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

- Look out the window with your child and describe the weather as you get ready for the day. Is it sunny, cloudy, rainy, and/or windy?
- Ask your child what they might need to wear to prepare for the weather (e.g., sunglasses, raincoat).

Homework Routines

- Talk about, show pictures, and/or read books about different seasons (e.g., Let It Shine, Tiny Seed). Ask your child which season it is.
- Invite them to draw pictures of the current season and what happens during that season (e.g., snow, leaves falling). Discuss what this season is like in your home country.

Mealtime Routines

- Count various items during meals (e.g., drinks, cups, plates, foods).
- Talk about what you have the most of and what you have the least of at the table (e.g., "We have 3 food items and one drink so we have more food than drinks.").

Play and Leisure Routines

- As you build or create with your child (e.g., roads, towers, bridges), describe them using words like straight, curvy, wide, and narrow.
- Compare your building creations to one another by describing which one is longer, taller, shorter, wider, and more narrow.

Outside Routines

- Plant seeds or pretend seeds during outside play. Count how many seeds you plant.
- Discuss with your child what the seed will need to grow (e.g., sunlight, water, soil).

Walking, Driving & Bus Routines

- Find or create a map for your walk, drive, or bus ride. Discuss with your child how many steps (e.g., turns, stops) you will have to get to your destination.
- Use the map as you walk, drive or ride the bus to discuss how maps help us get to our destinations.

Anytime!

- Find different ways to measure different things in your home (e.g., tape measure, blocks, pencils).
- Measure different household items (e.g., table) or things you create (e.g., tower). Emphasize the words used to measure (centimeters, inches, and feet).

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

- Talk to your child about what they do to get ready for school or bed each day.
- Invite them to draw a picture of what they do and invite them to "write" words associated with their picture with you..

Homework Routines

- Listen to stories narrated in your home language.
- The youtube channel The **Peach Project for Bilingual Children** has options in many languages https://www.youtube.com/@peachproject-forbilingualc9987

Mealtime Routines

- Talk about what you will be eating for breakfast, lunch, and/or dinner.
- Invite your child to create a "menu" that has pictures of each food item.

Play and Leisure Routines

- Watch Youtube's Simon Says Game - THE KIBOOMERS Preschool Songs - Brain Break. Then play a game of "Simon Says" with writing materials (e.g., "Simon says draw a circle).
- Give your child a turn to be "Simon" and you do what "Simon Says."

Outside Routines

- Take various writing materials outside with you (e.g., chalk, pencils, markers, paper).
- Invite your child to create with the writing materials they choose. You might write names, draw self portraits, or draw a nature scene or something else they have interest in.

Walking, Driving & Bus Routines

- Talk about how you get to everyday places (e.g., school).
- Invite your child to create a map or draw some of the things you see on your way to the place you identify together (e.g., store, field, flag). You can invite your child to "write" labels of what they draw.

Anytime!

- Write a story with your child where you work together to say what happens in the story. Write down your story.
- Invite your child to draw the illustrations and sign the book by writing their name or specific letters in their name.

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Tell us how we did!

Daily Care Routines

- As your child gets dressed ask them about what they are wearing (e.g., "What are you wearing on your feet?").
- Once they answer ask them questions about why they are wearing different articles of clothing (e.g., "Why are you wearing rain boots today?").

Homework Routines

- As your child is preparing to engage in different activities (e.g., coloring, building, collecting items) ask what they need to do these activities.
- Ask why they need the items they identify (e.g., "Why do you think you need markers to color?").

Mealtime Routines

- As you prepare to eat your meals, talk about what you might need to eat them (e.g., fork, spoon, bowl, plate).
- Explain why you might need a fork instead of a spoon or a plate instead of a bowl. Ask your child what they think.

Play and Leisure Routines

- As you engage in imaginary play with your child (e.g., building roads and driving cars), ask about what the objects are doing (e.g.,"Where are you driving the car?")
- Ask follow up questions (e.g., "Why are you driving the car to the store?" "Who is going with you?").

