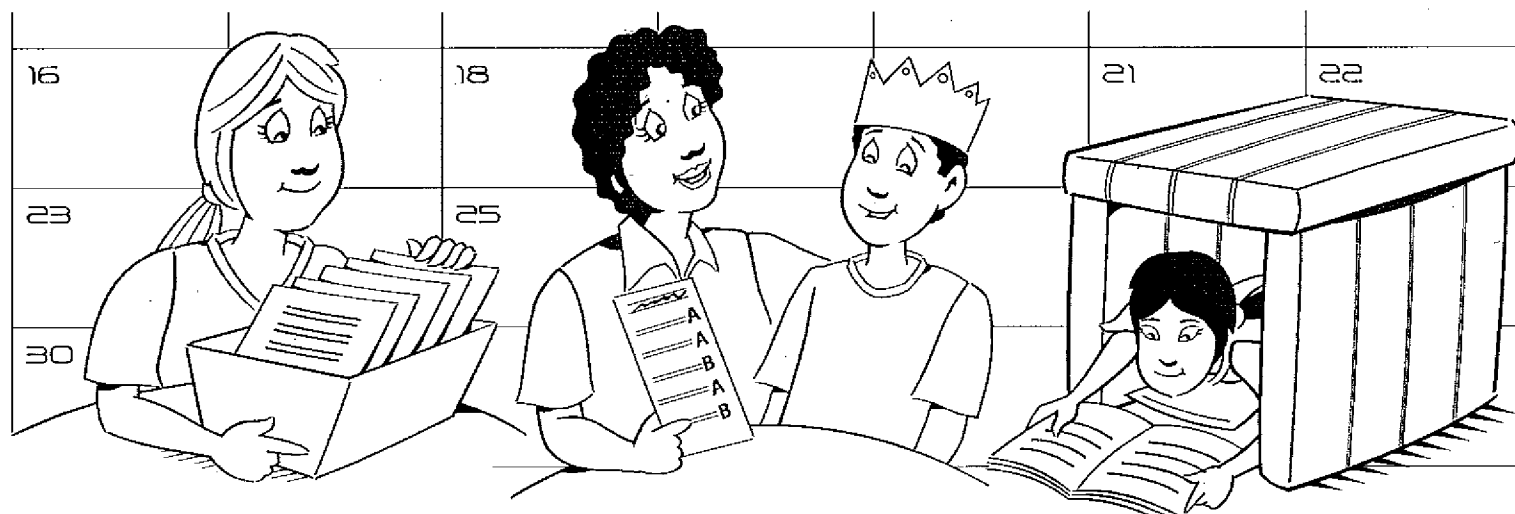


Parent & Child Activity Calendar

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THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE

March • April • May 2016

Parent & Child Activity Calendar

Elementary School
Parents
make the difference!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March		1 Ask your child to describe the most beautiful place she has ever seen.	2 Today is Read Across America Day. To celebrate, spend some extra time reading with your child.	3 Talk about three ways you used math today. Ask everyone in the family how they used math.	4 March is National Nutrition Month. Include your child in planning and preparing a healthy meal.	5 Books that win the Caldecott Medal have great illustrations. Help your child find one at the library.
6 With your child, fold paper to make different types of airplanes. See which ones fly the best.	7 Have each family member make a list of his or her strengths. Read them aloud. Add to one another's lists.	8 Get a deck of cards and try to build a house of cards with your child. Ask questions about school and life as you work.	9 Learn a new word at breakfast. Challenge family members to use it three times during the day.	10 Ask your child to look through the newspaper and report on an interesting story at dinner tonight.	11 A rebus is a story in which some words are replaced with pictures. Make a rebus with your child.	12 For five minutes, you and your child each start writing a story. Then swap papers and finish each other's story.
13 Let your child help you make a family chore chart. Everyone can check off jobs as they are finished.	14 At the grocery store, have your child estimate how many apples are in two pounds. Use the scales to check.	15 Does your child use the Internet? Monitor the sites he visits. Talk about online safety.	16 Ask your child questions that require more than a yes or no answer: "What was your favorite part of the story?"	17 Can your child think of a different ending to her favorite story? What would she do if she met the characters?	18 Play board or card games as a family tonight.	19 Let your child clean some dirty pennies with ketchup. Explain that they get shiny due to a chemical reaction.
20 Create a word search for your child. Hide words in a grid and surround them with random letters.	21 Talk about the five food groups with your child. Together, classify the foods in your cupboard.	22 Ask your child to calculate the average age of family members. Add up ages and divide by number of family members.	23 Have your child rank homework assignments from easiest to hardest. Have him do the hardest one first.	24 Write a note to tell her you love her. Put it in a place where only she will find it.	25 At dinner, have each family member say something nice about every person at the table.	26 Take an early morning walk with your child. Look for signs of spring.
27 Collect bright yarn and fabric scraps. Put in a mesh bag and hang on a tree. See if birds take some to build a nest.	28 Trace your child's hand on paper. Think of ways to be a helping hand. Have him write his ideas on the drawing.	29 Have your child teach you something she needs to learn for homework. It's a great way to reinforce learning.	30 Decide on a location anywhere in the world. Take turns telling one thing you would like to see there.	31 Help your child make his own dictionary with spelling or vocabulary words.	2016	

