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.

Pre-K

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

- Share stories about a memorable time getting ready for school or work.
- While sharing a story, ask the child questions like, "How do you think that made me feel?" Or, "How would you feel?"

Homework Routines

- Share memories with your child about going to school. What was your favorite class? What did you like about shool? Do you remember your teachers? Was homework easy or difficult for you at that time?
- Ask your child what they like best about their school.

Mealtime Routines

- Share a story about a memorable time making a meal with your mom, grandma or any other family member while you were growing up.
- Describe one of your first favorite meals. Ask your child what their favorite meal is and if they have any fun memory cooking with a family member.

Play and Leisure Routines

- Describe the games you remember playing or the things you enjoyed playing with when you were your child's age.
- Ask your child about their favorite things to play.

Outside Routines

- Share information about an outside toy you remember playing with.
- Ask your child what they like to do outside.

Walking, Driving & Bus Routines

- While driving, describe one of the first vacations you took as an adult.
- Ask your child about places they remember visiting.

Anytime!

- If you came to the United States as an adult, talk about some of the first friends you met in the United States and how you met them.
- Ask your child about their friends (e.g., names, what they like to do together).

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

- Take turns saying the names for articles of clothing in your home language and in English as your child gets ready for school.
- Repeat this activity at bedtime and focusing on pajamas.

Homework Routines

- Describe school in your home country.
- Ask your child to describe their school and together identify similarities and differences.

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

- Take turns describing games you like to play.
- State what you are doing in your home language and in English. Then, ask your child to describe what they are doing using English and home language.

Outside Routines

- While on a walk, take turns naming what you see in your home language and in English.
- Comment on how you and your child can speak two languages!

Walking, Driving & Bus Routines

- While walking to school, share how you got to school growing up (e.g., bus, walk).
- Ask your child about how they get to school each day. Ask them to compare their experience going to school with yours.

Anytime!

- Share stories. Comment on how many people your child will be able to communicate with since they can tell stories in English and your home language.
- Discuss how your stories were the same and different.

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Tell us how we did!

Daily Care Routines

- While putting on shoes, point out letters on/in shoes or socks and the sound the letter(s) make.
- With your child come up with words that start with that sound (e.g., d; dog, dad, dance).

Homework Routines

- Write your child's name or invite your child to write their name.
- Point out each letter and say the letter sounds in your child's name.

Mealtime Routines

- Create mealtime menus for common meals. Come up with a name to put on the cover of the menu. Invite your child to decorate the menu.
- Point out the letters and sounds of various items within the menu.

Play and Leisure Routines

- Play favorite songs and pass a letter (e.g., magnet or a cut out letter on paper) back and forth, and when the music stops say the letter name (e.g., "A").
- After saying the letter name, make the letter sound.

Outside Routines

- While on a walk, point out the first letters on signs and the sounds that they make.
- Ask your child to point out letters and make sounds.

Walking, Driving & Bus Routines

- While driving, look for signs that have the letter "a" on them and then switch to the next letter in the alphabet once a sign is found.
- Make the letter sounds.

Anytime!

- Find and name letters around you.
- Let your child use their finger to trace letters around you that are straight (e.g., t, l, l, z) and curvy (a, b, c, d). Practice saying the name and sound.

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Tell us how we did!

Daily Care Routines

- Read a story from this website: https://www.uniteforliteracy.com
- Ask your child to talk about what they think will happen next as you read the story together. Determine if what they said happened.

Homework Routines

- Pick stories from the website below where there are electronic books in a variety of languages: https://allohioliteracy.org/family-resources/read-alouds/
- As you read the books, pause to ask questions about what you are reading.

Mealtime Routines

- Before eating, read titles of some read alouds from this site. https://www.pbs.org/parents/read-along. While eating, share those titles with your child.
- During your meal, talk about the story. Was there a time they experienced something that happened in the story?

Play and Leisure Routines

- Pick stories from: https://globalstorybooks.net
- Before reading the book ask your child to tell you what they think the story is about. Write them down. After reading discuss whether their predictions were accurate.

Outside Routines

- Make up a story and share it with your child as you play outside.
- Ask your child questions such as: Has that ever happened to you? Have you done that before? Do you know what happened later?

Walking, Driving & Bus Routines

- Using pictures on your phone, tell memories about different friends or family members.
- After listening to the story, ask your child to share some of their memories from a picture or pictures.

Anytime!

- Find stories to read from: https://magicblox.com
- As you read, point to the words you are reading and ask your child a question about the story and what they think might happen next. See if they were correct.

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Pre-K

Icons at the bottom of each routine indicate:

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

Tell us how we did!

Daily Care Routines

- While getting ready for bed, ask your child to tell you a story.
- Expand on your child's story by saying some of the words or phrases that they say in your home language and in English.

Homework Routines

- Read a story with your child, asking them questions about what is taking place in the story (e.g., what did they just do?, where are they going?).
- When you finish reading ask your child to tell you what happened in the story.

Mealtime Routines

- Create your own family story with your child. Write the words your child says and draw pictures to go with the story.
- Read the story with your child to another family member or friend.

Play and Leisure Routines

- Read a bilingual book. Talk about how fun it is to read in two languages.
- When you finish reading, open the book to a few different pages, showing your child the picture. Ask them to tell you what happened on that page.

Outside Routines

- Sit in a favorite place (e.g., sandbox) and read one of your child's favorite stories. Point to the words as you read.
- Ask your child to take a turn "reading" you the story (note: they will likely not read the words but rather describe what they remember).

Walking, Driving & Bus Routines

- While driving share the name of an audio book (https://www.waterford.org/resources/free-audiobooks-for-kids/).
- Talk about the words in the title and what the story might be about (e.g., where do you think this story takes place?).

Anytime!

- Pick familiar stories and instead of reading the words or in addition to reading the words, point out the pictures and ask your child: What do you think is happening here?
- As your child tells you about what happened on the pages, ask if tsomething like that has ever happened to them.

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What did you learn about your child?