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 2¼ 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.