

# What Can I Do With My Child at Home?

## READ!!!

Snuggle up with your child and spend some special time together reading each day. \*\*Comprehension does not suddenly appear during the elementary years. It is developed at a young age, so after every few pages, ask questions about what is going on in the story.\*\*

Also, don't forget to put up your feet, relax, and read *around* your child. If your child sees you reading, then he will learn that you value reading and that reading can be enjoyable (and a quiet mode of entertainment).

## Talk

Whatever you do together, talk about it. When you eat meals, drive around, or even stroll down the bread isle, talk with your child. Challenge him by asking questions that require more than a "yes" or "no" answer.

Listen to your child's questions patiently and answer them just as patiently. If you don't know the answer, have him join you as you look for the answer in a book. He will then see how important books are as sources of information.

Also, have your child tell you a story, make-believe or otherwise. Then, pose questions that aid him in his thoughts.

### NOTES:

- If your child stammers, don't complete his words, but wait.
- Don't "correct" non-standard English, but make a statement in which you repeat back correctly: "I eat strawberries yesterday." "Really? You **ate** strawberries yesterday? Strawberries are one of my favorite fruits."
- Think of synonyms and use them (large vs. gargantuan). This will allow your child to become more descriptive: "I got a boo boo." vs. "I have a slight abrasion my knee."

## Practice Safety

Insist that your child come when you call and stop when you request. The time may come when danger approaches, so it is imperative that your child is able to listen.

\*\*Remember, practice makes perfect! Play games with your child in which you call and he comes, or he stops walking when you request.

## Use your little helper

As much as possible, and as time allows, allow your child to help cook, set the table, wash the (more sturdy) dishes and put them away, dress himself, bathe himself, and, in general, help care for himself and his home. This will give your child a feeling of importance and accomplishment as well as help you out. \*Note: little ones love to sweep floors, dust baseboards, and even wash windows!!

## Enjoy each other!!!!

Don't forget to stop and smell the flowers...quite literally. Pick a bouquet of wildflowers, swing on swings, slide down slides, and embrace your inner child as you play with your own little one.

*If you have any specific questions about academic reinforcements, Ms. Tammy or Ms. Kristin will be happy to give you some suggestions on what you can do at home with your child.*