Family Literacy Routines

Support your child's language and literacy learning in just 5 minutes a day using these suggested routines. Use the reflection box to let us know how it went and what you learned about your child.

K-2

Icons at the bottom of each routine indicate:

- Use English
- Use your home language(s)
- Use English and your Home Language(s)

Tell us how we did!

Daily Care Routines

- Before bedtime, tell a funny story from your hometown.
- Tell your child how life was in your hometown, what the place looked like, and what the place is known for.

Homework Routines

- Go to https://globalstorybooks.net/ and click on storybooks in your home language.
- Find a storybook from your country and select **level 1**. To change the level, click on change level on the right side of the page. Read and listen to the story together.

Mealtime Routines

- Before eating, talk about your **family's interesting eating habits** from your culture.
- Discuss questions such as: what do you do before eating? Who starts eating first? Do you eat with your hands? Do you have any polite phrase to say before a meal?

Play and Leisure Routines

- Play the game **21 questions**. Together, create 21 simple questions about your culture, your home country or your life in the U.S.
- Select other members of the family and ask the questions. The person who answers more questions correctly get to win some snacks.

Outside Routines

- Ask your child to take a **neighborhood walk** and take pictures.
- Ask your child to deliver **a short presentation** about what they saw, who they interacted with, and what they did. Ask them simple questions to guide the presentation.

Walking, Driving & Bus Routines

- Tell **a story on the go.** On the ride back home, ask your child to point out 5 buildings they see outside. For example, a school, a hospital, etc.
- Talk about the memories you have from similar buildings in your country. Describe what those buildings looked like, and how different/similar they are to the ones in the US.

Anytime!

- Watch a read aloud video of the book, **Dreamers** on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DItC93ilVHs. Remember to check the cc option at the bottom of the screen for subtitles.
- Discuss with your child the meaning of the word **immigrant** mentioned in the book.

Reflection: After trying out the routines this week, answer the following questions:

What went well with the activities you tried this week with your child?

_____

What did you learn about your child?

_____

ALLOhio

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Tell us how we did!

Daily Care Routines

- Before going to bed, talk to your child about **housing** in your home country.
- Talk about the home layout: How many bedrooms do apartments/houses usually have? What's the kitchen like? Do most houses have a front or backyard?

Homework Routines

- Go to https://global-asp.github.io/storybooks-english/stories/en/0324/. Together, read and listen to the story **"The Day I Left Home for the City."** Choose the language on the right side. If you can't find your home language, read it in English.
- Is it similar to your own family's story? In what ways?

Mealtime Routines

- Share a common **joke** that includes **food** in your home language. For example: Want to hear a pizza joke? - Never mind it's too cheezy haha!
- If your child is not familiar with jokes in your language, explain the context and the meaning of words.

Play and Leisure Routines

- Play a mime game. Pick an imaginary object that is connected to your **family daily routine.** It could be something you use every day at home.
- When you take the imaginary object, pass it to your child and **describe with one word** what you do with it. Have your child guess and describe what the object is.

Outside Routines

- Visit one of your community organizations (a church, a community center, a library.)
- Find out what type of activities/services they offer to **multilingual families**. Sign up to volunteer/get involved and try to connect with new people who speak other languages.

Walking, Driving & Bus Routines

- On the ride/walk back home, talk about **how you felt** the first time you met new people in the U.S.
- Talk with your child about what you both found surprising/exciting/challenging in your first year in the U.S.

Anytime!

- Watch the first 3 minutes of a read aloud video of the book, **Other words for home**. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=609Qd9Riogo.
- Pick a favorite quote or verse from the book. Ask your child to do the same and discuss why you liked those quotes.

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Tell us how we did!

Daily Care Routines

- While getting ready in the morning, talk about any special/traditional clothes you wear in your home culture vs the U.S.
- Discuss the **words** used to describe the traditional clothes in your home language. Why do people dress the way they do in your country? for religious reasons, climate, etc.?

Homework Routines

- Ask your child about any interesting/new **word** they heard today at school.
- Ask your child to break that new word into syllables. Discuss the meaning in English and your home language.

Mealtime Routines

- While eating, talk about the **verbs** (action words) that are associated with eating, such as chew, swallow, and bite, in your home language.
- Discuss with your child if there is any difference in the way you use these verbs in English and your home language.

