



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

Monthly E-Newsletter

TALKING WITH KIDS

SUPPORTING YOUR LEARNER

Remember that you are bigger than your child — so get on her level. Imagine what it feels like to look up at someone every time you speak or to try to catch someone's attention from floor level. To help your child hear you, get down where she is and make eye contact. This sends a signal that you are listening and that you care what she's thinking.

Offer limited choices. Choices give kids a sense of power and control. Instead of saying, "Time to get dressed," you might say, "Do you want the red shirt or the blue one?" Offer two choices, not five or six. You might say, "Do you want peas or green beans?" or "Do you want to brush your teeth first or comb your hair?"

Speak as simply as possible. A one-sentence answer may be much more effective than a long explanation. Children are often satisfied with a simple, direct answer that addresses their main concern. A lengthy explanation may confuse or bore your child.

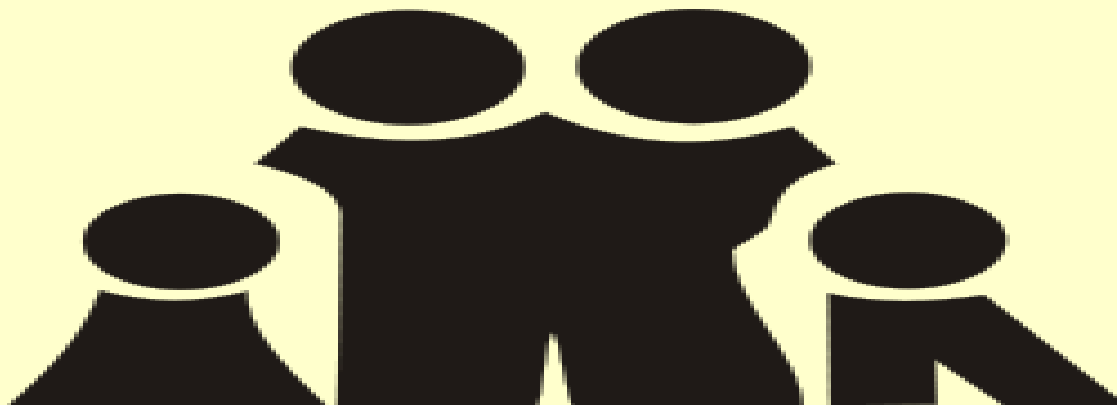
Write notes. Sometimes older kids respond better to a written note than to a verbal nag. You might post this note: "Please write down here what time you will be home!" Or, "Today is room-cleaning day." Some kids may enjoy writing lists and charts themselves as a way of solving problems with you.

Source: www.pbskids.org

"Our children become independent learners very gradually," advises guidance counselor Linda Lendman, M.S.W. They learn at their own pace and you can support their process at home by nurturing what they are interested in and giving gentle guidance when they need assistance."

"What happens at home has a lot to do with supporting your child's success as a learner — and this goes way beyond making sure she gets her homework done or studies for the test. You want to help kids learn how to feel competent and positive about their learning. One way to begin is to help kids organize themselves (at their developmental level); create a schedule for doing their work and discover how they can follow it, so school work becomes a rich part of their after-school lives, but not the only part," advises Diane Levin, Ph.D., professor of education at Wheelock College.

While there's no magic recipe, there are ways to help kids plan their time, complete their homework, and make the most of school. These strategies can help you help your child get excited about learning (or at least get you through some tough spots along the way)



PARENT BULLETIN

• FINDING FAMILY TIME

Whether you teens are freshmen or seniors, you probably see less of them than ever. Look for everyday ways to spend time together, such as running errands or sharing chores. Also, join in activities they enjoy, like visiting their favorite music store.

• THE VOLUNTEER HABIT

Raise a youngster who is used to doing community service. Ask his/her school about local organizations like scouts, 4-H, and Kiwanis Kids. Or suggest that he/she apply to be a safety patrol at school, choose items to donate to a charity or participate in a neighborhood cleanup.

• SAFE ONLINE

Remind your child to work and play safely online with this project. Have him/her cut a stop-sign shape from red construction paper. Then, help him list rules on his sign and post it by the computer. Examples: *“Don’t share personal information.”* *“Close pop-ups right away.”*

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

ACTIVITIES

This lists just a few ideas for creativity-enhancing projects to try at home. Because creativity involves unique self-expression, no list can possibly be complete. Instead, this information is intended to inspire you and your child to find ways to express your own creativity especially in the summer. For more information about this list and more log onto: www.pbs.org (click on pbs parents)

- Make a Collage
- Appreciate — or Make — a Quilt
- Arrange a Bouquet
- Play Board Games
- Make a Real Window Box
- Musical Mood Moves
- Make Musical Magic

- Puppets
- Garden Watching
- Safari
- Sky-Watching
- Visit an Art Museum
- Make a Reverse Mural
- Paint Watercolor Wings

THANK YOU!

*Special Thanks to our funder
Mississippi Department for Human
Services
Division of Early Childhood Care &
Development*