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What sounds begin words?

- Have your child say a thing he/she likes (book).
- Ask your child what sound the word starts with. He/she may need help.
- Think of other words that start with the same sound (bear, bike, berries, banana, blanket).
- Have your child say a sentence with these words (Big bear bites berries).
- Look at alphabet books. Name the pictures, letters, letter sounds.





What sounds begin words?



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Use words with sounds that are easy for your child to hear and say (b, p, t, s).
- Repeat or exaggerate the sound your word begins with (b-b-b), and encourage your child to say it after you.
- Read books or sing songs that have sentences with words that begin with the same sound.
- Have pictures or objects (small plastic toys) of things that begin with the same sound, and say that sound louder when naming the pictures.



To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Have your child say whether two words start with the same sound or not (bear, berry) (bear, leaf).
- Have your child say a word that starts with the same sound.
- Put pictures or objects (small plastic toys) that begin with the same sound in a bag. Begin with 3 sounds. Have your child pull a picture or object from the bag and sort the picture or object based on the beginning sound.

Guess the word syllable games

- Say words in their syllable parts (mom-my, kit-ty, sand-box, he-li-cop-ter).
- Have your child guess the word (Say it fast).
- Take turns playing this game.
- Make it fun. Clap, or jump to the syllables! Count the parts. Make up songs.





Guess the word syllable games



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Say familiar words (your child's name).
- Say the word fast, and encourage your child to repeat it after you.
- Say the word slowly and clap to each syllable.
- Have your child say the word and clap to each syllable with you.

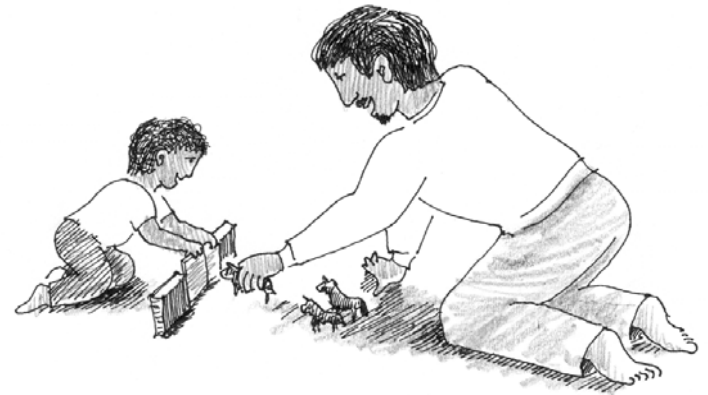


To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Use longer words (to-gether, teacher).
- Say words broken into sound parts (d-og; c-a-t).
- Count the number of syllables or sounds in the word.
- Say a word and ask your child to break it down into syllables or sounds (Say it slow!).
- Talk about long words with lots of parts (cro-co-dile) and short words (me, cat).
- Have your child guess which words are long and which words are short.

Guessing the password

- Pretend the toy animals have a password (door) to get into a special place.
- Say words broken down into separate sounds (o-pen, ti-ger, k-ey).
- Have your child guess the password.
- If your child can't guess the password, give him/her hints (What do you open to go outside?).





Guessing the password

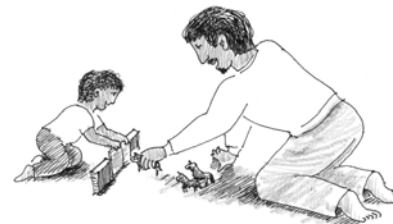


To help your child succeed, you can:

- Do this activity when your child wants to get into something (toy box, car, crayon box).
- Use familiar words like your child's name.
- Break down words in large chunks (cow-boy, letter-box).
- Point to an object or draw a picture of the password.
- Give your child hints of what the password is (it is something we use to unlock a door).

To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Break down words into small chunks (d-o-g, s-a-m).
- Talk about individual letter names and sounds.
- Explain how words are made up of individual sounds.
- Have your child make up the password.
- Help your child write the password.

