

HELPING AROUND THE HOUSE: PRIME TIME FOR LEARNING

Helping around the house is valuable learning time for children. The following ideas can help your child learn as you work around the house.

Build Vocabulary

Introduce new words to your child as you work. You will build your child's vocabulary in a "real-world" way. For example:

- Use the specific name of the tool or materials you are using.
- Point out the difference between a hacksaw and a coping saw while building.
- Explain the difference between perennials and annuals while planting a garden.

Observe Similarities and Differences

Encourage your child to observe similarities and differences. For example:

- Encourage your young building partner to observe how various types of screwdrivers differ and how the function of each type of screwdriver is the same.

Calculate

Most tasks involve some form of mathematics.

- Think out loud while you calculate to model your mathematical thinking.
- Demonstrate the real-life application of measurement as you build or cook.
- Let your child help solve the problem. For example, "We need to double this recipe. If the recipe calls for $2\frac{1}{4}$ cups of flour, how much do we need for our double recipe?"

Create a Process

Planning is a vital part of all jobs.

- Help your child to think through the steps of any project.
- Determine the tools and materials needed for the project.
- Talk about safety procedures.
- Read the directions together to make sure each step is clear.
- Decide how much time each step will take.

Problem-Solve

Often as you do a project, you will run into a "snag." Work together to solve the problem.

- Talk about what is not working.
- Brainstorm ideas for fixing the problem.
- Try your solution.

*Getting the project done is only part of the goal.
Remember to enjoy the time with your child as you learn together.*