

# Family Engagement Month Toolkit



Family engagement means families actively collaborate with early learning programs to support their children's development, learning and overall well-being. Strong, positive relationships between families and program staff are the foundation for meaningful engagement and a shared commitment to early learning success.

## Why Family Partnership Matters

**Family involvement makes a big difference! Here's how:**

- Boosts learning: Children do better in school when families are involved.
- Strengthens communication: Open communication with teachers helps everyone focus on school readiness.
- Builds confidence: When children see their families engaged, they feel supported and ready to learn.
- Encourages wellness: Working together nurtures and promotes children's overall health.



# Family Engagement Pledge

**As my child's first and most important teacher, I pledge to:**

- Communicate openly with my child's teachers and caregivers.
- Support learning at home by reading, exploring and asking questions.
- Encourage curiosity and celebrate my child's efforts and progress.
- Participate in school and community events that support my child's learning growth.
- Model respect, kindness and a love of learning every day.
- Partner with educators to set goals and work as a team for my child's success.
- Stay informed and involved in decisions.

**Signature:**

**Date:**



**#FamiliesFuelLearning**

**#EmpowerEveryParent**





## November 2025 Family Engagement Month Activity Calendar

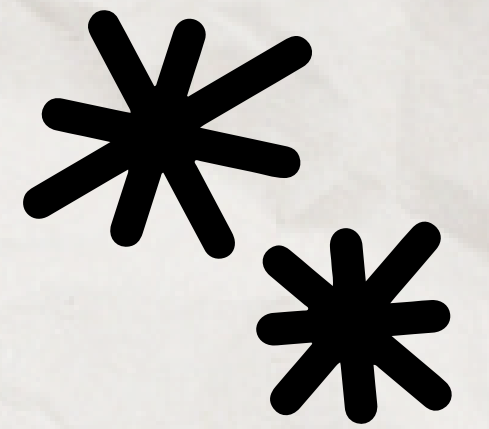
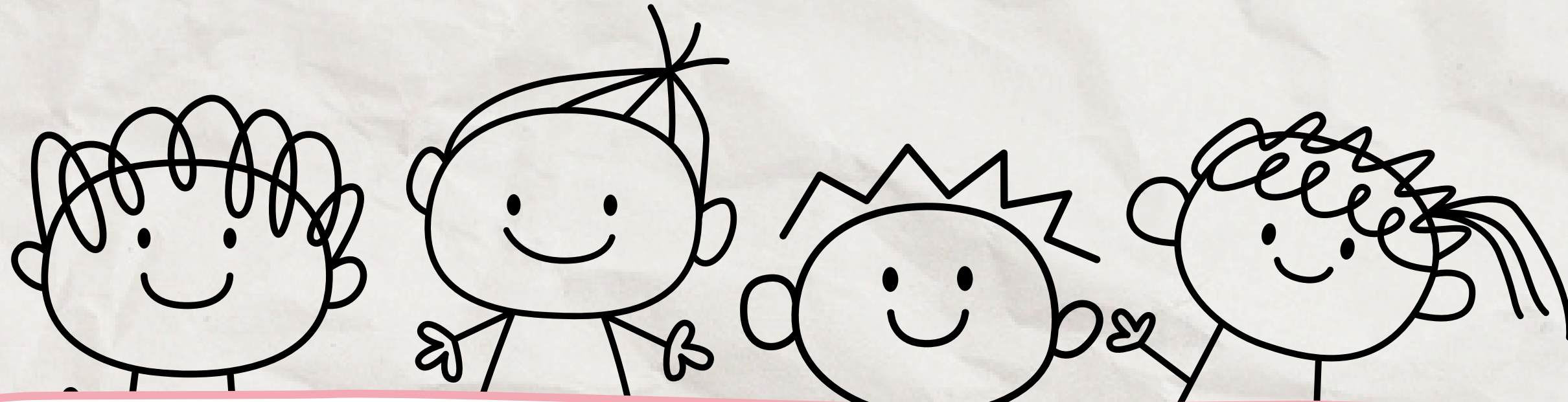
| Date                                                      | Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Week 1: November 1 – 7 Theme “Create and Connect”</b>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>1</b>                                                  | <b>Family Game Night</b><br>Pick a board game, card game or video game that everyone can enjoy. Play your chosen game as a family to foster collaboration, communication and teamwork skills.                                                                  |
| <b>2</b>                                                  | <b>Cook a Meal Together</b><br>Select a recipe that everyone can participate in making. Assign tasks based on age and skill level. Teach about measurement while cooking.                                                                                      |
| <b>3</b>                                                  | <b>Movie Marathon</b><br>Pick a theme or series of movies that the family loves. Create a comfortable viewing area with blankets and pillows. Pause the movie to ask your child about sequencing or predictions they might have.                               |
| <b>4</b>                                                  | <b>Nature Walk</b><br>Visit a local park or a nature reserve. Bring along a nature scavenger hunt list and count and discuss the items you find.                                                                                                               |
| <b>5</b>                                                  | <b>DIY Craft Day</b><br>Choose a craft activity to make with items like paper, glue, markers and scissors to support fine motor skill development and creative expression. Discuss the shapes you used to create the art. Display the finished crafts proudly. |
| <b>6</b>                                                  | <b>Storytelling Evening</b><br>Each family member can share a favorite story from their childhood or create new ones together. Encourage active listening and turn-taking to build communication and social skills.                                            |
| <b>7</b>                                                  | <b>Visit a Local Museum</b><br>Visit a museum or cultural center. Look for exhibits that interest everyone. Discuss what you learned and enjoyed during the visit.                                                                                             |
| <b>Week 2: November 8 – 14 Theme “Learn Through Love”</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>8</b>                                                  | <b>Family Yoga Session</b><br>Find a family-friendly yoga video online or visit a local yoga company. Set up a peaceful area with mats and calming music. Promote physical wellness, relaxation and self-care.                                                 |
| <b>9</b>                                                  | <b>Gardening Day</b><br>Choose a hands-on gardening project such as planting flowers, vegetables or herbs. Through planting, watering and observing growth, children develop fine motor skills, patience and understanding of plant life cycles.               |
| <b>10</b>                                                 | <b>Cookie Baking Day</b><br>Select a cookie recipe and gather ingredients. Assign roles such as mixing, shaping, measuring and decorating. Have your cookies for dessert or share the cookies with friends or neighbors.                                       |
| <b>11</b>                                                 | <b>Family Photo Day</b><br>Plan a fun photo shoot with different themes or locations. Create a photo album or digital slideshow to teach sequencing and memory recall.                                                                                         |