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April 2016					1 April is Mathematics Awareness Month. Take time to review math with your child each day this month.	2 This is also National Poetry Month. Go to the library with your child and check out a few books of poetry.
3 Encourage your child to sort her books by subject. She can use the library's system or invent her own.	4 Check on your child's grades. If necessary, help him make a plan to raise them before the school year ends.	5 Ask your child to imagine life 150 years ago. How about 150 years in the future?	6 April is Stress Awareness Month. Talk with your child about ways to handle stress. She could exercise or talk to a friend.	7 Ask your child what people make up a family (mother, aunt, child.) Tell him there are many kinds of families.	8 Have a music-sharing night. Share your favorite music with each other. Talk about how it makes you feel.	9 As you do errands, help your child talk with people about the jobs they do.
10 Using permanent marker, mark off inches on the side of a clear jar. Set outside. See how many inches of rain you get in one week.	11 Good report card? High grade on a test? Make your achiever "King or Queen for a Day."	12 Talk about fire safety today. What should your child do in case of a fire? Teach her an escape route from her bedroom.	13 Play math "Jeopardy" as a family. Give a number. Who can come up with a problem for which it is the answer?	14 Have your child draw an upside-down picture today.	15 Together, write a poem about your family. Start each line with a letter from the word FAMILY.	16 Look for ways to involve your child in your hobbies. For example, if you are a runner, take your child for a short jog.
17 Give your child some sidewalk chalk. Work on math problems outside together.	18 Find a new way to say "I love you"—in sign language or in secret code.	19 Teach your child a favorite song from when you were his age.	20 Brainstorm ways your family could help beautify your neighborhood.	21 Look through magazines with your child for pictures containing 90-degree angles. Create a collage of these angles.	22 Choose a TV show to watch together. Then, ask your child what she thought about the show you watched.	23 Are you taking a car trip? Take along some audio books.
24 Have your child write a poem or story from the point of view of a family pet.	25 Practice division. Ask your child, "How many of your lifetimes has Grandma lived? Aunt Sue?"	26 Use a toothpick dipped in lemon juice or milk to write a message to your child. To decipher, hold the paper up to a light bulb.	27 It's the birthday of Samuel Morse. Have family members send messages to each other in Morse Code.	28 Make puppets with your child by drawing faces on the bottom flaps of small paper bags.	29 Send your child something through the mail. She will be thrilled.	30 Take a fraction walk with your child and record your findings: 3/6 of cars are blue; 4/5 of houses have gray roofs.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. Plan to get some exercise with your child every day this month!	2 Talk to your child about the qualities that make a true friend.	3 Today is National Teacher Appreciation Day. Have your child write a thank-you note to a favorite teacher.	4 Choose a number, then have your child list all the things he can think of that come in that number.	5 When your child is struggling, remind her how she has handled tough situations in the past.	6 Look for a community service project to do with your child. Consider donating old clothes or toys to charity.	7 Bake cookies with your child. If you're doubling a recipe, have your child do the math.
8 Make up a secret code with your child. Use it to write notes this week.	9 Help your child think of an imaginary land. Together, name it and make up a story about it.	10 Give your child opportunities to make decisions. It's a skill that gets better with practice.	11 When your child asks you a question, show him how to find the answer for himself.	12 Tell your child that you believe she can succeed in school.	13 Does your child have homework to do this weekend? Make sure he schedules time to complete it.	14 Take the whole family to the library. Be sure everyone checks out some books.
15 Go for a walk or bike ride today. Challenge each other to spot something you haven't seen before.	16 Let school lessons spark your imagination. Visit an educational website with your child.	17 Correct mistakes in a positive way: "You spelled everything right except these two words. I bet you can fix them!"	18 Talk to your child about the importance of starting the day with a nutritious breakfast.	19 Try to give your child your undivided attention when she is talking.	20 Review your child's attendance. Commit to getting her to school on time every day.	21 Go for a reading picnic together. Take some books, a snack, and a blanket to sit on.
22 Show your child how his shadow moves. Look at shadows at different times of the day. Do they change?	23 What does your child want to be when she grows up? Ask her!	24 Encourage your child to ask older family members about their memories of childhood.	25 Ask the school about dates for year-end tests. Make sure your child gets enough sleep the night before each test.	26 Talk to your child about cheating. What are reasons some people cheat? Why is cheating wrong?	27 Teach your child to imagine how others might feel. That's called <i>empathy</i> .	28 Mix 1 cup cornstarch and ½ cup water in a bowl. Squish it and it becomes solid. Let it sit and it turns back into a liquid.
29 Take the Geography Challenge. Name a state, province or country. Who can call out the capital first?	30 Today is Memorial Day. Talk to your child about what this day means to you.	31 Ask your child to write down the lyrics to his favorite songs. He can keep them in a special notebook.	May 2016			

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