1. Consider giving your child an allowance. Help her create a budget that includes spending, saving and donating.

2. Have your child help you make a family chore chart. Everyone can check off jobs as they are finished.

3. Encourage your child to write a letter to a lawmaker about an issue that matters to him.

4. Play Alphabet Mixup. Choose a word and put the letters in alphabetical order. Can your child figure out the word?

5. Find pictures of people in the newspaper. Ask your child to make up a story about each picture.

6. Talk about a familiar place with your child. Decide which direction it is from your home—north, south, east or west.

7. Come up with unique pizza toppings with your child. Who can think up the tastiest combination?

8. Have your child choose a news story and report on it at dinner.

9. Plan a later bedtime so everyone can read in bed tonight.

10. Remind your child that you enjoy her company and you love her.

11. Give your child ads with prices ending in 98 or 99 cents. How much would four of the items cost? Have him round off and estimate.

12. Read a poem aloud. Stop to let your child guess what the next rhyming word will be.

13. Write an encouraging note and tuck it in your child’s jacket pocket or a school book.

14. Let your child see you reading. Then say, “Reading is so much fun!”

15. At dinner, pretend your family is in an opera. Sing everything you say to one another.

16. With your child, set a timer for five minutes. Then, each of you start writing a story. When the timer rings, switch stories and finish them.

17. Pay your child a sincere, specific compliment.

18. Review math facts with your child.

19. Give your child a book or article to read about her favorite hobby.

20. Ask your child to design and name a new car.

21. At dinner, have family members share their favorite part of the day.

22. Talk with your child about the importance of telling an adult when a person is being bullied.

23. Help your child put on a talent show with his friends.

24. Ask your child to write to a friend or relative today.

25. Encourage your child to start a collection. Provide a place to keep it.


27. Together, think of several words that start with the same letter. Put them in a sentence that makes sense.

28. Encourage your child to take risks as long as they don’t affect safety.

29. With your child, think of words that sound like what they mean, such as buzz, smash, hiss and thump. These are examples of onomatopoeia.


31. How many words can your child think of to describe today’s weather?