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12 | <b>Science Experiment Day</b><br>Choose a simple and safe science experiment that can be done at home. Gather materials and follow instructions carefully. Discuss the results and what you learned.                                                                                                                       |
| 13 | <b>Sidewalk Chalk Learning</b><br>Get outdoors and learn with chalk. Practice math facts, letters, words and sentences. Go over skills your child is learning at school.                                                                                                                                                   |
| 14 | <b>Family Book Club</b><br>Select a book that everyone can read together. Set aside time for reading and discussion. Share thoughts and favorite parts of the book.                                                                                                                                                        |
|    | <b>Week 3: November 15 – 21 Theme “Imagine and Explore”</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 15 | <b>Family Volunteering</b><br>Find a local charity or community center where you can volunteer as a family. This could be helping at a food bank, cleaning up a park or visiting an elder care home. Discuss the importance of giving back and how it makes a difference.                                                  |
| 16 | <b>DIY Project Day</b><br>Select a collaborative home improvement project such as painting a room, assembling furniture or organizing a shared space to promote practical life skills and teamwork. Assign roles based on age, ability and interest to encourage responsibility, problem solving and task management.      |
| 17 | <b>Picnic in the Park</b><br>Plan an outdoor learning experience by packing a blanket and nutritious lunch. Engage in physical games like frisbee or catch to support gross motor development. Observe nature, discuss surroundings, and encourage appreciation for the outdoors.                                          |
| 18 | <b>Thank You Notes</b><br>Write thank you notes to people who have made a difference in your lives, such as teachers, friends or family members. Decorate the notes and deliver them in person or by mail.                                                                                                                 |
| 19 | <b>Talent Show</b><br>Organize a family talent show to showcase self-expression, confidence and creativity. Invite each family member to show off unique talents - such as singing, dancing, performing magic tricks or a comedic story telling. Promote active listening, positive feedback and a supportive environment. |
| 20 | <b>Bike Rides</b><br>Go for a family bike ride through your neighborhood or along a scenic trail. Explore local geography and nature while promoting physical fitness.                                                                                                                                                     |
| 21 | <b>Visit Relatives</b><br>Spend quality time with extended family members to strengthen intergenerational connections. Share favorite memories and life updates, showing support through meaningful dialogue and shared experiences.                                                                                       |
|    | <b>Week 4: November 22 – 30 Theme “Celebrate What Connects Us”</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 22 | <b>Music Night</b><br>Listen to music, sing karaoke or play musical instruments together. This activity supports auditory and rhythm recognition and expressive communication.                                                                                                                                             |



