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.

3-5

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

- Have your child sort out laundry by fabric type and color.
- Have them read the instructions on the labels on how to wash each item. Ask your child to **write the steps** they will take to wash each different type of fabric/color.

Homework Routines

- Use any book/text related to science or social studies your child is reading in school right now. If you have no books at home, check ducksters.com for reading texts.
- Have your child read a passage out loud. Ask them to write a **summary** that contains one main idea and 2-3 details that support the main idea. Help your child by giving a sentence starter. For example, this passage made me think of _____.

Mealtime Routines

- While eating, talk about **synonyms** for mealtime. For example, dinner time. Synonyms are words that mean the same; Ex: dish/plate; cup/glass; chair/seat.
- Discuss what words you can use to refer to mealtime in your home language.

Play and Leisure Routines

- Do you have a game that is common in your culture? For example, in the Latino community, dominoes are very common.
- Dominoes teach you strategies and problem solving. Find a game connected to your culture, read and discuss the rules.

Outside Routines

- Do a **community walk** with your child. While walking, observe details you don't normally see while driving or riding the bus.
- Ask your child to find **compound words** in the environment. Those are words that are made up of two other words; Ex: rain + bow = rainbow; base + ball = baseball.

Walking, Driving & Bus Routines

- For the car or bus ride, come prepare to **talk about distance.**
- Ask your child questions such as: how far is home from the school? how long does it take you to go to _____ by bus or bike? Answers could be: I can ride my bike to _____ and it would take ____ minutes.

Anytime!

- Build a fairy tale with your child. First, create cards with the sentence starters: One day they met at_____, Suddenly, on a sunny day_____. Then, _____.
- Have your child complete the first 2 sentences, while you complete the last one. Discuss if you had the same ideas.

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?

_____

ALLOhio

What did you learn about your child?

_____

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3-5

Tell us how we did!

Daily Care Routines

- Before bed, take turns reading stories at https://www.uniteforliteracy.com/
- Choose any story, show your child the cover and ask them to predict what the story will be about.

Homework Routines

- Instead of using Google translate, today, use Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English https://www.merriam-webster.com/kids to look up unknown words while doing homework.
- Have your child look up the word(s) and tell what they found on the dictionary in addition to the definition of the word.

Mealtime Routines

- Ask your child to tell you stories about what happened in school today or any topic of their interest.
- While your child is sharing, ask questions such as: can you say more about that? Why do you think that? What makes you think that? What if_____ ?

Play and Leisure Routines

- Create a bilingual dictionary together. Have your child illustrate the entries with drawings or magazine cutouts.
- Start with words that you have found in stories you read together or books from school.

Outside Routines

- Do you know any other multilingual family in your neighborhood? Visit any community organization where you can find other multilingual families.
- Encourage your child to have conversations with other multilingual children in the community.

Walking, Driving & Bus Routines

- On the ride or walk home, have your child tell you what happened in school today.
- Have them using sentence starters such as: My favorite part was_____, I was confused about_____. I didn't expect_____. These sentences would help them get started.

Anytime!

- Place post-it notes all over the house. Use cutout paper and tape as an alternative.
- Ask each family member to write a word related to a science topic (plants, animals, space) every time they find one post-it note. At the end of the week, have your child collect all words and discuss whether or not they know the meanings of those words.

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Daily Care Routines

- Before bed, practice **journaling** with your kid as a way to alleviate the stresses that can keep them from being able to sleep.
- Start with questions such as: If you could spend one day doing anything you want, what would you do? What are three things you're grateful for?

Homework Routines

- Add a new entry in your bilingual dictionary you both created in page 2 of this document.
- Add unfamiliar words you have found when doing social studies or science homework.

Mealtime Routines

- While eating, ask your child to **compare** the ingredients of the meal.
- For example, potatoes are **similar to/different** from ____ because they have similar/different textures. Texture words are crunchy, crispy, chewy.

Play and Leisure Routines

- Watch a show on TV without the audio for 3 minutes.
- While watching, ask your child to take notes of what they thought was happening. Then, ask them to write a **3 sentence-summary** of one of the scenes.