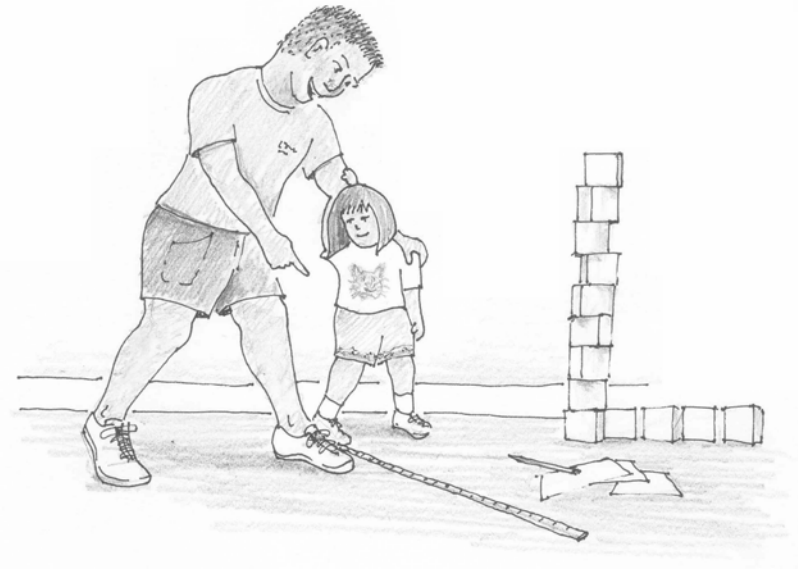


Measuring things

Help your child measure things and write down the measurements. For example:

- Your child's height, hands and feet.
- Your child's favorite toys.
- Your child's favorite book.
- Your child's cup and dish.

You can measure with a tape measure, stacking blocks, or using your hands or feet.





Measuring things



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Measure one or two things at a time.
- Let your child choose what to measure.
- Use a tape measure with big numbers.
- Write down the measurements yourself.

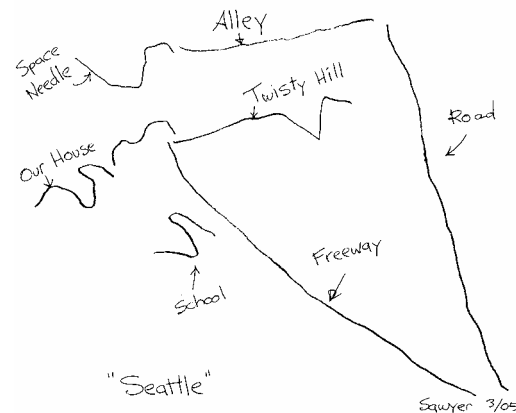
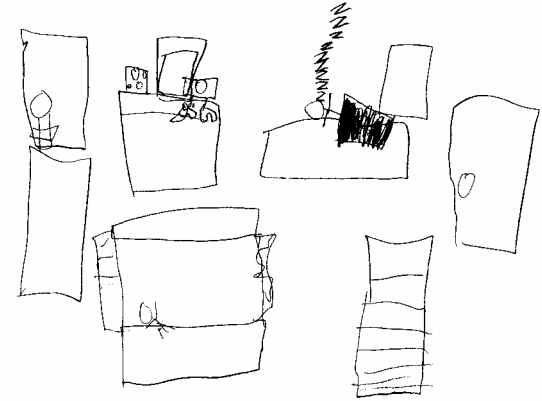
To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Have your child try to read the tape measure him/herself.
- Have your child try to write down the measurements him/herself.
- Use words such as bigger and smaller (Your feet are bigger than your hands).
- Talk about how a number is different from a letter.



Making maps

- Help your child make a map of his/her favorite room in the house.
- Label the things on the map like table and chairs.
- Talk about what your child and you do with these things.
- Help your child make maps of other favorite places.





Making maps



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Use butcher paper and big markers.
- Use small toys, photographs, or draw the furniture on Post-it notes and have your child put them on the map.
- Walk around the room with your child and draw things as you go by.



To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Encourage your child to make the map him/herself.
- Encourage your child to label things him/herself.
- Help your child make a map of how to get to familiar places (e.g., from home to school).
- Have your child explain his/her map to you.
- Go for a short walk or drive. Take photographs of familiar landmarks you go by. Help your child make a map by sequencing the landmarks.

Going to the grocery store

When you go to the grocery store with your child, you can:

- Point to the signs and read them to your child.
- Show your child the things on your grocery list one at a time and have your child help you find them.
- Read the labels with large print.
- Read the numbers on prices.