|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 23 | <b>Homework Help Night</b><br>Help your children with their homework or practice skills that are being learned at school. Make it a collaborative effort.                                                                                                                      |
| 24 | <b>Neighborhood Clean-Up</b><br>Organize a neighborhood clean-up event to promote civic responsibility, environmental stewardship and community pride. Use this opportunity to teach about the importance of maintaining shared spaces.                                        |
| 25 | <b>Family Traditions</b><br>Explore your family traditions. Is there an annual trip, a recipe, a song or other activity that has special meaning to your family? If not, create a new tradition. Traditions help to promote connection and strengthen bonds within the family. |
| 26 | <b>Seasonal Activities</b><br>Celebrate and engage in seasonal activities. Visit a farmer's market, pumpkin patch or a u-pick fruit farm. Use this activity to learn about seasonal change and connections to the world around you.                                            |
| 27 | <b>Thanksgiving</b><br>Have each family member write down things they are thankful for on slips of paper and place them in a container. Read them aloud during your celebration. Create handmade thank-you cards for friends, family and community members.                    |
| 28 | <b>Participate in a Local Event</b><br>Search online for local family events such as fairs and festivals that promote community engagement. Participating in these activities supports social development and fosters a sense of belonging.                                    |
|    | <b>Week 5: November 29 – 30 Theme “Family in Motion: Growing Through Play and Reflection”</b>                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 29 | <b>Obstacle Course</b><br>Build a fun course in your yard or at a park. Get creative using items like cones, ropes, buckets or pool noodles. This hands-on activity promotes physical development, problem solving and teamwork. Collaborate on constructing the course.       |
| 30 | <b>Family Reflection</b><br>Spend time reflecting on the month and sharing what you enjoyed most. Discuss what you learned and how you can continue to stay engaged as a family. Create a scrapbook or journal to remember the month and plan for future family engagements.   |



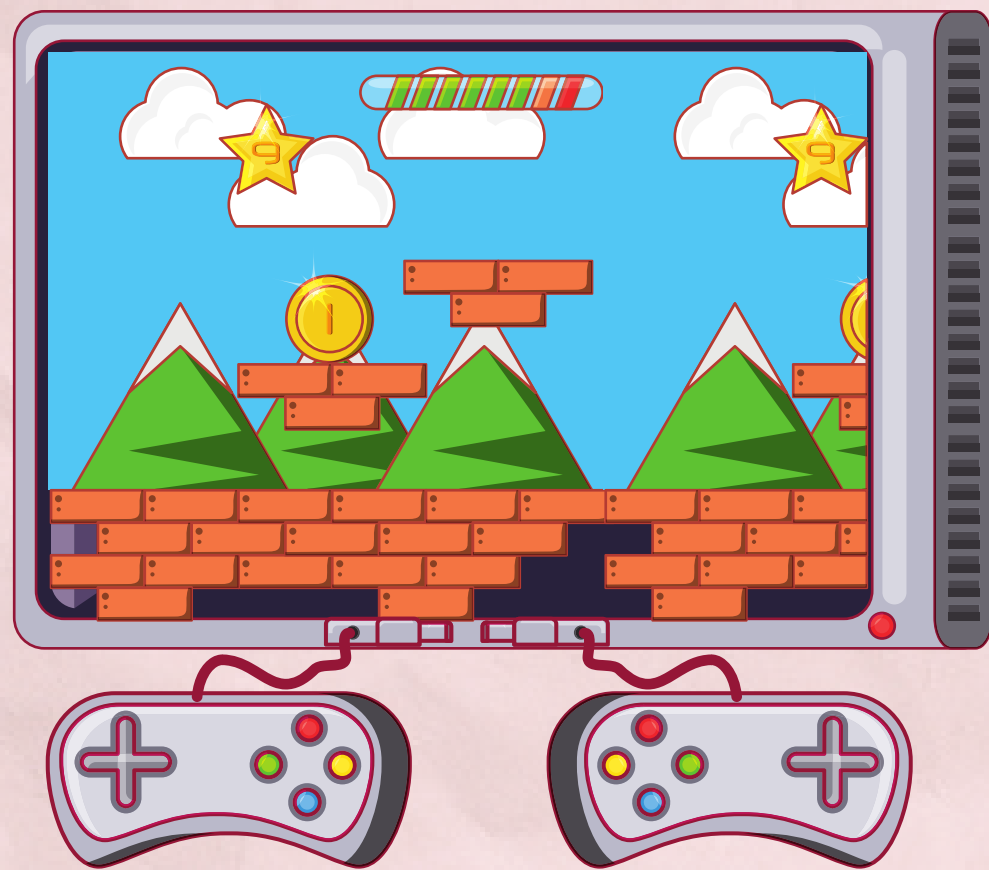


# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT DAILY ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER 2025



## DAY 1: FAMILY GAME NIGHT



Pick a board game, card game or video game that everyone can enjoy. Play your chosen game as a family to foster collaboration, communication and teamwork skills.

