

PreK

GREAT ACTIVITIES FOR TIME AT HOME

Use these **fun activities** to make the most of time at home with Pre-Kindergartners that boost their **reading, math, and critical thinking skills** and their **mental health**.

LET'S GO!

activity #1

Fun Time Together! Invite your child to join you as you cook or take on other tasks to care for your home and family. Being an active part of family routines helps your child develop a sense of pride and build key skills that will help them learn in school. So, whether you are making dinner or reorganizing a room, here are some tips to make it a fun learning experience with your child:



- **Introduce new words.**

As you work on a task, give your child new words to practice and learn. For example, if you are cooking, teach your child the words bowl, whisk, cinnamon, etc., or other words that may be new to them.



- **Ask open-ended questions.**

If you ask, “What do you think will happen when I add water?” or, “Why do you think our food smells so good when it’s baking?” you are helping your child think about why things happen and what may happen next. This is a key reading skill and helps develop critical thinking.



- **Make sure your child is actively involved.**

Giving your child meaningful ways to take part in the activity is key to their learning. If cooking, let your child help you stir or mix ingredients.



activity #2

Sound Games. As young children prepare to read, they learn that words are made up of sounds. Sound games are a fun way to help your child practice what they're learning in school. The great news is that you can play them anywhere. Here's how:

1. Invite your child to find something in the environment that starts with the sound "m". Don't say the letter name but say the sound it makes (as in, mmmm that's good). MMMMMilk, MMMMMommy, MMMMug. Repeat with lots of different beginning sounds not saying the name of the letter. For example, *"Can you find something that starts with the sound Mmmmm...?"*
2. Make the game more challenging by adding in a counting element. *"Can you find 5 things that start with the sound Ssssss?"*
3. If your child can identify beginning sounds, ask your child to find things that have a certain END sound. *"Can you find three things that end with Nnnnn?"*, for example, cannnn, pennnn, spoonnnnn.

To see activities for kids through 8th grade in English visit bit.ly/timeathome. To see the activities in Spanish, visit bitl.ly/tiempoencasa.

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K – 2nd Grade


GREAT ACTIVITIES FOR TIME AT HOME

Use these **fun activities** to make the most of time at home with K – 2nd graders that boost their **reading, math, and critical thinking skills** and their **mental health**.


LET'S GO!

activity #1


Creative Scavenger Hunt! Early elementary students are building their knowledge of shapes, letter sounds, and their vocabulary. Invite your child to take part in a creative scavenger hunt where they'll need to find specific items in your living space. The list below is a suggestion to get you started. Feel free to add or change items based on what you have in your home.




- *Find two things that start with the letter C (e.g. cup, can)*




- *Find two things that are blue*




- *Find one thing that is shaped like a circle*



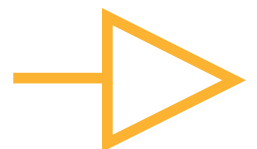
- *Find one piece of clothing*



- *Find one thing that is hard*



- *Find one thing that is soft*



activity #2

5, 4, 3, 2, 1! Managing emotions can be tricky, especially for early elementary students. When words and actions lead to hurt feelings or the excitement is simply too much to contain, it is important to help children take note of their feelings and develop healthy ways of managing their emotions. Use this activity to help your child tune into their senses and their greatness.

5 – Notice FIVE things you can SEE. Ask your child to look around them – at the walls, the floor, the ceiling, even the corners of the room. What are five things they see?

4 – Notice FOUR things you can FEEL. Ask your child to pay attention to what they feel – perhaps the temperature of the room, the cushion they are sitting on, even the clothing on their bodies.

3 – Notice THREE things you can HEAR. Tune into the sounds of your surroundings. What do you hear in the background? Is it the sound of traffic, the low hum of a refrigerator, or a bird chirping outside?

2 – Notice TWO things you can SMELL. What is in the air? What can you smell? Whether it smells good or bad, ask your child what they smell from where they sit or stand.

