

Let's Break for Learning

Learning can happen every day, whether your child is reading at the breakfast table, looking up at the moon, or playing on a jungle gym. Here are some fun activities that can help your youngster with reading, writing, math, science, and social studies.



Breakfast read-a-thon



Make a task card for your child to read at breakfast. Have him draw a circular “track” on a piece of paper and divide it into 26 sections—one for each “mile” of the book. (Note: A read-a-thon is 26.2 miles long. Depending on your youngster’s age and reading level, each of his “miles” could be a page or a chapter.) Then, he can read at breakfast each morning and earn a point for every page or chapter he reads. How many read-a-thon marathons can he complete?

Money minute

Let your child use spare change to practice addition and subtraction skills. Name an amount that’s less than \$1 (say, 16 cents). She tries to use the fewest number of coins to make that amount (1 dime, 1 nickel, 1 penny). Then, she can make the amount using the most coins (16 pennies) or using different combinations (3 nickels and 1 penny, 2 nickels and 6 pennies).

Where is my team?

Give your youngster an excuse to learn a little geography while he’s watching his favorite team play. Ask him about the city where they are playing on a map or in an atlas. How can he tell about the *topography* (geographic features) of the area? (Perhaps it is mountainous or flat.) In an extra challenge, have him use the mileage scale to determine how far away the game is from your hometown. *Variation:* For a younger child locate the state where the team is playing.

Road-sign scramble

Make a quick word scramble for your child before you go someplace in the car. Think of a few signs you might see (*yield, one way, stop*), and scramble each word or phrase on a piece of paper (*elidy, eon ayw, post*). Have your youngster take the signs along and try to spot the signs to help her scramble the words. As she plays, she’ll practice word recognition skills.

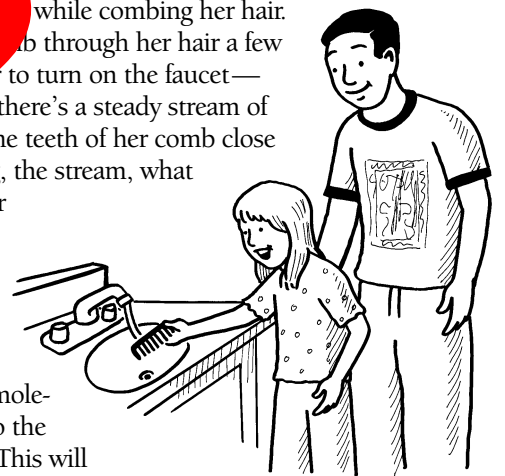
Draw the moon

This project will show your youngster how the moon changes from night to night. Before bed, have him look out a window at the moon. Let him draw what he sees on a sheet of paper. After doing this every clear night for a week or two, what does he notice? The moon’s shape is slightly different each night.

Bending water

This science experiment lets your child bend a stream of water while combing her hair. Have her hold the comb through her hair a few times. Then, turn on the faucet—just enough so that there’s a steady stream of water. She holds the teeth of her comb close to the stream, but not touching, the stream, what happens? (The water

bends toward the comb.) That’s because the comb is charged with static electricity from her hair, and the water molecules are attracted to the charged comb. *Tip:* This will work better on a dry day.



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