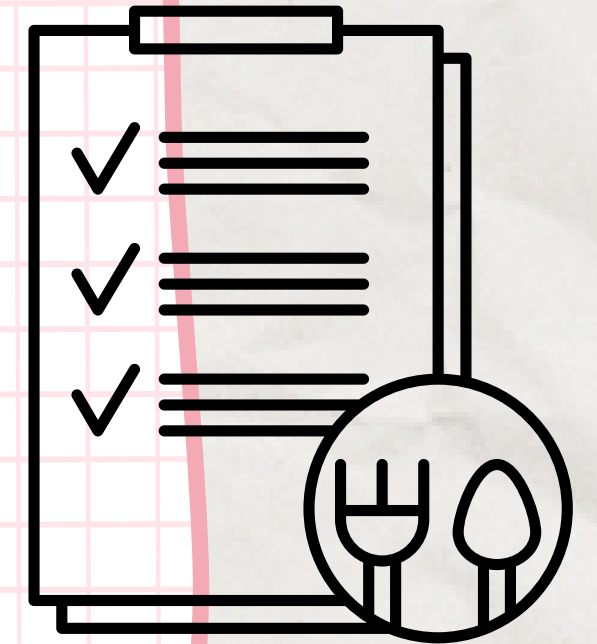




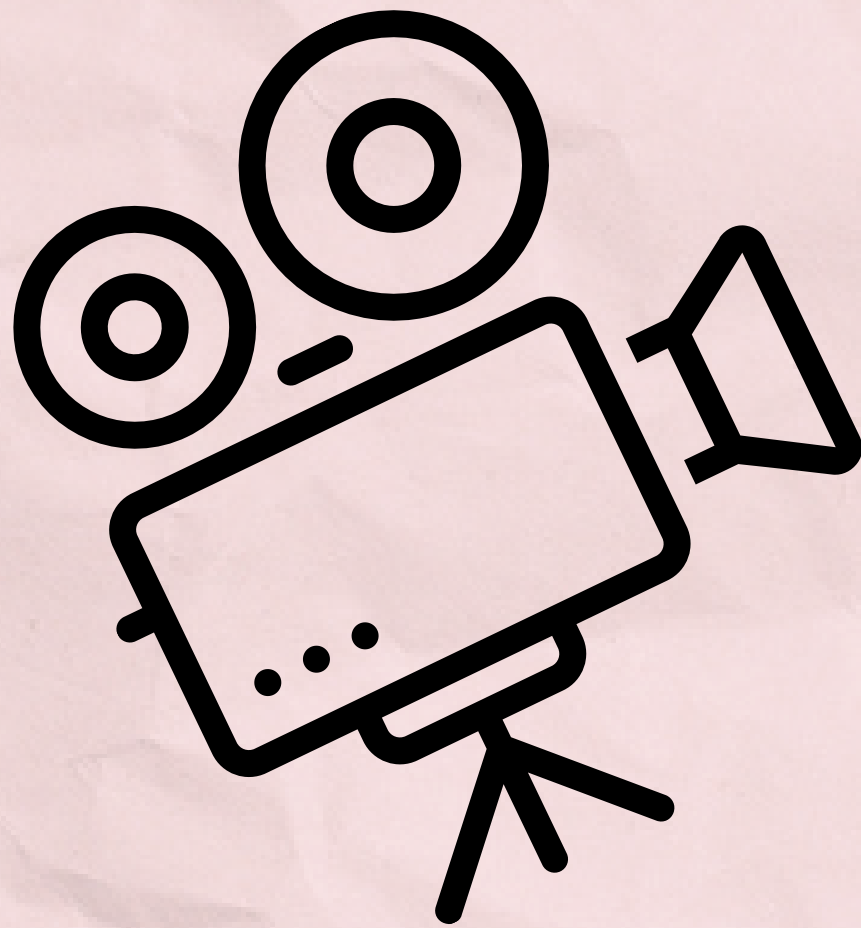
# Eat Balanced Meals

## DAY 2: COOK A MEAL TOGETHER

Select a recipe that everyone can participate in making. Assign tasks based on age and skill level. Teach about measurement while cooking.



