

# Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

OCTOBER 2009

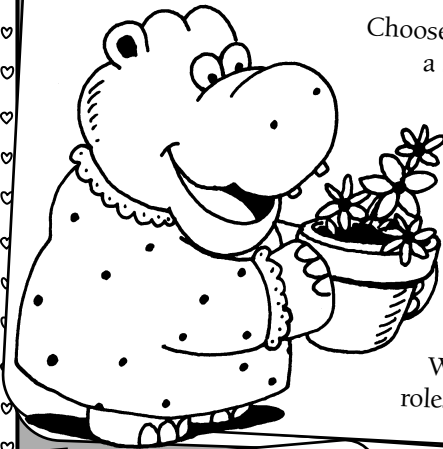
## Refrigerator Poster

Just hang your *Recipes* poster on the refrigerator and sneak in an activity when you have a few minutes. These fun activities will help develop school success and positive behavior. Check off each box as you complete the "recipe."

### READING Guess My Word

This silly guessing game teaches reading comprehension as your child uses clues in sentences to figure out unknown words.

**Ingredients:** book, paper, pencil

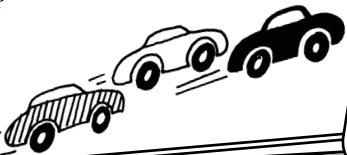


Choose a sentence from a story. Copy it on a sheet of paper, but replace one word with a funny word. For example, you might substitute "hippopotamus" for "flowerpot": "He planted daisies in a hippopotamus and put it on the windowsill." Keep giving your youngster clues until he guesses the real word. ("It starts with F." "It has three syllables.")

When he figures out the word, switch roles and let him write a sentence for you.

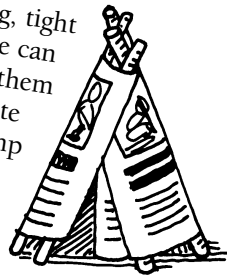
### PERCENTAGES

Use time in the car to help your child practice percentages. Ask her to choose a color (red). Then, have her write the colors of the first 10 cars that she sees. Help her figure out the number of red cars ( $2 \text{ red cars} \div 10 \text{ cars} = 0.2 \text{ cars}$ ) and multiply that number by 100 to get the percentage ( $0.2 \times 100 = 20\%$ ).



### CREATIVITY

Recycle newspapers for crafts. Your youngster can fold them to make projects like those at [www.origami-fun.com](http://www.origami-fun.com). Or suggest that he roll and tape the pages into long, tight tubes. Then, he can twist and tape them together to create things like a jump rope, tepee, or spider web.



### HISTORY My Timeline

Your youngster's achievements will make history with this activity!

**Ingredients:** construction paper, scissors, pencil, crayons or markers, tape

Have your child make a timeline of accomplishments in her life (tying her shoes, riding a bike, reading by herself, playing the piano). For each milestone, she can cut a 6 x 6 inch square of construction paper and write the year and a description.

*Example:* "2007: My first piano recital."

Encourage her to add drawings or photographs. Let her tape her squares, in order, across her bedroom wall or up her door.



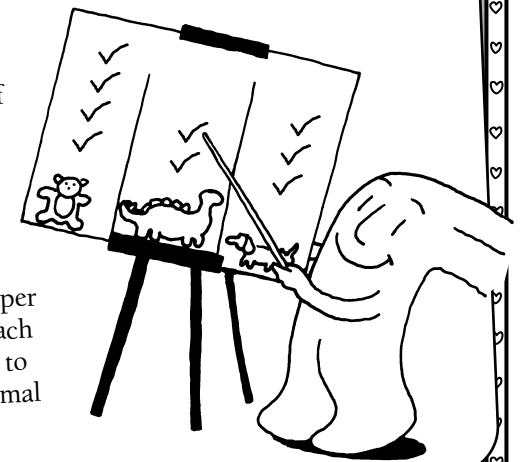
### MATH Toy Graph

Your child can practice gathering and recording information by graphing a toy collection.