Going to the grocery store



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Point to and read signs for the food your child likes to eat.
- Read the labels of the things your child is interested in.

To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Make a grocery list with your child before you go to the store. Have your child draw one or two things your child wants and help your child write the words under the pictures.
- At the store, help your child read his/her grocery list and find the items.



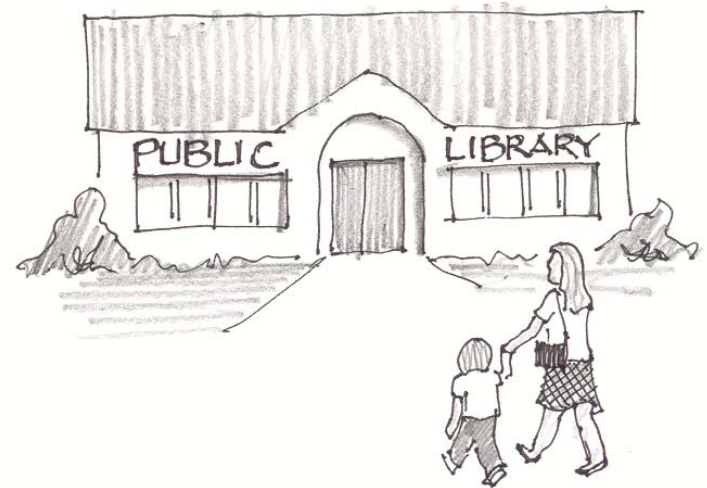
Going to the library

At the library, you and your child can:

- Find books, magazines, music and videos.
- Check out books, and books on tape.
- Listen to stories.
- Watch puppet shows.
- Find information on computers.
- Find out what happens in your community.

If you need help, ask the librarian. They are very friendly!

If you do not have a library in your area, ask your child's teacher about book mobile routes.





Going to the library

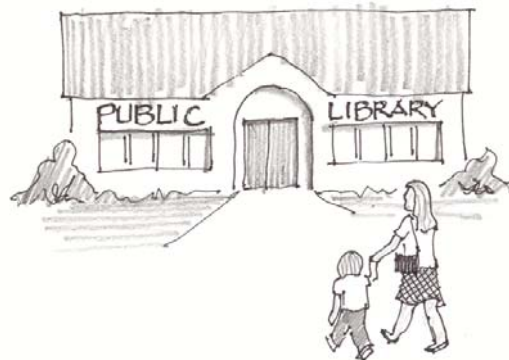


To help your child succeed, you can:

- Talk about what your child can do at the library before going there.
- Do one thing your child really enjoys at the library.
- Go to the library when your child is in a quiet mood.

To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Have your child choose a book or a topic him/herself.
- Have your child help you find things at the library.
- Encourage your child to check out books to read at home.



Going to the museum

Have you gone to a museum? You and your child can:

- Talk about what your child sees.
- Read to your child the labels and descriptions.
- Watch movies and talk about them.
- Take brochures home and talk about them.





Going to the museum



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Talk about what your child may see at the museum before going there.
- See things you think your child will like.
- Describe what your child sees.



To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Have your child describe what he/she sees.
- Let your child try to read the labels.
- Encourage your child to connect what is in the museum to your child's everyday life (Remember, your favorite book is about dinosaurs. Where else did we see an old train?).
- Have your child tell somebody about what he/she saw at the museum.

Going to the zoo

At the zoo, you and your child can do these things.

- Say the names of the different animals.
- Talk about what the animals look like.
- Talk about what the animals are doing.
- Look for familiar letters and words on the labels.
- Take photos and make a scrapbook with your child.
- Write down what your child says about the photos.





Going to the zoo



To help your child succeed, you can:

- Talk about what animals your child may see at the zoo before going there.
- Ask your child simple questions about the animals (Do the monkeys have long tails?).
- Ask your child to name the animals in your photos.



To make this activity more challenging, you can:

- Have your child name the animals him/herself.
- Ask open-ended questions about the animals (What is the elephant eating?).
- Encourage your child to talk about animals in everyday life (Where else did we see a snake?).
- Help your child write a short story about going to the zoo.