

Catapult Learning FAMILY NEWSLETTER

November 2014

THE HELPFUL PARENT: Working with Precision



Successfully proofreading a paragraph, double checking math problems, and following all the steps in directions requires working with precision. Parents can help their children practice working precisely while at home.

- Show what precision looks like. Perhaps you are painting a room. "I'm putting masking tape here to keep the blue paint from running into the white paint." Or planting a garden, "This is the row for the tomatoes, and three inches to the right is where I will plant the lettuce."
- Be precise with your praise. Putting belongings away is often a challenging task for children. Rather than saying "Good work" you might say, "You put your backpack in the closet where it belongs and hung up your coat. Good work!" Or "I like how you arranged the pillows on your bed this morning. It looks very neat."
- When reviewing school assignments with your child, take note of where you see precision demonstrated. For example, note that the directions on a math test asked for students to show all their work...and that is precisely what your child did. Or when directions for the rough draft of a writing assignment ask for students to underline all the action verbs, and all the underlining has been done. Talk about how working precisely has helped contribute to success.

FAMILY BOOK CLUB

These books can be found at your local library and bookstores. They are interesting to read and to talk about. Reading together as a family is even more fun!

I Spy School Days

by Jean Marzollo & Walter Wick
Pre-K-2

Word Girl:

The Big Bad Butcher

by Michael Anthony Steele
K-2

Best Friends for Francis

by Russell Hoban
K-3

George and Martha

by James Marshall
2-5

Glory Be

by Augusta Scattergood
6-8

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

6-8

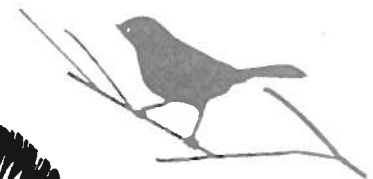
BE A GREAT STUDENT: Play with Words

Great students learn to think about words and how they work together. Analogies are word puzzles that can be solved by thinking about the relationships between words. For example, what word would you choose to complete the statement?

Kitten is to **cat** as **puppy** is to _____.

Since you know kitten is what we call baby cats, puppy is what we call baby dogs, the correct answer to is dog. Choose the correct word for these analogies.

1. **Bird** is to **fly** as **fish** is to _____.
2. **Parrot** is to **feathers** as **bear** is to _____.
3. **Zebra** is to **stripes** as **giraffe** is to _____.
4. **Long** is to **short** as **wide** is to _____.
5. **Doctor** is to **hospital** as **teacher** is to _____.
6. **Egg** is to **chicken** as **milk** is to _____.
7. **Clean** is to **dirty** as **dry** is to _____.
8. **Cheetah** is to **run** as **worm** is to _____.
9. **Bracelet** is to **wrist** as **ring** is to _____.
10. **Leaf** is to **leaves** as **wolf** is to _____.



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MAKING MONEY

You may have made money to buy a video game. Maybe you do extra chores around the house so you can make money for the movies. But have you ever thought about how money is actually made?

To make a nickel, the United States Mint buys strips of metal rolled into a coil that measure 1500 feet long. Workers unroll the coil and put it through a machine that punches out round discs called *blanks*. They soften the blanks and then put them in a large washer and dryer to get them clean. The discs are then sorted out so that any of them that are not quite right (maybe they are the wrong size or shape) are removed. Now the discs are ready to go through a special machine called an *upsetting* mill. This creates the rim around the edge of the coin.



Have you ever noticed how coins have designs on them? They are put on the coins using a *coining press*. This machine will push the metal so that you can see the buffalo on one side of the coin. What's on the other side? What other information do you see?

All of the coins are inspected by a person using a magnifying glass to make sure dented and misshapen coins are removed. The coins that are perfectly made go through an automatic counting machine and the coins are packed into large canvas bags. The bags are sewn shut and taken to be sent to your neighborhood bank.

The next time you look at a nickel, take a minute and think about all the steps it took to get to you!

1. Bird is to fly as fish is to swim.
2. Parrot is to feathers as bear is to fur.
3. Zebra is to stripes as giraffe is to spots.
4. Long is to short as wide is to narrow.
5. Doctor is to hospital as teacher is to school.
6. Egg is to chicken as milk is to cow.
7. Clean is to dirty as dry is to wet.
8. Cheetah is to run as worm is to crawl.
9. Bracelet is to wrist as ring is to finger.
10. Leaf is to leaves as wolf is to wolves.

ANSWERS for Play with Words Activity



A FAMOUS AMERICAN

George Washington Carver was born into a family of slaves, but he grew up to be an important African American scientist. Here are a few details about his life.

- Born in Diamond Grove, Missouri, Carver worked hard in school and was able to attend Iowa State University where he studied how to grow healthy plants.
- As a teacher at Tuskegee University in Alabama, Carver helped his students to learn about fixing problems that farmers in the south had.
- Farmers had been planting cotton which took the nitrogen out of the soil. Carver's research showed that if the farmers would grow peanuts and sweet potatoes instead the soil would improve, and they would have better crops to sell.
- Carver figured out how to use peanuts to create ink, dyes, soap and cosmetics. He also created products from sweet potatoes including vinegar, molasses, rubber, and postage glue for stamps.



READ TO RESEARCH:

What Do You Know About Language?

How many languages do you know? Do you notice signs in different languages in your neighborhood? What are those languages?

- There are more than 2,700 languages in the world.
- In the entire continent of Africa, there are more than 1,000 different languages.
- In the African country, Somalia, everyone speaks the same language: Somali.
- The most difficult language to learn is from northwestern Spain and southwestern France. It is called Basque.
- Some languages include a "click" sound that is pronounced at the same time as other sounds.
- In America, the language used by the government is English.
- While English is used by 80% of Americans, other languages spoken are Spanish, Chinese, German, French and many others.

Research more about languages at

www.factmonster.com