

Language Homework Suggestions

1. Read a story or a chapter from a book each evening.

Parents should ask these questions:

Who were the characters in the story or chapter?

What happened in the story or chapter?

Name or sequence the events in the story.

What happened at the end of the story or chapter?

Name the main idea or summarize the story in a sentence or two.

2. Play a board game or a card game together. Board games and card games teach memory, strategy and higher level reasoning skills. Some of my favorites that are excellent choices: memory/concentration, Sorry!, Uno, Go Fish, Jenga, Guess Who, Splat, Checkers

3. Do weekly grocery shopping together

Do the following activities:

Make a list of the items needed before going to the store

Help locate the items in the store.

Categorize the items purchased as unloaded from the cart.

Help put away the groceries after arriving at home.

4. Additional activities to do at the store (choose a couple of these to do each time you visit the store for variety):

A. Find the different types of fruit. Choose two to compare and contrast.

B. Find all the different types of vegetables. Choose two to compare and contrast.

C. Find items in the store that are the same color.

D. Find 5 brands of cereal. Find all the pre-sweetened cereals, unsweetened cereals, cereals with animals on the front of the package.

E. Find 5 different kinds of bread (e.g., hotdog bun, white bread, English muffin, etc...)

F. Find 5 different types of meat.

G. Find the cleaning supplies. Tell each item's function (e.g., mop---clean the floor, paper towels---wipe spills)

H. At the frozen foods section---find the frozen vegetables. How many can you find? How are these the same as the vegetables in the produce section? How are these different?

I. In the baking section----find all the foods that can be baked in an oven.

J. In frozen foods or bakery section---find all of the desserts.

K. Choose two brands of a product (e.g., ice cream, breads, cakes, cookies, etc...) tell the similarities and differences between the foods chosen

L. In the beverage section find 5 different beverages. Tell the similarities and differences between each. Describe each one by color, taste and category.

M. At the checkout counter. Find the cashier, cash register, receipt, lane, bag, bagger.

N. Make up a sentence about each item found in the store: for example, after locating an apple, you could say, "I would like to eat the big, red apple." Or "The big red apple was delicious." Try to encourage using descriptive attributes in sentences, by asking questions to get your child to use descriptors such as shape, color or size in the sentence.

O. Make up your own variations of these activities whenever you visit a department or grocery store.

5. Follow a recipe to create a dish for breakfast, lunch, dinner or snack
Read the recipe out loud.
Gather the ingredients.
Name the cooking utensils used for making the dish.
Re-tell the steps taken to make the dish.
6. Watch a television show together.
Name the characters in the show.
Summarize the main idea of the show in a couple of sentences.
Sequence the events of the program in order.
Discuss other story elements such as plot and conclusion.
7. Complete a crossword puzzle, word search or word scramble puzzle.
8. Have a joke of the day. Explain the meaning of the joke and why it was funny.
9. Look up a new word in the dictionary every day. Try to use it in a sentence in conversation.
10. Tell three things you did at school today. Explain why you liked or disliked those activities.
11. Play an "I spy" game in the car while driving. Try to describe objects seen and have everyone in the car try to guess what is being described. Let everyone have a turn at describing.
12. Learn to play a musical instrument. Try to practice every day. It improves memory, rhythm and timing skills needed to process information quickly.
13. Visit a museum, park, or historical landmark. Talk about the things you saw and what you did while you were there.
14. Visit the library each week. Instilling a love for books, poetry and reading helps a child realize reading is important. Being read aloud to on a regular basis helps boost oral language skills.
15. Look at the newspaper together. Point out the different sections of the paper, such as city/region, sports, headlines, weather and so forth. Read the comics together. Discuss the humor in each comic strip read.
16. Memorize favorite songs and poems...Nursery Rhymes, Pledge of Allegiance, Prayers, Childhood Songs & Holiday Songs are excellent choices. Research indicates that to improve memory, rehearsing is a must. Using music helps in recalling words over long periods of time.
17. Design your own language experience(s): _____

Consider each opportunity to talk to your child as a means to improve language skills. Ask open-ended questions that require more than a yes/no response. Even a walk around the neighborhood can be used as a means to get your child to focus on attributes, describing, answering questions and sentence formulation. Make it fun!