Outside Routines

- As you go outside, ask your child what they would like to do outside.
- Ask them to tell you more about what they would like to do (e.g., If your child indicates wanting to play in the sandbox, ask them to tell you more about what they would like to do in the sandbox).

Walking, Driving & Bus Routines

- Describe where you are going (e.g., "We are riding the bus to the library").
- Ask your child to tell you about why they think you might be going there (e.g., "Why do you think we might be going to the library?").

Anytime!

- Read stories with your child.
- Pause at various times during the story to ask your child who, what, where, when, and why questions (e.g., "Why do you think the mouse wants to eat a cookie?").

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Tell us how we did!

Daily Care Routines

- As you start your day, pick a news story to play from somewhere like: https://www.newsinlevels.com/products/wolves-have-better-teeth-level-1/.
- Relate the article you listen to, to various routines you engage as you get ready for the day (e.g., brushing teeth, getting dressed).

Homework Routines

- Bring back the news about the wolves again (https://www.newsinlevels.com/level/level-1/)
- Talk about the story by asking questions about what you read (e.g., "Why are the wolves teeth stronger?").

Mealtime Routines

- As you have meals, talk about your day and ask about your child's day (e.g., "What was something you really enjoyed about today?").
- Follow up on what your child says by prompting them to tell you more (e.g., "Tell me more about…").

Play and Leisure Routines

- Create a play scenario where you are reporters. You can include things like home made microphones and cameras.
- Take turns with your child sharing news by talking about and expanding on topics they have interest (e.g, animals, superheroes).

Outside Routines

- As you go outside talk about news of the day by focusing on the weather (e.g., temperature, cloudy, sunny, windy).
- Expand on the weather by describing what current events will take place outside (e.g., sledding, riding bikes, building sandcastles).

Walking, Driving & Bus Routines

- Share information about how you will get to different places (e.g., today we will get to…by taking the bus). Describe details related to your trip (e.g., "Our first stop will be…")
- Ask questions about how other people got to the places they were going.

Anytime!

- Start to write a letter to a relative. (This can be done for a few minutes each day until the letter is finished.)
- Talk about what you and your child want to say in the letter and have your child write their name and draw a picture to include.

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Daily Care Routines

- Describe what you are doing and try to use unfamiliar words in place of more familiar words (e.g., stool in place of chair, utensils in place of fork and spoon).
- As you use unfamiliar words, point to or hold the item and ask your child, "What is this?"

Homework Routines

- Read a new story with your child. The peach planet youtube channel has stories narrated in many different languages www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLa1I7HNlFbfcqmcu8o-RIY21LS-Ao2fZU
- Pause when your child hear words that might be new to them. Ask your child, "What is this?" Discuss meanings with examples.

Mealtime Routines

- Describe the shapes of the items of items in your mealtime space (e.g., food, plates, cups).
- Invite your child to identify something that is a circle. Repeat this by asking about other shapes (e.g., rectangle, square).

Play and Leisure Routines

- Place seasonal items in a box or bag (e.g., scarf, gloves, sunglasses, leaves).
- Invite your child to feel, describe what they feel (bumpy, smooth) and guess what each item is. Discuss what activities you can do together in that season of the year.

Outside Routines

- Create a plan for what you want to do together.
- Talk with your child about the steps (e.g., first, gather materials, next build, and last, play with what you created). Use new words as you create your plan with your child and discuss what these words mean.

Walking, Driving & Bus Routines

- Identify and describe where you are going and the steps you will take to get there (e.g., first we will get into the car, then we will make our first stop at the aquarium").
- Ask questions about what you can do in each place. Identify new words and define what these words mean.

Anytime!

- Check out **Day by Day Ohio's Family Literacy Calendar** (daybydayoh.org) to find a daily list of songs, books, and video clips to help with language and literacy.
- Try adding some of the activities to your daily routine.

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

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What did you learn about your child?

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