## DAY 3: MOVIE MARATHON

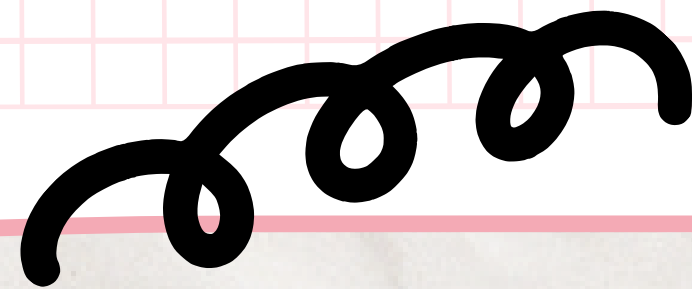
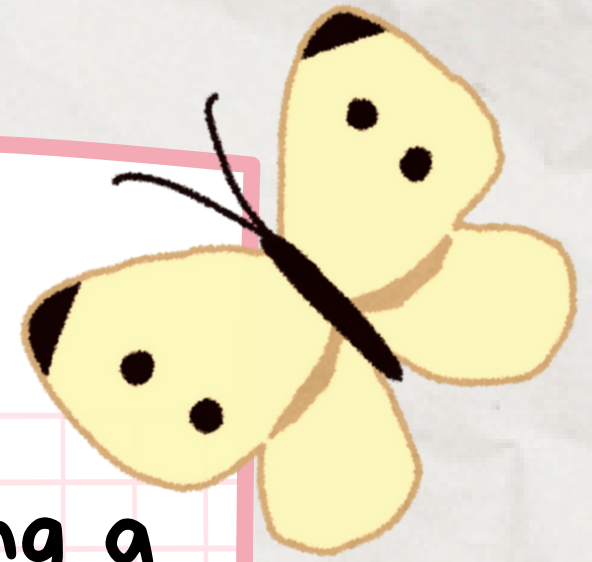


Pick a theme or series of movies that the family loves. Create a comfortable viewing area with blankets and pillows. Pause the movie to ask your child about sequencing or predictions they might have.



## DAY 4: NATURE WALK

Visit a local park or a nature reserve. Bring along a nature scavenger hunt list and count and discuss the items you find.







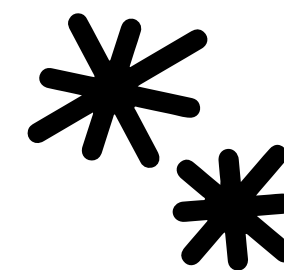
## DAY 5: DIY CRAFT DAY

Choose a craft activity to make with items like paper, glue, markers and scissors to support fine motor skill development and creative expression. Discuss the shapes you used to create the art. Display the finished crafts proudly.

# SHARE YOUR STORY

## DAY 6: STORYTELLING EVENING

Each family member can share a favorite story from their childhood or create new ones together. Encourage active listening and turn-taking to build communication and social skills.





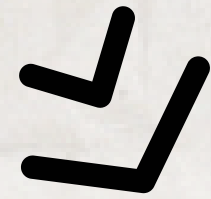


## DAY 7: VISIT A LOCAL MUSEUM

Visit a museum or cultural center. Look for exhibits that interest everyone. Discuss what you learned and enjoyed during the visit.



# DAY 8: FAMILY YOGA SESSION



Find a family-friendly yoga video online or visit a local yoga company. Set up a peaceful area with mats and calming music. Promote physical wellness, relaxation and self-care.





## DAY 9: GARDENING DAY

Choose a hands-on gardening project such as planting flowers, vegetables or herbs. Through planting, watering and observing growth, children develop fine motor skills, patience and understanding of plant life cycles.



## DAY 10: COOKIE BAKING DAY

Select a cookie recipe and gather ingredients. Assign roles such as mixing, shaping, measuring and decorating. Have your cookies for dessert or even share the cookies with friends or neighbors.







