

Education and lifelong learning are at the center of our parent program. A key to learning is knowing how to use resources. We spent a great deal of time at the library learning the following:

- To identify what types of resources are available at the library and how to find them
 - How to use the computer card catalogue
 - What is available in the children's library
 - What resources are found in the foreign language department
- The steps to and doing focused research
- To present research findings
- The different levels of questions found on standardized tests
- Required reading comprehension skills

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TAKE IT FROM US

#1 THIS ACTIVITY WILL TEACH: How to do research

SKILLS UTILIZED: map reading, following instructions, reading, writing, recording resource information

RESOURCES NEEDED: library, books, computer, card catalog, map

ACTIVITY: We went to the library to do research. First we had to choose a topic, then get a map of the library and figure out where in the library information about our topic could be found. Once we went to that area or floor, we asked the librarians where the computer card catalog was and searched the library system for books on our topic. Recording the call numbers to identify the location of the books, we used a reference guide to get us to the right shelf and picked out several books. After reviewing the books, my child and I wrote a short report on the information we found. I also taught my son how to properly cite the book by recording the title, author, and year published and providing that information whenever he used ideas directly from the text in his writing.

HINTS: After doing this activity once or twice, it would be fun to research with your child in a different way. Choose a new topic and both you and your child could research the topic independently. Then compare the information you find to the information your child finds.



#2 THIS ACTIVITY WILL TEACH: Reading skills and sentence development

SKILLS UTILIZED: reading, writing

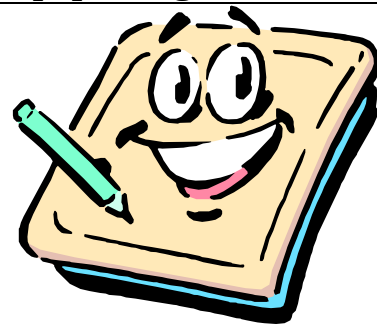
RESOURCES NEEDED: 250 index cards, brown paper bag, marker

ACTIVITY: On each index card have your children write down a basic word. Once all the cards have been completed, place them in a paper bag and shake. Each youth will take a turn pulling 5 cards out of the bag.

The youth will gain points for

- ❖ 1 point – reading the word properly
- ❖ 1 point – knowing the definition of the word
- ❖ 1 point – using the word accurately in a sentence

Once all the cards have been pulled, the child with the most points wins the game.



HINTS: Use more difficult words as the children get older.

#3 THIS ACTIVITY WILL TEACH: What resources are available in your library

SKILLS UTILIZED: reading

RESOURCES NEEDED: library

ACTIVITY: Take your children to your regional library. Get library maps for each child and briefly go through all the different sections of the library. Have each child explore the library on their own to locate the different resource areas, such as fiction books, non-fiction books, newspapers, magazines, videos, audio-cassettes, and computers with or without Internet access. You can make a game out of finding a resource in each area for the topic they are researching. For example, if your child is interested in dogs, encourage them to find not just a story about dogs, but also a book that gives information about dogs and three other different types of resources that have something to do with dogs. Give your children points for each area they gather a resource from.

HINTS: Help older children incorporate various informational resources into their research-- it will make their research stronger because the information is gathered from a broader perspective.



#4 THIS ACTIVITY WILL TEACH: How to get a library card

SKILLS UTILIZED: following instructions

RESOURCES NEEDED: library, a photo ID, a utility bill with current address (i.e. gas, electric, or phone bill)

ACTIVITY: Take your child to get his/her own library card. You need to bring a photo ID with your current address and a utility bill with your current address. Your child must be able to print their first and last name by themselves. Have your child fill out as much of the application as possible. Talk with your child about the responsibility that comes with getting a library card. You can also set up a shelf at home where they keep all their library books so that the books do not get lost in your home. Help them maintain a calendar of dates when their library books are due. They should be responsible to pay late fines if they do not return books on time or work to earn the money from you.

HINTS: If your child is older, they will soon be eager to get their driving permit or license. There is a lot more responsibility that comes with a driving license. Help set up similar structures for them when they first get it to keep them accountable for their actions.

#5 THIS ACTIVITY WILL TEACH: Research practice

SKILLS UTILIZED: reading, research, writing

RESOURCES NEEDED: library, open mind, willingness to learn

ACTIVITY: Visit the library with your child and have them choose a topic they are interested in. Help them find a book on the topic using the computer card catalog and by asking the reference librarians. Have them research the book they find, including who the author is, when they wrote the book, why they wrote the book, and what other things they did before and after writing the book. Gaining a deeper understanding of the background of the book can help your child better enjoy the book and other research on the topic.

HINTS: Many children's authors have their mailing address listed in their books and some regularly correspond with school classes. Have your children write their favorite author a letter. Ask your librarian if they have address lists for authors if you cannot find addresses in the books.



#6 THIS ACTIVITY WILL TEACH: History of famous people

SKILLS UTILIZED: reading, research, writing

RESOURCES NEEDED: library

ACTIVITY: Take your child to the library and have them look up various people who have contributed a lot to the progress of their race. Have them select one person and research that person's history. They can write about the person in a report or prepare a presentation where they act like the person. Learning more about people who have made a difference in the world will make your child more aware of the ways they can change things. It will also promote education in your household.

HINTS: The Chicago Historical Society has many performers who reenact historical events from the perspective of the original characters or a witness to the event. Take a family field trip to the Historical Society to get tips on performing a character.

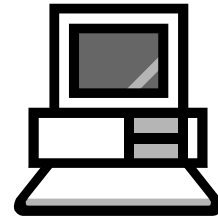


written materials

Library Brochures
Family Millennium Encyclopedia
Newspapers and magazines
Homework Help on the Internet

computer websites

www.chipublib.org
www.att.com/learningnetwork/family.html
www.ala.org/parentspage/greatwebsites/amazing.html
www.depaul.edu



people you should talk to

- teachers
- librarians



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