**Ingredients:** paper, pencil

Ask your youngster to pick a type of toy, such as stuffed animals. Then, have him put his collection into categories. For example, he could organize the animals according to type (bears, dinosaurs, dogs).

Next, help him divide a sheet of paper into one column per category. In each column, he can make check marks to show how many of that stuffed animal he has.



# Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

OCTOBER 2009

## Character Corner

### WRITING Learning with Friendly Letters

Your child can make studying fun—by writing letters!

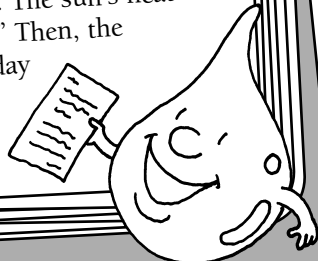
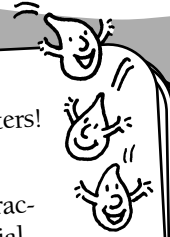
**Ingredients:** paper, pencil, textbook

First, have her choose two “characters” from the material she’s studying. For the water cycle in science, she might pick a raindrop and a cloud.

Then, have her jot down facts.

(1. The sun heats water on Earth. 2. Water evaporates and forms clouds. 3. Raindrops fall from clouds.)

Finally, your youngster can write letters from each character’s point of view. For example, as the cloud, she might write, “Dear Raindrop, I was just a little puddle. The sun’s heat helped me evaporate. Your friend, Cloud.” Then, the raindrop could reply, “Dear Cloud, One day I will evaporate. Then I’ll be part of a cloud like you. Your friend, Raindrop.”



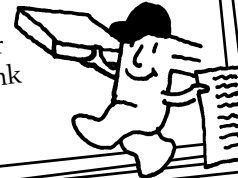
### DICTIONARY

Which page of the dictionary would list your child’s name? Explain to him that the words on each page are in alphabetical order between the two guide words at the top. He can use his knowledge of ABC order to find where his name belongs (and yours and his best friend’s).



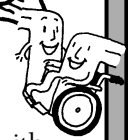
### MEMORY

Test your youngster’s memory with this game. Have her name a pizza topping (mushrooms). Then, you name another ingredient and repeat hers (pepperoni and mushrooms). Take turns until one of you can’t remember the toppings or think of a new one.



### ACCEPTANCE

Teach your youngster to be comfortable around people with physical disabilities. Explain that she can enjoy the same conversation as she would with anyone. She should smile and make eye contact when talking to a person in a wheelchair. If possible, she might sit down so they’re on the same level.



### FAMILY UNITY

Design a family flag together. Use a large sheet of colored paper for the background. Brainstorm symbols to add. You might let each person add a stripe in his favorite color or draw a star for every pet. When the flag is complete, hang it on your refrigerator or the inside of your front door.



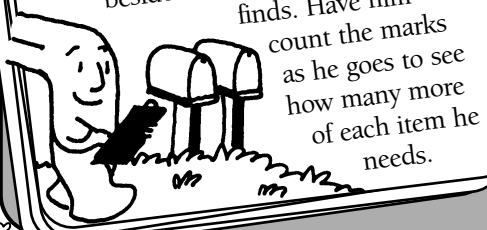
### RESPONSIBILITY

Help your child develop a regular routine for cleaning her room. For example, she might make her bed first, put away her clothes next, and then straighten her desk. If she does the job the same way each day, it will be more manageable.



### COUNTING

Take a “counting walk” with your youngster. Give him a list of objects to look for (two mailboxes, five stop signs). He can make a tally mark beside the name of each one he finds. Have him count the marks as he goes to see how many more of each item he needs.



## Congratulations!

We finished \_\_\_\_\_ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)

### SOCIAL STUDIES

Attend a fall festival in your community. Ask your child to notice activities associated with autumn (eating apples, making scarecrows). Then, go to the library to research the ones that interest him. He might want to find out how many kinds of apples there are or why farmers use scarecrows.

