

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/>

M

Make it Monday:

craft, play dough, Legos,
blocks, fort...

T

Take a Trip Tuesday:

virtual museum, bike ride,
walk...

W

What's Cooking Wednesday:

Make something to eat.

TH

Thinking Thursday:

science experiment,
cooperative activity, puzzle...

F

Fun Friday:

Pick a fun favorite activity.

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 skills, 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.

Guided Activity:



Title: Botanical Garden Virtual Tour/Nature Walk

Explain : go to a local forest preserve, walk around the neighborhood, or take a virtual tour. Go outside and take pictures.

Materials:

Camera/phone

Notebook

What to do: As you're walking, spark up a conversation about plants, the weather changing and what is growing around you. Talk about ways you can take care of nature and why its here.

Extension: Draw one of things you see or your favorite plant/flower/tree.

ISBE standards:

11.A.ECa: Express wonder and curiosity about their world by asking questions, solving problems, and designing things.

12.A.ECa: Observe, investigate, describe, and categorize living things.