

100 Ways to Encourage Learning in Your Home

1. Keep a journal about each of your children and know their learning styles and talents.
2. Write down the goals you have for your children and encourage them to form goals of their own.
3. Pray with your children and don't forget to discuss God's answers to your prayers.
4. Have an easy-to-read list of your children's chores and other responsibilities.
5. Take the family to a children's museum.
6. Invest in good, quality books and have plenty of them.
7. Gradually give your children more difficult multi-step instructions.
8. Include your children in the planning process of a family trip.
9. Let your children fail occasionally.
10. Go regularly on family walks.
11. Keep a well-stocked and readily-available art box.
12. Read a classic as a family.
13. Listen carefully to your children and teach them to listen carefully to others.
14. Establish a daily or weekly time for reading in which the entire household participates.
15. Introduce your child to a favorite hobby of yours.
16. Let your child organize and run a lemonade and cookie stand.
17. Give each of your children a pen pal or a missionary to write to and pray for.
18. Encourage your children to keep a diary or journal.
19. Play mental math games in the car.
20. Write a story as a family about a family trip or other shared experience.
21. Have costumes available to preschoolers and young elementary schoolers for pretend play.
22. Ask your children to write a paper describing God.
23. Always have your children write thank-you notes or draw a thank-you picture.
24. Give your child household responsibilities from a very young age.
25. Have a family jigsaw puzzle going all the time.
26. Unplug the Nintendo set.
27. Teach your child to work hard at a job.
28. Let your children subscribe to an educational magazine.
29. Tell your children their family history.
30. Hold your children appropriately responsible for their actions.
31. Establish a study setting for each school-aged child.
32. Let your children see you reading for pleasure.
33. Play listening games such as "Simon Says."
34. Stock a closet shelf with readily available school supplies.
35. Talk to your children about what interests them.
36. Require your children to use an assignment organizer.
37. Take an interest in what your children are studying in school, not just in their grades.
38. Play board games.
39. Turn off the TV during the school week.
40. Tell round-robin stories in which each person adds to an on-going story.
41. Be sure each of your children has a library card and uses it regularly.
42. Have plenty of maps, globes, and almanacs on hand.
43. Teach your children to plan and prepare meals.
44. Discuss and list all the possible uses for an everyday object - be creative.
45. Put older children on a clothing budget and teach them to make the most of their money.
46. Have your children make their own greeting cards, Christmas cards, Thank You notes, etc.
47. Be sure your children gets lots of outdoor and free-play time.
48. Make "Hundred Lists" of 100 people we love, 100 books we've read, 100 favorite foods, etc.
49. Memorize passages from the Bible together as a family.
50. Do simple science experiments in the kitchen.

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51. Include your children in the planning of a family budget.
52. Buy or borrow a fun computer game to help your child learn math facts.
53. Ask and discuss open-ended questions such as "What would happen if"
54. Play "Where Am I" games to encourage your children to learn geography.
55. Go on a nature hike.
56. Have a specific time for studying and homework that is non-negotiable.
57. Retell a familiar story with a new and comical twist.
58. Have your older children make up a scavenger hunt for younger children.
59. Plant and maintain a small garden.
60. Be patient with your children and thereby teach them to be patient with others.
61. Teach your children to "bargain hunt" when making a major family purchase.
62. Take something apart and try to put it back together.
63. Research and learn something new for yourself occasionally.
64. Prepare occasional meals with an international theme.
65. Host an exchange student or missionary in your home.
66. Reward your child for effort more than for outcome.
67. Have your children choose a commercial and tell how the advertisers are trying to persuade watchers.
68. Help your children plan and host a party.
69. Read poetry to your children and encourage them to try writing poetry.
70. Resist the temptation to over-structure your child's life.
71. Regularly schedule family service projects in your community.
72. Be sure your children are fed a well-balanced and nutritious diet - this effects learning tremendously.
73. Never help your children with homework that they can do themselves.
74. Find a diagram, chart or map and help your child figure it out.
75. Have regular family discussions on a variety of subjects.
76. Use index cards to create flash cards for studying vocabulary and other subjects.
77. Let your children take their own photographs and then write captions for each one.
78. Paint a mural on your driveway with sidewalk chalk.
79. Spend an afternoon collecting bugs and worms and studying them with a microscope.
80. Learn about wind by flying a kite, blowing bubbles, watching pinwheels, etc.
81. Color-code your children's school books, notebooks, workbooks, etc., according to subject.
82. Create a book nook in your children's room where they can curl up with a book anytime.
83. Keep a family calendar and help your children keep up with their schedules as well.
84. Purchase math manipulatives and use them when your child hits trouble spots in math.
86. Have your children draw maps of the neighborhood or city, or have them draw a treasure map.
87. Help your child prioritize when he has several tasks to accomplish.
88. Encourage your children to play word search games and to do crossword puzzles.
89. Help your child plan a long-term project by showing her how to break it into smaller steps.
90. Ask your child to describe a person or an event from their day.
91. Submit your child's writing to a children's publication - maybe it will show up in the next issue.
92. Use specific words when praising your children - praise for character traits not just achievements.
93. Write your children "I Love You" notes, praising them specifically for their positive traits.
94. Encourage your child's talents.
95. Read a passage from the Bible and have each person in the family write down what it means.
96. Go to a movie and have your children write a critique of the movie.
97. Let your child see you using math in everyday situations.
98. Have your children make up a new card game using a standard deck of cards.
99. Pay attention to what your child does *right* and praise him for it.
100. Always remain open to learning new things yourself.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God who give generously and without reproach.