



# Bulletin

Parents Learning About Children's Education

A service for all parents of kids in Massachusetts' public schools



## Fun, Family Learning Activities!

Enjoy these activities with your children while developing their skills.

### FOR GRADES K-3

**Float or Sink**—Encourage hypothesizing (guessing). Use several objects—soap, a dry sock, a bottle of shampoo, a wet sponge, an empty bottle. Ask your child which objects will float when dropped into water in a sink or bathtub. Then drop the objects in the water, one by one, to see what happens.



**Telephonitis**—Give your child practice in reading numbers left to right by dialing a telephone. Make a list of telephone numbers your child can read—for relatives, friends, the weather bureau—and have your child make a call or two.

**Comic Strip Writing**—Use comic strips to help with writing. Cut apart the segments of a comic strip and ask your child to arrange them in order.

### FOR GRADES 4-5

**TV and the World**—Connect current events to TV viewing. Post a world map next to the TV set. Watch the TV news with your children and have them locate world news spots. Keep reference books such as dictionaries and the world almanac close by. Children can find answers to questions when their curiosity is high.

**On the Move**—Sharpen math skills while on trips. Use even short trips around town. For example, at the gas station, ask your child how much gas you need and the cost per gallon. On the highway, ask your child to read signs and check different speed limits.

**History Time Line**—Record history at home. Stretch a roll of paper along the floor. Use a ruler to make a line

about three feet long. (Use a separate sheet for each child.) Ask your children to fill in the important dates in their lives, starting with their birth.

### FOR GRADES 6-8

**Read All About It**—Introduce your child to the many kinds of information in the daily newspaper. Ask your child to find the pages about government leaders, editor's opinions, weather reports, car sales, house and apartment rentals, and want ads. Discuss how to use this information.

**Looking at Advertisements**—Help your children improve their thinking and writing skills by looking carefully at newspaper, magazine, and TV advertisements. What is the main point of the ad? What details does it use to communicate its message?

## Thank You!

To those who have responded to the Parents' PLACE *Bulletin* Survey we thank you! In this issue we've begun to incorporate a few of your suggestions:

- Larger font
- Separated columns
- Information that covers a range of age groups

Even more of your suggestions will appear in upcoming issues! If you have yet to submit a survey, please log on to our website [www.place.org](http://www.place.org) and submit online!

**Expanding Horizons**—Help your child learn about people from different countries. Suggest talking to neighbors from foreign countries, reading library book about other cultures, reading newspapers, and watching TV specials.

*These home learning "recipes" have been tested and developed by Dr. Dorothy Rich, author of MEGASKILLS®, for the National Education Association. Reprinted with permission of the National Education Association and The Home and School Institute, 1994. Reproduction of this brochure is permitted.*



## Do you know... what supplemental services are available for your child?

Many services may be available in your area. For further information, please visit the Massachusetts Department of Education website at [www.doe.mass.edu/ses/](http://www.doe.mass.edu/ses/) or call us at 617-236-7210.

For future information on supplemental services as outlined in the new education act *No Child Left Behind*, check out their online brochure at [www.nochildleftbehind.gov/parents/supplementalser-vices/services.pdf](http://www.nochildleftbehind.gov/parents/supplementalser-vices/services.pdf), or call for a copy, toll free at 1-877-4-ED-PUBS.

## Keeping Children Drug Free



- Make sure they are well-versed in the reasons to avoid alcohol, tobacco, and drugs.
- Get to know their friends by taking them to and from activities, whenever possible.
- Get acquainted with the parents of your children's friends and learn about their children's interests and habits.

To make sure that your child's life is structured in such a way that drugs have no place in it, you should:

- If possible, arrange to have your children looked after and engaged in the after-school hours if you cannot be with them. Encourage them to get involved with reputable youth groups, arts, music, sports, community service, and academic clubs.
- Make sure children who are unattended for periods during the day feel your presence. Give them a schedule and set limits on their behavior. Give them household chores to accomplish. Enforce a strict phone-in-to-you policy.
- Call parents whose home is to be used for a party. Make sure they can assure you that no alcoholic beverages or illegal substances will be dispensed. Do not be afraid to check out the party yourself to see that adult supervision is in place.

- Make it easy for your child to leave a place where illegal substances are being used. Discuss with your child in advance how to contact you or other designated adults to get a ride home.
- Set curfews and enforce them. Weekend curfews might range from 9 p.m. for a fifth-grader to 12:30 a.m. for a senior in high school.
- Encourage open dialogue with your children about their experiences. Tell your child, "I love you and trust you, but I don't trust the world around you, and I need to know what is going on in your life so I can be a good parent to you."

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