

Parents... *Are Teachers Too*

Experiences To Share...

Providing your child with a wide variety of experiences expands your child's knowledge. Each new experience adds new words, ideas and concepts. A rich background of experience provides a necessary foundation for further learning.

Reading/Language (Experiences)

- Talk to your child about everyday activities like dressing, cooking, going to school or work.
- Point out the size, shape, colour and texture of things.
- Form a habit of reading to or with your child on a regular basis.
- Expose your child to a wide variety of reading material: books (fairy tales, poetry, nursery rhymes, picture dictionaries), and magazines.
- Buy books as special treats or gifts.
- Take your child to the library or to book stores with play/read areas.
- Listen to a variety of music.
- Do lots of visiting: visit parks, post offices, supermarkets, hospitals, airports, etc.
- Talk to your child about what is seen and heard each day.

Science/Math (Experiences)

Provide opportunities:

- to count everyday objects (spoons, plates, etc.);
- to sort and classify (clothes, cans, fruits, etc.) in groups;
- to collect leaves, shells, buttons, stamps, etc.;
- to observe objects through a magnifying glass;
- to study animal behavior by having a pet or visiting a nature park.

Also Remember For Good Social/Emotional Development Your Child Should Experience:

- playing alone and with other children;
- having a space for their own books, toys;
- opportunities to make their own decisions and choices about activities in which to be involved;
- developing a sense of responsibility;
- being sensitive and considerate of others;
- a sense of family, and self.

Physical/Creative (Experiences)

- Provide lots of creative materials such as clay, paint, brushes, markers, crayons, and paper.
- Provide a wide variety of toys/activities to enhance physical development; e.g., push/pull toys, swings, bikes.
- Allow child to run, climb, jump, move to music.
- Provide lots of family outings, hiking, walking, building snow sculptures, gardening.

Parents – A Child’s First and Most Important Teachers

As a parent ...

- provide a pleasant, relaxed home environment filled with opportunities for learning (toys, books, games, puzzles, etc.);
- provide lots of opportunity for play inside and outside;
- recognize and accept each child’s unique personality, interests, rate and style of learning;
- make learning fun, natural, an extension of everyday activities;
- take time to listen and talk with your child;
- encourage exchange of ideas between family members;
- communicate positive attitudes to your child about learning, school, different subjects, etc.;
- be a good role model for your child. Be seen reading, writing, doing physical activity;
- and share **L**ots **O**f **V**aried **E**xperiences.