



A Year's Worth Of Ways To Help Your Child Learn!

Your child was born to learn! By helping you child build his skills in many different areas, he or she will be more likely to do well in school. This year, ParentTips will focus on language and literacy, scientific thinking, and mathematical thinking. But all areas of your child's development are important. Keep this list to help you to notice and support your child's progress in every area:

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Social and emotional development is about how your child gets along with others, handles emotions, and expresses himself. To help: Encourage your child to try new activities. Help him to make new friends. Ask your child to clean up his mess.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT:

Physical development is about your child's muscle control and coordination, and meeting her basic needs for food, clothing, shelter and regular health care. To help: Encourage your child to safely run and jump. Help her to draw. Show your child how to wash hands and brush teeth. Be sure she goes to the doctor for check-ups.

LANGUAGE AND LITERACY:

Language and literacy involves your child's learning to talk, listen, read, and write. This means both expressing himself and learning to understand others. To help: Read to your child. Teach your child to follow directions. Ask your child to say the names of letters and numbers.

MATHEMATICAL THINKING:

Mathematical thinking involves using patterns, counting, and noticing relationships, and figuring out how to solve problems. To help: Show your child how to sort objects by color or shape, or how to make patterns like "red-blue-red-blue." Explain ideas like "under" and "over." Help your child to count "1, 2, 3..."

SCIENTIFIC THINKING:

Scientific thinking is about wondering, asking questions, finding answers, and collecting information. To help: Ask your child to make predictions or guesses such as "the ball will float." Help your child to compare how things are alike and different. Show your child how to taste an apple to get information.

SOCIAL STUDIES:

Social studies is the study of how people live, work, get along together, solve problems. To help: Ask your child to tell you what she knows about herself, the family, the community, and people from different cultures.

THE ARTS:

The arts involve both appreciating and participating in dance, drama, music and art. To help: Encourage your child to dance, sing, paint, play an instrument, or act out a part. Help him or her to look for new ideas in these activities and to show an interest in what other children create.

ParentTips is a monthly resource for parents with young children.
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