Learning can happen anywhere. Interactive and hands-on learning is the best way for anyone to learn, especially our kiddos.

The following pages provide a schedule of ways to have fun learning. Each day has its own "theme" and a few suggestions to go with it. This way, you don't have to feel overwhelmed that you have to do it all every day. Perhaps you need a little help to organize yourself and your to-do list. Maybe you need a reminder to slow yourself down from the hectic reality of our lives and spend a little time embedding a little learning into our schedule and routines.

Following the "schedule", you will see some listed benefits of each area.

Following that, you will find a more formally guided activity.

You are encouraged to complete an activity (your own and/or the guided activity) and share your results with us. Take a photo, a video, and/or write a journal entry with your child's dictated words.

**Interactive activities:** \* are a fun way for kids to play & learn. \*physical activities promote fitness & health. \*games & puzzles aid in skill development. \*collaborative activities improve social skills & tighten bonds. \*cooperative games teach essential life lessons.

https://www.journalbuddies.com/having-fun/benefits-of-interactive-activities/

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**Creativity:** \*is multi-disciplinary. \* allows you to express yourself. \*promotes thinking & problem solving. \*reduces stress and anxiety. \*allows you to enter your happy zone & have fun. \*gives you a sense of purpose. \*can lead to feelings of accomplishment & pride. \*improves your ability to focus. \*promotes risk taking. \*is a prerequisite for innovation. \*encourages us to be lifelong learners.

A trip: improves social & communication skills. \*ensures peace of mind.
\*helps you gain original & creative thoughts. \*broadens your horizons.
\*enhances your tolerance for uncertainty. \*boosts your confidence. \*gets you real-life education. \*creates memories. \*helps you have fun.

**Cooking:** \*strengthens a child's fine motor skills. \*develops basic understanding of math concepts. \*develops the concept of sequencing. \*expands vocabulary. \*develops reading skills. \*introduces scientific concepts. \*develops an adventurous & diverse taste palette. \*engages our senses. \*increases focus & attention. \*teaches life skills. \*promotes healthy eating. \*boosts self-confidence. \*encourages family bonding.

**Critical Thinking:** \*encourages curiosity. \*enhances creativity. \*reinforces problem solving ability. \*Promotes: reasoning skills, analytical thinking, evaluative skills, logical thinking, organizational & planning sills, language skills, self-reflection, observational skills, open-mindedness, visualization techniques, questioning ability, and decision making. \*develops independence. \*is a lifelong skill.

Having fun: \*reduces stress. \*improves our ability to cope. \*boosts energy.
\*improves memory & concentration. \*improves our connections with others.
\*improves sounder sleep.

## Title: Go On A *Listening Walk* or Take a Virtual Tour

Venture outside to your yard or even walk around the neighborhood... What do you hear? If the weather is yucky take an online tour!

**Materials:** The only materials you need today are your feet, your eyes & your EARS!

What to do: Head outside.... Now listen? What do you hear? (birds, people, the wind, rain, cars, ...?)

**Extension:** Write down all the things you heard. Were they loud sounds? Or were they softer sounds where you really had to listen & concentrate to hear them? Maybe you can draw what you heard!

**ISBE Learning Standards:** *Social Studies* 17AECa Locate objects and places; 17AECb Express geographic thinking.

Language Arts 4AECc Recognize relationships between spoken and written words; 4AECe Recognize that letters form

## T

## Recommended Reading:



If you do not already own these books, you can find them digitally online at your library, Hoopla, or You Tube.

*Title:* <u>https://youtu.be/BLs4r8IHUSg</u> The Listening Walk

*Title:* <u>https://youtu.be/XzdQa1PxOW4</u> Miss Spider's Listening Walk