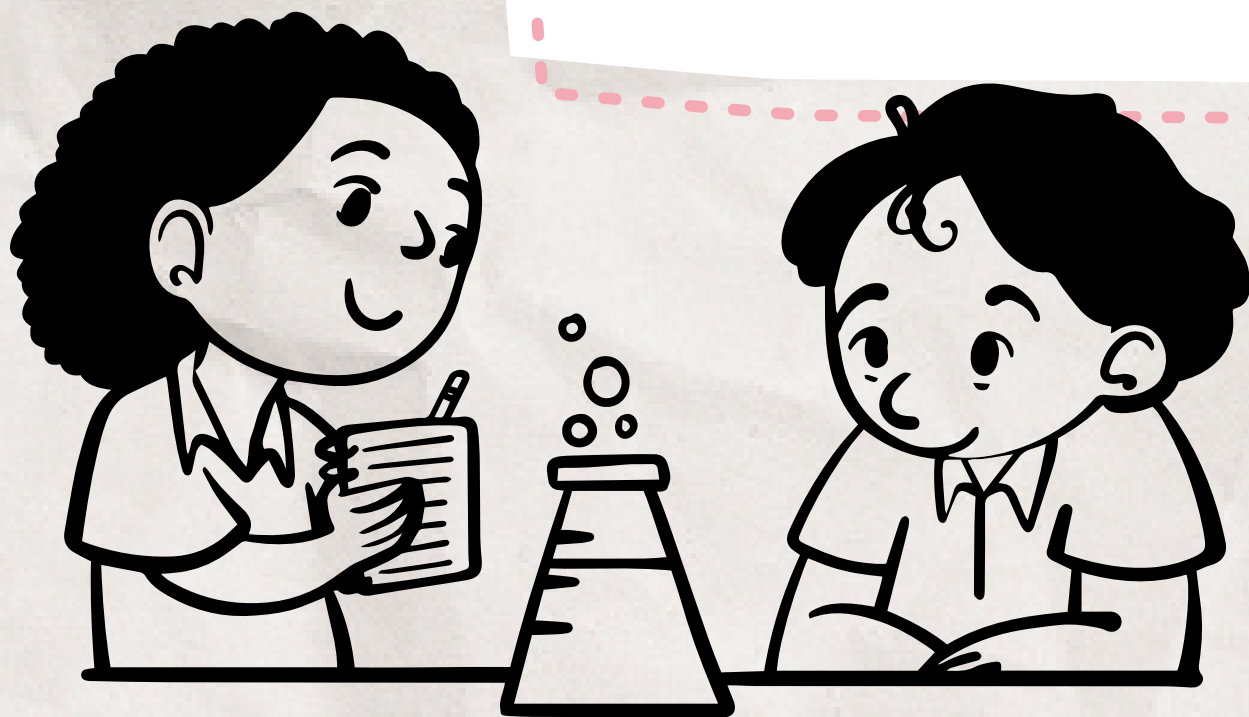
## DAY 11: FAMILY PHOTO DAY



Plan a fun photo shoot with different themes or locations. Create a photo album or digital slideshow to teach sequencing and memory recall.

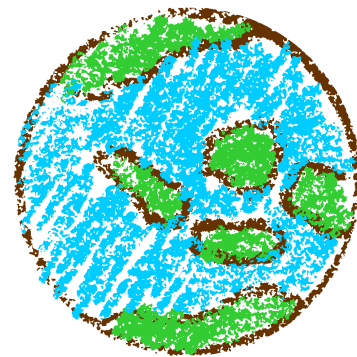
Choose a simple and safe science experiment that can be done at home. Gather materials and follow instructions carefully. Discuss the results and what you learned.

## DAY 12: SCIENCE EXPERIMENT DAY

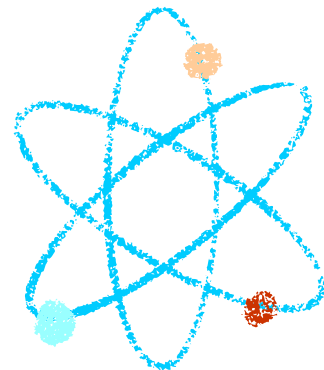




## DAY 13: SIDEWALK CHALK LEARNING



Get outdoors and learn with chalk.  
Practice math facts, letters, words and  
sentences. Go over skills your child is  
learning at school.





## DAY 14: FAMILY BOOK CLUB

Select a book that everyone  
can read together. Set aside  
time for reading and  
discussion. Share thoughts and  
favorite parts of the book.

