

Engaging Activities to Keep You Learning and Thinking

Let's start with the basics!

READ . . . READ . . . READ

Encourage reading every day! Read books (both fiction and non-fiction), magazines, comic books, information on websites, etc. **AND talk** about what you read with someone. Here are some ideas for conversations to have about reading: make predictions, retell and summarize the events, connect to your life or your world or your faith or to another book, discuss similarities and differences to people or places or events, ask open-ended questions and higher-level thinking questions (go beyond just checking for comprehension).

WRITE

Find ways to make writing meaningful each day. Write in a diary or journal to keep track of your activities, events, and/or feelings. Write in a "Gratitude Journal" each day--3-5 things you are grateful for. Write a grocery list for a parent or a "to do" list for yourself. Write a note of encouragement to a family member or send one to a friend or a grandparent. Write jokes or riddles on Post-it notes and leave them around your house for others to find. Write out a Bible verse each week and leave it in a place where you can see it every day. Write a goal for yourself every week and try to achieve it. Write a fun story or create a comic strip just for fun. Write a play, create simple puppets, and perform your play. (You can also perform your play with stuffed animals.) Write a message in code and give it to someone else to solve. Try to write a message backwards and use a mirror to read it.

PLAY GAMES and MAKE PUZZLES

Keep your brain engaged by PLAYING--inside or outside, real or imaginary games--every day! Play ALL kinds of games: board games, card games, dice games, math games, word games, sports, physical games, put together puzzles, solve puzzles, make your own games and puzzles.

EXPLORE

Summer is the perfect time for exploring outside or even in the corners of a closet or your attic! Take an "adventure" around your yard or in a park. Look for very small things--get out your magnifying glass or make one with a glass and water--and look closely at an insect, plant, tree, dirt. Create an outdoor scavenger hunt. Find something in nature that connects to each of your senses. Take a walk, ride your bike or scooter, just get moving in some way! Thank God for the amazing world He has created!

ONLINE LEARNING RESOURCES

Activities from Destination Imagination

D.I. Free STEAM Activities (Similar to Instant Challenges)

-Paper Structure

-Don't Lose Your Marbles

-Got Eggs?

-Zip It

-Rollin' Along

<https://dihq.app.box.com/s/4v5e1ioaz0aljfcfyernzq5n5ozh436g>

Virtual D.I. Instant Challenge: Unknown Structure

<https://dihq.app.box.com/v/DI-Virtual-IC-UnknownStructure>

Virtual Field Trips

-Join the author of the *I Survived* series to learn more about the Revolutionary War

<http://www.scholastic.com/beyondthebattlefield/>

-Learn about Polar Bears on the Tundra

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3pl22Seiqag&list=PLtVrwxiz_3tSWeGq4AAfOVAEvaXh2Mjly&index=3&t=0s

-What DO you know about cows? Check this out to find out about raising cows and how important they are to our communities.

<https://www.discoverundeniablydairy.com/virtual-field-trip>

-Watch these 7 short videos to understand how nuclear power works

<https://navigatingnuclear.com/palo-verde-generating-station-vft/>

Science Experiments and Engineering Challenges

-Young Scientist Lab: Check out these brain boggling experiments

<https://youngscientistlab.com/students/digital-science-activities>

Check out how to keep a paper airplane flying for a long time

https://puzzlements.co/video/MiTJ4y7hC1Y?ck_subscriber_id=623697143

If you love LEGOS, check this out! Can you build this?

https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/diy-lego-tensegrity-sculpture-jk-brickworks?ck_subscriber_id=623697143

Wow! Check out all of these topics to explore!

<https://sdm-sfx.digital.scholastic.com/?authCtx=U.794217314>

-Engineering Challenges

How to make a back scratcher:

https://www.teachengineering.org/activities/view/invent_a_backscratcher

Build a catapult:

https://www.teachengineering.org/activities/view/cub_catapult_lesson01_activity1

Build a mint-mobile:

https://www.teachengineering.org/activities/view/cub_measurement_lesson01_activity2

NASA has some great resources for kids! Start here to explore some of them:

<https://www.nasa.gov/stem>

Other Curious Activities

Engage your curiosity and imagination and visit Wonderopolis to learn something new each day!

<https://wonderopolis.org/>

A crazy way to multiply - How does this work?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJf8XAhC550&feature=youtu.be>

KenKen Puzzles to challenge your math brain

<http://www.kenkenpuzzle.com/#>

Make this simple origami caterpillar that really moves!

<https://el2.convertkit-mail2.com/c/p9ulw89565s9hx9574hq/q6f8h8u0klwoog/aHR0cHM6Ly9wdXp6bGVtZW50cy5jby92aWRlby92OV05d3Q3dk84MA==>

Check out this VERY COMPLICATED Rube Goldberg machine--or a form of a marble maze.

Try to make your own with items around your house.

https://puzzlements.co/video/Av07QiqmsoA?ck_subscriber_id=623697143

Here's an idea to remember this unusual time: COVID-19 Time Capsule

https://res.cloudinary.com/letsembark/image/upload/v1586199555/2020-Covid-19-Time-Capsule-US_o7igbf.pdf

Games and activities for families

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/klutz/craft-with-klutz.html>

Good elementary PODCASTS that share animal facts and stories and promote listening skills

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/animal-sound-safari/>

PBS Kids has a variety of resources, including “Hard Games” to challenge your child.
<https://pbskids.org/>

Keep Curiosity Alive

(from the Van Andel Institute for Education)

Here is a compilation of activities and resources that are all aimed at keeping curiosity and a love of learning alive and well!

SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS and ENGINEERING CHALLENGES

Invisible Writing (VAI)

Let kids make a drawing on the bathroom mirror using diluted dishwashing detergent, and when the mirror fogs up during the bath or shower, it will reveal the message when they get out!

[Invisible Writing](#)

Dissolving Peeps (VAI)

Using different liquids, discover how peeps can dissolve right before your eyes!

[Dissolving Peeps](#)

Recycled Music (VAI)

Using recycled materials found around your home, create an instrument and investigate how sound is made!

[Recycled Music](#)

Incredible Egg Geode

Make a geode from an egg, just in time for Easter!

[How to Make Crystal Egg Geodes : 13 Steps \(with Pictures\)](#)

Snow Fluff

Discover how cornstarch and shaving cream can be used to make snow. You can create your own snowman or snow angels!

[Snow Fluff](#)

Science Bob

Great science experiments with instructions that you can do right at home. Safety instructions included.

[Easy Science Experiments You Can Do at Home or at School](#)

10 Ingredients; 14 Experiments

With only 10 easy to find ingredients, conduct 14 different experiments. Scroll down the page to find links to these 14 experiments.

[Kitchen Science Projects for Kids](#)

Maker Stations

3 Free Weeks of Maker Stations to keep your students creating at home! Each challenge includes simple instructions using materials around the house, QR code video resources, and a student recording sheet.

[MAKER STATIONS HOME PACK.pdf](#)

SCIENCE LESSON

Mystery Science

Free resource for science lessons (K-5) to do at home

[Mystery Science](#)

OTHER EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Funny Read-Alouds for Growing Readers (VAI)

Get your young readers laughing out loud with these picture book stories.

[Funny Read-Alouds for Growing Readers](#)