Outside Routines

- Visit this website (https://www.ohiomuseums.org and find a museum or an arboretum in your county/city.
- Have your child check the website of the place you would like to visit. Ask them to write notes to plan a visit.

Walking, Driving & Bus Routines

- Play the game **would you rather...?** while walking or riding the bus. Ask questions such as: Would you rather sit on nails or sit on ice? Would you rather eat cotton candy or popcorn?
- When your child replies, ask them why they pick those options.

Anytime!

- Watch the read aloud from the book "I am new here" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pibz9WhdYxM Click on "show transcript" if you prefer to follow along.
- Ask your child to draw pictures of places of the neighborhood mentioned in the book.

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Use your home language

Hi! 嗨 Hola! Use English and your Home Language(s)

Tell us how we did!

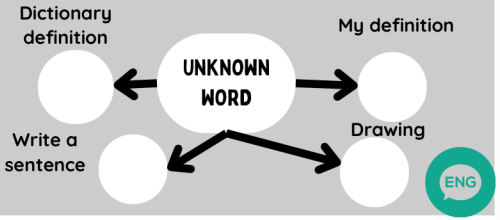
Daily Care Routines

- Before bedtime, grab a chapter book and read the first chapter.
- Have your child **make predictions** about what will happen in the following chapters. Have them write a few sentences about those predictions.

ENG

Homework Routines

- When you find any unfamiliar word while doing homework together, create a **word map**.
- An example of a **word map** can be like this one below:



ENG

Mealtime Routines

- Encourage your child to participate during the cooking process.
- Have them observe the process of **boiling water** and discuss the concept of **evaporation**.

Hi! 嗨 Hola!

Play and Leisure Routines

- Check the Ohio day by day literacy calendar. https://www.daybydayoh.org
- Have your child pick **one activity** for the day. Options are watch a video, read a book, sing a song or try this. Encourage the whole family to participate in the activity.

ENG

Outside Routines

- Go on a **picnic** with your family. Have your child pick the park you will go to.
- Have your child make a list of the things the family can do while outside.

Hi! 嗨 Hola!

Walking, Driving & Bus Routines

- While driving the car, listen to the local news in English.
- Discuss what you both understood from the news report. Depending on your comprehension level, ask questions about the meaning of words, details or facts, or the central idea of the audio.

Hi! 嗨 Hola!

Anytime!

- Watch again the read aloud from the book "I am new here" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pibz9WhdYxM
- This time ask questions while listening. For ex: How does Jin practice speaking English? Why is the Maria happy when she plays soccer with the other kids?

ENG

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Tell us how we did!

Daily Care Routines

- Check the Youtube channel **Peach Project for bilingual children** www.youtube.com/@peachproject-forbilingualc9987
- Pick a bilingual story in your home language, listen to the narration together before bed.

Homework Routines

- While doing homework, choose any topic you are reading about.
- Ask your child to: 1. write a question you have about _____ 2. Write a sentence that describes _____., or 3. Write a sentence to express your opinion about _____.

Mealtime Routines

- During mealtime, have conversations about eating habits in your culture.
- Discuss similarities or differences with eating habits in the US. For example: In Vietnam, people prefer to eat _____while in the US, people eat_____.

Play and Leisure Routines

- Watch YouTube videos to learn a new hobby you can do as a family. For example, knitting and crocheting, origami making, sewing or embroidery.
- Watch the videos together and discuss the pros and cons of each one of them.

Outside Routines

- Do you have access to a garden at home or your neighborhood. Check and make plans to go to the garden with your child.
- In a garden, you can have conversations about plants, animals, weather, the environment. Children can learn about cause and effect. For example, plants die without water.

Walking, Driving & Bus Routines

- On the walk or ride home, play a **category game** with your child. You tell a category and your child come up with items/words that belong to that category.
- For example, you say: things to bring on a trip; your child says: a suitcase, clothes, a camera, a toothbrush. Take turns coming up with categories.

Anytime!

- Let's talk about prefixes in English. A **prefix is a** word part added to the beginning of a word, which changes the word's meaning. For example: dis- (in disorganized), un- (in unstable), and mis-(in misuse).
- Ask your child to keep a **weekly journal** of words they find containing those prefixes.

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

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ALLOhio