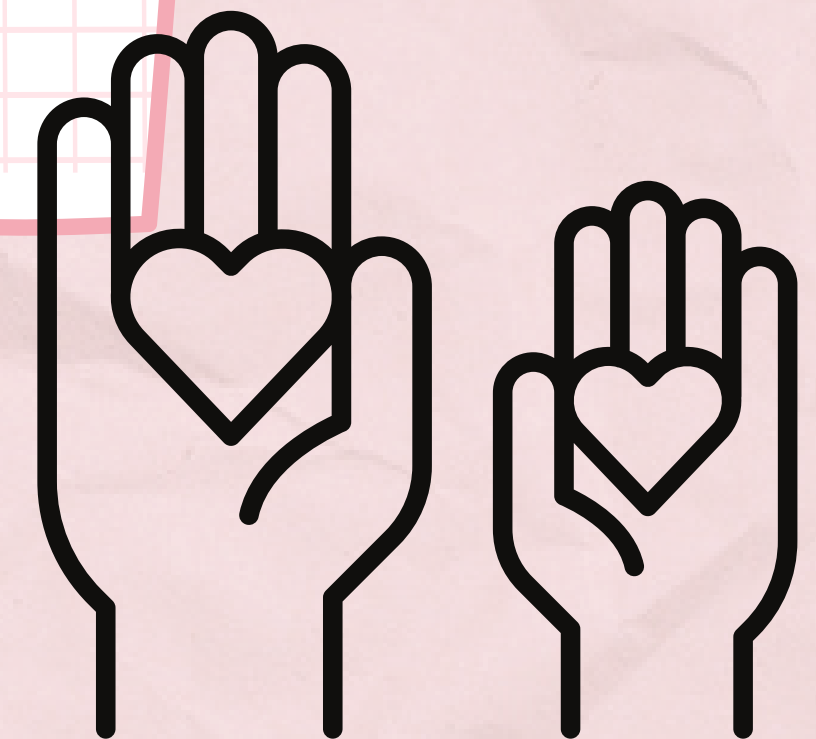




# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Find a local charity or community center where you can volunteer as a family. This could be helping at a food bank, cleaning up a park or visiting an elder care home. Discuss the importance of giving back and how it makes a difference.

DAY 15: FAMILY  
VOLUNTEERING





## DAY 16: DIY PROJECT DAY

Select a collaborative home improvement project such as painting a room, assembling furniture or organizing a shared space to promote practical life skills and teamwork. Assign roles based on age, ability and interest to encourage responsibility, problem solving and task management.



## DAY 17: PICNIC IN THE PARK



Plan an outdoor learning experience by packing a blanket and nutritious lunch. Engage in physical games like frisbee or catch to support gross motor development. Observe nature, discuss surroundings and encourage appreciation for the outdoors.



# DAY 18: THANK YOU NOTES



Write thank you notes to people who have made a difference in your lives, such as teachers, friends or family members. Decorate the notes and deliver them in person or by mail.





## DAY 19: TALENT SHOW

Organize a family talent show to showcase self-expression, confidence and creativity. Invite each family member to show off their unique talents - such as singing, dancing, performing magic tricks or a comedic story telling. Promote active listening, positive feedback and a supportive environment.





Go for a family bike ride through your neighborhood or along a scenic trail. Explore local geography and nature while promoting physical fitness.

**DAY 20: BIKE RIDES**



Spend quality time with extended family members to strengthen intergenerational connections. Share favorite memories and life updates, showing support through meaningful dialogue and shared experiences.

**DAY 21:  
VISIT RELATIVES**







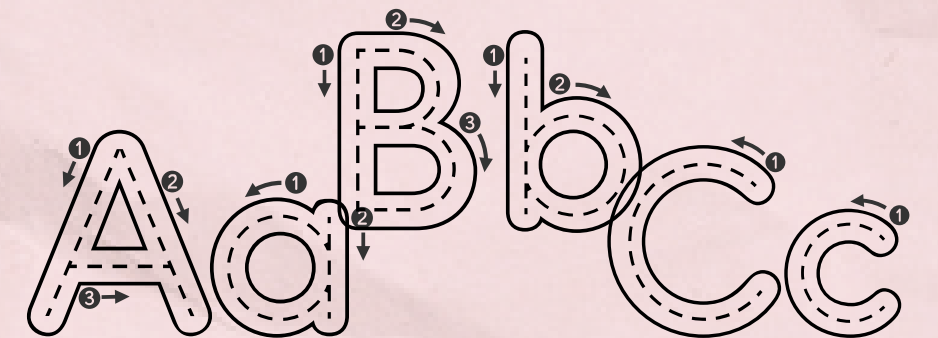
Listen to music, sing karaoke or  
play musical instruments  
together. This activity supports  
auditory and rhythm  
recognition and expressive  
communication.

**DAY 22: MUSIC NIGHT**



Help your children with  
their homework or practice  
skills that are being learned  
at school. Make it a  
collaborative effort.

