

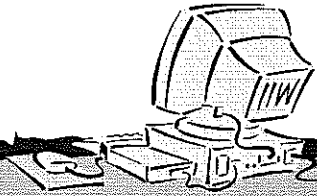
The calendar provides suggestions for fun activities to do with your children all through the year. Sharing language and literacy experiences with your children will help support their learning and their school success.

October

Día de la Raza (October 12): Practice map skills by tracing Columbus' trip across the Atlantic. Use the map scale to figure the approximate number of miles he traveled.

National Popcorn Popping Month: Encourage your child to list five reasons she likes popcorn. Help her write a paragraph using the reasons, indenting, capitalizing, and putting in punctuation where necessary. Pop some corn and enjoy it together.

Computer Learning Month: Help your child make a list of words that have to do with computers and help him look them up in a dictionary.



November

National Children's Book Week (Nov. 13-19): What is your child's favorite book? Ask her to summarize the story and tell you why the book is her favorite. Read it together.

Latin American Month: Encourage your child to look for newspaper articles about Latin American countries. Find the countries from the articles on a map and locate their capitals, too.

Good Nutrition Month: Create a food pyramid together. Cut pictures of grains, vegetables, fruits, dairy products, and meats/beans out of magazines or the newspaper. Help your child place them in the correct section of the pyramid and discuss good nutrition.

December

Read a New Book Month: Help your child pick out a new book to read. Talk about the kind of book she'd like to read — fiction, biography or a favorite author. Hurry home and read it together.

National Cookie Day (December 4): Make cookies with your child. Use a recipe to talk about sequence: "First we have to preheat the oven. Next, we will mix the ingredients." Enjoy the results.

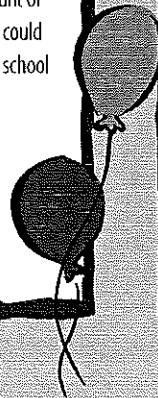
Holiday Celebrations: Visit the library or use the Internet with your child to find information about holiday celebrations held in December — Christmas, Hanukkah, Navidad, and Kwanzaa. Ask your child to write one interesting fact she has learned about each to share with your family.

January

New Year's Day: Make a vocabulary resolution — you and your child can learn a new word each week for the entire year. Keep a list of the words you learn.

National Soup Month: Serve alphabet soup. See who can be the first to spell a word from the letters in the soup.

National Handwriting Day (January 23): Have your child practice her handwriting by writing a note to a family member (aunt or uncle, grandparent, cousin). The note could be about what she has been doing in school so far this year.



February

American Heart Month: Help your child write three fitness facts for maintaining a healthy heart that the whole family can follow. Then, go for a walk with your child.

Groundhog Day (February 2): Predict whether or not the groundhog will see his shadow. Listen to the news or look for an article in the paper to check your prediction. (Spell Punxsutawney — the hometown of the "official" groundhog — together.)

Polar Bear Day (February 27): Make an Internet project out of finding where polar bears live, what they eat and what they look like (height, weight, etc.)

March

Women's History Month: Do you know a famous woman author, artist, or explorer? Take a trip to the library. See what you can find on your own or ask the librarian for help. Share what you learned with your family.

National Noodle Month: Let's have a family noodle party! What can we serve? Who shall we invite? Let your child design the invitations — what information needs to be included?

First Day of Spring (March 21): Help your child make a list of nature's first signs of Spring — birds returning after the winter, flowers beginning to poke up out of the ground, etc. Then take a walk with your child and have her check off all the things on the list that you see.

Visit www.familit.org for more literacy tips for parents!



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April

National Poetry Month: Borrow a book of children's poetry from the library. Read a poem a day with your child for the month.

Read a Road Map Day (April 5): Using a map of your city or state, ask your child to locate various streets or landmarks. Ask him to find your address. Can he find his school?

World Health Day (April 7): Ask your child to write a "Top Ten List" of things to do to be healthy. Ask her to share it with the whole family.



May

Mother Goose Day (May 1): Take turns reciting all the Mother Goose rhymes you can think of or use a book of Mother Goose rhymes to remind you of ones you have forgotten.

Older Americans Month: Older adults have great experiences to share. Ask your child to think of three or four questions he would like to ask an older adult. Have him make a date with that person to ask the questions and record the answers.

National Physical Fitness and Sports Month: Create a schedule of some physical activities you and your child can do during the month; for example, take a bike ride, play catch, jump rope, shoot baskets, take a walk.



June

Zoo Month: Is there a zoo in your community? If so, plan a family visit. Invite your child to make a list of the animals you see. If you can't visit a zoo, find a book about zoos. Make the sounds of the different animals.

National Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Month: Ask your child to try to name a fruit or vegetable for each letter of the alphabet. Try to eat as many as you can during the month.

U.S. Flag Day (June 14): Why are there 13 stripes on the U.S. flag? How many stars are there? What does each color represent? How should the flag be displayed? Help your child find a book about the flag and you both will know the answers.

July

National Picnic Month: Ask your child to help you plan a picnic. Begin by using the newspaper to help you find a day that promises to be sunny and clear. Then plan where you will go, what you will eat, and what games to play.

National Recreation Month: Help your child research the many recreational activities — museums, zoo, libraries, parks, athletic events, swimming pools — available in your area. Pick one that works best for your family and go have fun.

Independence Day (July 4): Talk about what "independence" means and why the United States celebrates it. Ask your child to help you search the newspaper for a Fourth of July activity your family can attend.

August

Friendship Day (First Sunday in August): Encourage your child to write a letter to a friend about the qualities she admires. Take your child to hand deliver the letter to her friend.

International Left-Handers' Day (August 13): Have an opposites day! If your child is right-handed, today he will use his left hand; if left-handed, he will use his right hand. Ask him at the end of the day what tasks he found most difficult.

Potato Day (August 19): Ask your child to think of different ways to serve potatoes and then plan five meals using potatoes in five different ways. Don't forget to include sweet potatoes in your planning.

September

Library Card Sign-up Month: If your child doesn't have a library card, go to the library this month and get one. If she already has a library card, help her select a safe place to keep it between visits.

Labor Day: Why is it called Labor Day, but no one goes to work? Help your child do a little research to find out why we celebrate Labor Day.

National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 — October 15): Ask your child to read the listing for your TV History Channel for September. It often includes programming related to Hispanic Heritage Month. Select a program and enjoy it together.

All Year Long