

# Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

SEPTEMBER 2015

## READING Story collage

Boost your child's reading comprehension with this collage project that shows a story's central message, or theme.

**Ingredients:** book, pencil, paper, old magazines, scissors, glue

Read a book with your youngster. Can he tell you in just a few words what it was about? For example, how to handle change is a common theme—often a character grows up or moves to a new town.

Have your child write the theme in the center of his paper and then cut out magazine photos related to it. If the theme is friendship, he might find two kids playing catch, a friendship bracelet, and a dog with a little girl. He can

create a collage by gluing the pictures all over the paper. Ask him to explain how each photo relates to the theme of the book.



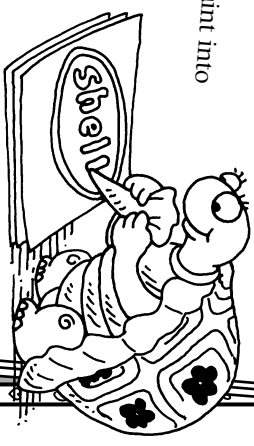
## SPELLING Decorate "word cakes"

Let your youngster practice spelling with finger paint "frosting."

**Ingredients:** finger paint, plastic zipper bags, scissors, spelling words, paper

Have your child put different colors of finger paint into plastic zipper bags. Seal tightly, and snip off the bottom corners. As you say each spelling word aloud, she can squeeze paint out of a bag to write the word on paper. To make her "frost-word" and decorate it with flowers or swirls.

Help your youngster check the cakes against her spelling list. If she misspelled any, repeat the activity with those words.



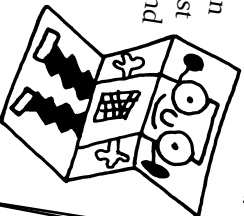
## SOCIAL STUDIES

Display an "N" on a north wall in your home, and tell your youngster to write "N," "S," "E," and "W" on a paper plate. Give her directions to a secret spot in the room while she points the "N" on her plate toward the "N" on the wall. ("Walk two steps east, now one step south.") Note: Use a compass, an app, or the sun to find north.



## ART

Together, three artists can create a monster or robot. Have your child fold a piece of paper into thirds, draw a head in the top section, and pass it to the next person. That artist draws arms and a body in the middle. The last person adds legs and feet in the bottom section. What will you name your creation?



## GRAPHING Count nature sightings

What are the most common animals in your area? Your child can observe, tally, and graph to find out.

**Ingredients:** pencil, notebook, paper, crayons

Take a walk together through the woods or a park. Your youngster should list the different animals he spots (geese, squirrels, deer, chipmunks, salamanders) and make a tally mark each time he spots another one of that kind.

Suggest that he make a bar graph to show his findings. On a sheet of paper, he can write numbers up the left side and animals along the bottom. Then, he should draw and color a bar representing how many of each animal he saw. (For 10 geese, the bar would go up to 10.) Ask questions he can answer with his graph, such as "How many more squirrels were there than chipmunks?"



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## Character Corner

### HONESTY

Telling the truth is the right thing to do—plus, the truth is easier to remember.

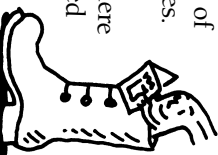
Ask your child to tell two stories (one true and one made up) with as many details as possible. Then, challenge him to repeat them. He may realize it's tough to remember all the details in a fake story.



### LISTENING

Listen carefully, and imitate!

Take turns reading lines of a poem in different voices. You might use a high-pitched voice to say, "There was an old lady who lived in a shoe." Your youngster has to repeat the



line, imitating your voice. For the next line, he could whisper his words for you to mimic.

### SCIENCE Air pressure at work

This collapsing bottle will show your youngster how temperature affects air pressure.

**Ingredients:** empty plastic bottle with cap, water

Help your child fill the bottle about two-thirds full with hot water and screw on the cap. The air inside the bottle will heat up and expand. Next, have her pour the water out, recap the bottle, and hold it under cold water. She'll see the sides of the bottle collapse.

Does your youngster know why this happens? The cold water cools off the bottle and the air inside. Since cold air takes up less space than hot air, and air pressure is pushing on the outside of the bottle, the bottle collapses inward.



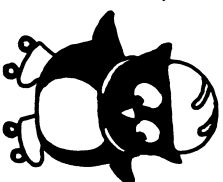
### MATH

You and your child each draw a playing card (no face cards, ace = 1). Without looking at your cards, place them on your foreheads facing out, and have a third person say their sum (11). To figure out your number, look at the other person's card. If you have 5, your youngster can calculate that she has 6, since  $11 - 5 = 6$ .



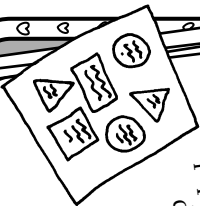
### FITNESS

Brainstorm fun, healthy outdoor activities like shooting baskets, jumping rope, or roller skating. Have your child write and illustrate each one on an index card. Put the cards in a bag, and leave it in a handy spot. Pick one to do together each day.



### STUDY SKILLS

A graphic organizer can make it easier for your youngster to remember facts from his textbook. Ask him to draw several kinds of shapes on his paper. Next, he could write a different type of fact in each shape. If he's studying history, he might put facts about names in circles, about dates in squares, and about places in triangles.



## Congratulations!

We finished \_\_\_\_\_ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)