



HELLO PARENTS,

Children perform better in school if their parents are involved in their education. By becoming familiar with the school program, parents can better appreciate the value of play-based learning and learn about the attitudes, skills, and strategies that their children are developing. Children's learning and development takes place in the context of social relationships. Young children make sense of the world around them through interactions. Parents are the first and most powerful influence on their children's learning, development, health, and well-being. Parents bring diverse social, cultural, and linguistic perspectives and are their children's first role models with respect to learning about values, appropriate behaviour, personal beliefs and traditions. In this newsletter, we offer learning opportunities through play for both children and parents to do together and cultivate strong relationships.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

SPLISH, SPLASH BATH TIME

MATERIALS:

- Hand sponges
- Funnel or cup
- Vinyl tablecloth

DIRECTIONS:

- During bath time with your child, use the hand sponges and funnels to splash water on different parts of their body.
- If your child is older and could sit up on their own spread the vinyl tablecloth on the floor and let them sit on it.
- Play and splash each other with water using the funnel or cup.

[Click here](#) for habits on how to strengthen your relationship with your child.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

CATCH THE BALL

MATERIALS:

- Disposable cups
- Ping-pong balls

DIRECTIONS:

- Sit on the floor with your child.
- Put the cups upside down on the floor.
- Let your child roll the ping-pong balls towards you.
- Try to catch the coming ping-pong balls using the cups.
- Switch places and let your child catch the balls with the cups while you roll the balls towards them.

[Click here](#) to read, "Don't Push the Button" by Bill Cotter.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

FOLLOW MY DANCE

MATERIALS:

- Music (CD, radio, or YouTube)
- Open space

DIRECTIONS:

- Turn the music on and start dancing.
- Follow your child's lead and copy their dance moves. Switch roles and have them copy your moves, too.
- Work together in coming up with different moves.
- Take this opportunity to enjoy time together and build a stronger relationship with your child.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

DRAW WHAT YOU HEAR

MATERIALS:

- Pen or pencil
- Paper
- Pictures of random things

DIRECTIONS:

- Sit back to back with your child.
- One player gets a picture or a word without specifying directly what the item in the picture is.
- The player must describe the image without using words that clearly give away the image. For instance, if the picture is a flower then the person can describe it as hearts put together (to form flower petals), a string/rope holding the hearts (stem), and so on.
- The players will start by drawing the object based on the verbal description and their own interpretation.
- The outcome is fun to see and shows whether you can effectively communicate, imagine, and innovate in each other's company.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW ME?

MATERIALS:

- Bowl
- Paper
- Pen
- Scissors

DIRECTIONS:

- Have players write their favourite things on a piece of paper. For example, favourite colour, favourite movie, favourite book, favourite flower etc.
- Do not show what you wrote to anyone.
- Cut your answers into small pieces and put them in a bowl.
- Begin the game and have the others take a piece of paper from the bowl and guess to whom it belongs.

[Click here](#) for more activities.



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Read a story together and make it interactive. For example, asking your child what they think will happen next.
- Sing songs together. Sit down in a room with your child and sing along together. You could also make it fun by dancing along to the music and songs.
- Play board games or card games together with your child.
- Get your child to help in the kitchen. It may start out as a chore to them, but as they start learning, they will know how to help you without being asked. This can be a great opportunity to build your relationship with them.