Play and Leisure Routines

- Choose a speech sound in English. Have your child look around the house to find 5 things that begin with the sound and shout out the items.
- Example: If you choose the /t/ sound (as in tea), the child may shout out table, toys, or top.

Outside Routines

- While at a grocery store, have your child tell you the first sound in food names in your home language. For instance, the first sound of the Spanish word pollo (chicken in English) is /p/.
- Ask your child to find items that begin with the same sound.

Walking, Driving & Bus Routines

- Play the game "**I am packing for** [add a country here]". For ex.: "I'm packing for Venezuela, and I'm bringing [something that starts with the letter A, like apples]." The next person repeats what the first person said, then adds on something that starts with the letter B: "I'm packing for Venezuela and I'm bringing an alligator and a bicycle." Play adding more words!

Anytime!

- Watch a read aloud video of the book, **Alma and how she got her name** (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Py7_9ATJDkk) Before watching the video discuss what's something about yourselves that makes you proud.
- Watch the video and connect your own lives to Alma's story.

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What went well with the activities you tried this week with your child?

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What did you learn about your child?

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- ENG — Use English
- A — Use your home language
- Hi! 嗨 Hola! — Use English and your Home Language(s)

Tell us how we did!

Daily Care Routines

- Before bedtime, ask your child questions to engage in book conversations. For example, ask them questions such as: if you could write a book, what would the main character do? would you write it in English or your home language?
- Ask them other questions about what the book would be about, and who they would like to write it for.

Homework Routines

- The website Reading Tips for Families (https://readingtipsforfamilies.com/elementary-school/) provides access to a variety of resources that families can use to engage children of all ages.
- Check out their read alouds, storybooks, and any other activities that may be helpful for your children.

Mealtime Routines

- During mealtime take some time to check the language services your family can access through your school district.
- The web Student and Familiy Support for Language Learners (https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/English-Learners/Student-and-Family-Supports) provides information about these services.

Play and Leisure Routines

- Check again Reading Tips for Families website (https://readingtipsforfamilies.com) but this time check the section **Reading Rockets for Parents.**
- Go to the section **Reading Tips for Parents.** Tips are available in many languages including tips for parents with children with disabilities.

Outside Routines

- Go to the website https://www.rif.org/literacy-central/calendars/k-5-activity-calendar. Check the calendar and select one event that your family can participate in.
- Check out the National Picnic Month event on July 3rd. You can read Pie is for sharing while enjoying a picnic with your family.

Walking, Driving & Bus Routines

- While driving or riding the bus, play a funny sound game. Ask your child to sound out letters or words on billboards, shop fronts, etc.
- Have them find new words that begin or end with those sounds.

Anytime!

- Watch a read aloud video of the book, **The Proudest Blue** (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfmc_IlybcU)
- Discuss with your child what new words you both learned from this book. Is this story similar to your culture or different?

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Tell us how we did!

Daily Care Routines

- Before bed, grab any book you may have at home. Together, set a purpose for the reading. For example, sometimes we read to learn something new, to find answers to questions, etc.
- Ask your child to read aloud half the page while you read the other half. Discuss if you accomplished your goal.

Homework Routines

- Grab any book you have in your home language and practice a **think aloud** strategy while reading. Say everything that is going on in your mind as you read.
- Ask your child to do it after you. Discuss questions you both may have, confusions, and meaning of unknown words.

Mealtime Routines

- While eating, listen to the podcast **What if World** (http://www.whatifworldpodcast.com/episodes). This is a storytelling podcast of "what if" questions submitted by children. On the left menu, you can find the transcripts of each episode.
- Listen during dinner time every day and have fun!

Play and Leisure Routines

- Create your own **memory game** by drawing pictures on blank cards. Make pairs of each card. Choose a topic of your interest. For example, places you have visited with your family, books you have read, animals you like.
- Have your child draw and write the pictures on the cards. Create 10 matching cards and have fun playing this memory game!

Outside Routines

- Link a book you have both read to real life. For example, if you have read a book that includes animals, visit the zoo with your child.
- Have conversations about how similar/different they look to the ones in real life.

Walking, Driving & Bus Routines

- On the bus ride or walk back home, play the **Finger Notes** game with words in both English and your home language.
- Write a word on your child's back with your finger. Ask them to say the word out loud to see if they can figure it out.

Anytime!

- Watch a read aloud video of the book, **I am an immigrant, too.** (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRL-WbKHaZ8)
- Discuss which characters you both would like to meet in real life.

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