

This calendar provides suggestions for fun activities to do with your child throughout the year. Sharing language and literacy experiences with your child helps support learning and school success.

JANUARY

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

National Soup Month: Serve alphabet soup. See who can be the first to spell a word using the letters in the soup. Keep making more words!

National Handwriting Day (January 23): Have your child practice her handwriting by writing a note to a family member (aunt or uncle, grandparent, cousin). Write about something that happened during the winter holidays, or share something about school.



FEBRUARY

American Heart Month: Help your child identify three fitness activities the whole family can follow for maintaining a healthy heart. Then, take a walk together.

Groundhog Day (February 2): Predict whether or not the groundhog will see his shadow. If the groundhog does see his shadow, winter is extended for six more weeks.

Check the news to see if you were right!
(Together, spell Punxsutawney—the hometown of the "official" groundhog.)



Polar Bear Day (February 27): Visit wonderopolis.org to learn about polar bears—where they live, what they eat and what they look like (height, weight, etc.).

MARCH

Women's History Month: Do you know a famous female author, artist, or explorer? Visit the library to learn about some awesome women. Share what you learned with your family.

National Noodle Month: What's your favorite type of pasta? Plan a noodle party together and let your child design the invitations. What information needs to be included?

First Day of Spring (March 20): Help your child make a list of nature's first signs of spring to look for, such as birds returning after the winter, flowers starting to sprout, trees budding. Then take a walk together and have your child check off all the things on the list that you see.

MAY

Mother Goose Day (May 1): Take turns reciting all the Mother Goose rhymes you can remember. Then read a Mother Goose book of rhymes to find more.

Older Americans Month: Older adults have great experiences to share. Ask your child to think of three or four questions to ask an older adult. Have him schedule an interview with that person to find out the answers.

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



APRIL

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

Read a Road Map Day (April 5): Using a map of your state, ask your child to locate various locations such as the state capital, special landmarks, bordering states, and national or state forests or parks. Can he find his city or town?

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



JUNE

Zoo Month: Is there a zoo in your community? If so, plan a family visit. Help your child make a list of the animals she hopes to see. If you can't visit a zoo, check out some of the amazing animals featured on wonderopolis.org

National Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Month: Help your child name a fruit or vegetable for each letter of the alphabet. Eat as many different ones as you can during the month. Try some new ones, too!

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? Learn these facts and more by playing the fun activity "Find the Flags" at familieslearning.org/interactive_tools/find_the_flag.

JULY

National Picnic Month: Ask your child to help you plan a picnic. Begin by using the newspaper or a weather app on your phone to look for 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 interesting activities available in your area — museums, zoo, libraries, parks, athletic events, swimming pools. Pick one that works best for your family and have some fun!

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

AUGUST

Friendship Day (First Sunday in August): Help your child write a letter to a friend about the qualities she admires. Together, 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 were most difficult.

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



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? Visit wonderopolis.org to find out all about Labor Day.

National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15): Explore the Hispanic culture through vivid illustrations and text. Visit nea.org/grants/29504.htm and choose something great to read from their bilingual book list!



Día de la Raza (October 12): Speak with your child about the significance of civil rights and why they are important. For more information, check out Wonder #410: What Is a Civil Right? at wonderopolis.org.

National Popcorn Popping Month: Encourage your child to list five reasons she likes popcorn. Help her write a paragraph using the reasons. Indent, capitalize, and punctuate where appropriate. Pop some corn and make up “corny” stories together!

Computer Learning Month: Help your child create a list of words that have to do with computers. Help him go online to look them up.

NOVEMBER

National Family Literacy Month: November is the month to remember the importance of families learning together. Celebrate by reading together the Wonder of the Day® at wonderopolis.org.

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

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



DECEMBER

Read a New Book Month: At the library, help your child choose a new book to read. Talk about the books she likes to read—about a special topic or a particular type of book, by a favorite author or about a special character. Hurry home and read it together.

National Cookie Day (December 4): Make cookies with your child. Use the 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 December holiday celebrations such as Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. Ask your child to write an interesting fact about each to share with your family.

