

# TITLE 1 PARENT NEWSLETTER

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## REFLECT ON THE SCHOOL YEAR AND CELEBRATE YOUR CHILD'S SUCCESSES

As the school year winds down, it's a great time to help your child look back, look forward and celebrate. Here's how:

- Talk to your child's teacher. Ask about your child's strengths and weaknesses. How has your student improved? What areas need more work? Ask what you can do to help your child over the summer.
- Talk to your child about the school year. Ask, "What do you think went well? What challenged you the most?" Help your child figure out what changes to make for the upcoming school year.
- Review your child's successes. Look over schoolwork you've saved during the year. Point out how much your child has learned—how many new words, for example. Or, how to add and divide. Or, how your child's writing has improved.
- Help your child set learning goals for the summer, such as how much time to spend reading daily and which math concepts to work on mastering. Guide your child's choices, based on the suggestions from the teacher.
- Encourage your child to thank people who have made the year work—the teacher, school nurse, librarian, food service worker, etc. This boosts appreciation for all of the people who help children learn.
- Celebrate the year's accomplishments with a special activity. It doesn't have to be elaborate or cost anything. Just make plans to enjoy one-on-one time with your child.



## PLAN EDUCATIONAL AND FUN FAMILY FIELD TRIPS

Don't let "I'm bored" ruin your summer! Plan ahead and schedule some exciting family outings. There are lots of free or low-cost educational destinations that will keep your child engaged and learning all summer long. Consider going to:

Museums. Call or go online to check upcoming exhibits. Which would your child like to see most? Add them to your summer calendar.

A public garden. Children love walking through gardens, admiring flowers and learning about nature. Bring a camera or sketchbook so your child can record the plants and animals. The zoo. This trip is almost always a hit with children. Before leaving, read about the animals you'll see with your child. Talk about their natural habitats and what they like to eat.

A fire station. Call ahead to see if a summer open house is planned. If not, call and see if you could schedule a visit.

An airport. Simply parking near the airport is interesting. Can your child spot the control tower? What about the planes taking off and landing? Parks. Find a guide to local parks and keep it handy. Consider visiting hiking trails, historic landmarks and more.

Add a nature guide and maybe even some binoculars, and you're ready for an adventure!



# EXPLORING SCIENCE OUTDOORS BOOSTS KNOWLEDGE AND INTEREST

Research shows that girls start to lose interest in science as early as grade school. But a new study shows that learning science outdoors can boost their knowledge and interest in the subject. In one program, female students explored science in the natural world and recorded their findings in a journal. These students earned higher grades in science and understood more about the science they learned.

To encourage this kind of hands-on science learning whatever your child's gender, head outside and:

- Have a scavenger hunt for specific items that can be found in nature.
- Observe insects and frogs.
- Look for evidence of animals, such as tracks.
- Record how plants change over the summer.

If you or your child see something puzzling, visit your library or go online to find out more. By encouraging your child to ask questions now, you can encourage enthusiasm for science in the future.



## IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF FAMILY TIME WITH THESE FIVE STRATEGIES



Summertime can be wonderful family time. You may see your child more during the day. But even if you don't, you can take advantage of the less stressful evenings.

To make family time more meaningful this summer:

1. Establish a weekly family night. Cook a meal together, talk, play board games. Avoid screen use.
2. Discuss what you are doing when you and your child go on errands.
3. Ask for your child's opinion. Take time to listen and ask follow-up questions.
4. Hold regular family meetings to solve problems and share ideas about fun ways to spend time together.
5. Participate in family traditions. If you always camp out in the backyard or have an outdoor movie night, keep doing it. No traditions? Brainstorm with family members and start some new ones this summer!

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