1 – Name ONE great thing about YOURSELF. Ask your child to celebrate something great about who they are.

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3rd – 5th Grade

GREAT ACTIVITIES FOR TIME AT HOME

Use these **fun activities** to make the most of time at home with 3rd – 5th graders that boost their **reading, math, and critical thinking skills** and their **mental health**.

LET'S GO!

activity #1

Measurement Treasure Hunt. In grades 3 – 5, students are often focused on measurement. In school, “units” like inches and feet are measured with a ruler. For fun, we will use any household object as a “ruler” or tool to measure. It could be a pen, a spoon, a shoe, or something else. Help your child develop their measurement skills in this fun game where they will use a household item on a measurement treasure hunt.

To begin, ask your child to pick a household item that will be their fun “ruler.” Then, ask your child to find things that are 1, 5, 10, 15 or more units long in your living space. For example:

▼

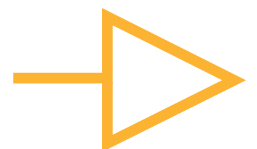
- *Find something in our space that is five spoons long.*

▼

- *Is there anything here that is 15 spoons long?*

▼

- *What is the longest item in our living space?*



activity #2

It's Storytime! Kids have great imaginations and creativity. In 3rd, 4th and 5th grade, students are reading and writing regularly. Each day you are home with your child, invite them to pick one of the following story starters, and encourage them to write a short story based on the prompt. Where will their imaginations go? As an option, once your child finishes their story, invite them to read it aloud to you and others to celebrate their creativity.

• If I were a superhero, my superpower would be ...

• On a cold day, one of my favorite things to do ...

• A long time ago, before I was born ...

• If I were president, I would ...

• What would happen if it really rained cats and dogs?

• If my favorite stuffed animal came to life ...

• What would happen if animals could talk?

• Imagine if cows gave green slime instead of milk. What would the world look like?

• What would the world be like if television was never invented?

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6th – 8th Grade

GREAT ACTIVITIES FOR TIME AT HOME

Use these **fun activities** to make the most of time at home with 6th – 8th graders that boost their **reading, math, and critical thinking skills** and their **mental health**.

LET'S GO!

activity #1

The World's A Stage! Storytelling takes many forms. From creative writing to acting, we all love a good story! In this activity, invite your middle schooler to become a playwright and tell a story with a play. Encourage your child to follow the steps below to develop their script. If they'd like to perform their masterpiece, be sure to practice your lines!

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Step 1: Start with an idea.

Think of something that would be a good basis for a play. It could be a news story, a picture, something that happened, or something completely made up. Take time to brainstorm some ideas.

- **It is recommended that your initial play has four scenes:**

Scene 1: Your story

begins and describes the characters and the problem.

Scene 2: The characters try to solve the problem.

Scene 3: The characters solve the problem.

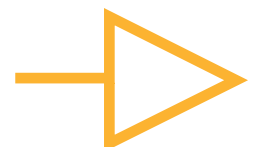
Scene 4: The final scene sums up what happens at the end of the story. What happened after the characters solved the problem?

▼
Step 2: Identify the Conflict. The heart of most stories is conflict, or the main problem.

▼
Step 4: Develop your Characters. Who is in your play? What do they have to do with the story?

▼
Step 5: It's all about Conversation. Conversation is what moves a play forward. What are your characters saying? How are they responding to each other? Think of this as you write your story.

▼
Step 3: Decide on the Setting. When and where does your story take place?



activity #2

Mental Math. Building our math muscles can be fun, and mental math is a great way to practice. Play this game by choosing a number below or picking your own. Then, using your mind only, take the following steps with your number:

▼
• Add 10 more

▼
• Subtract 10 less

▼
• Add 100 more

▼
• Subtract 100 less

▼
• Multiply by 2

▼
• Divide by 2

Try this for numbers you think of on your own or give your child numbers to work with. For example:

75
150
400
250
862

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