LEARN  
AND  
GROW



DAY 23: HOMEWORK HELP NIGHT



## DAY 24: NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP



Organize a neighborhood clean-up event to promote civic responsibility, environmental stewardship and community pride. Use this opportunity to teach about the importance of maintaining shared spaces.



## DAY 25: FAMILY TRADITIONS



Explore your family traditions. Is there an annual trip, a recipe, a song or other activity that has special meaning to your family? If not, create a new tradition! Traditions help to promote connection and strengthen bonds within the family.





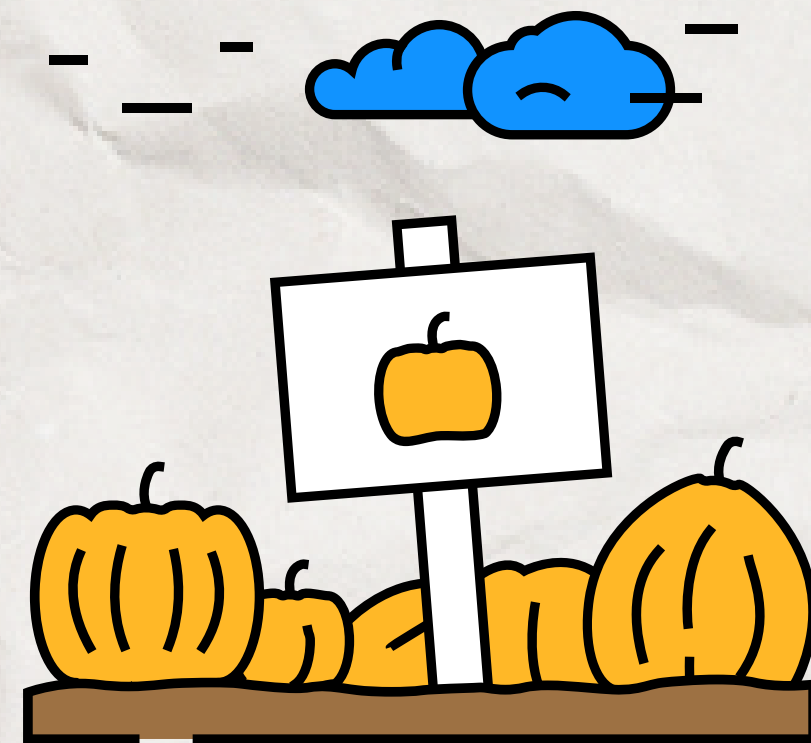


Celebrate and engage in seasonal activities. Visit a farmer's market, pumpkin patch or a u-pick fruit farm.

Use this activity to learn about seasonal change and connections to the world around you.



## DAY 26: SEASONAL ACTIVITIES





Have each family member write down things they are thankful for on slips of paper and place them in a container. Read them aloud during your celebration. Create handmade thank-you cards for friends, family and community members.



DAY 27: THANKSGIVING



## DAY 28: PARTICIPATE IN A LOCAL EVENT

Search online for local family events such as fairs and festivals that promote community engagement. Participating in these activities supports social development and fosters a sense of belonging.



Build a fun course in your yard or at a park. Get creative using items like cones, ropes, buckets or pool noodles. This hands-on activity promotes physical development, problem solving and teamwork. Collaborate on constructing the course.

## DAY 29: OBSTACLE COURSE





# memories



## DAY 30: FAMILY REFLECTION

Spend time reflecting on the month and sharing what you enjoyed most. Discuss what you learned and how you can continue to stay engaged as a family. Create a scrapbook or journal to remember the month and plan for future family engagements.

## Promoting Family Engagement at the Coalition

Family engagement is a critical component of high-quality learning. When families are actively involved, children experience better developmental outcomes, stronger relationships with educators and smoother transitions to early education and school.

Here are effective strategies that Early Learning Coalitions can use to foster meaningful partnerships with families.



### Build Trusting Relationships

- **Create a Welcoming Environment:** Greet families warmly and ensure staff are trained to meet their needs.
- **Communicate Consistently:** Offer regular updates on early learning programs through newsletters, texts or parent apps and communicate in families' preferred languages, when possible.
- **Celebrate Families:** Post banners or signs celebrating families throughout your facility. Display pictures of your staff's families.



### Empower Families as Partners in Learning

- **Share Information:** Show parents how to sign up for Parents' Pages and how to get to the parent section on the Division of Early Learning website.
- **Teach Home Learning:** Share simple activities parents can do at home to support classroom goals. Explain the importance of parents as their child's first teacher.
- **Offer Workshops:** Offer family-friendly sessions on child development, behavior regulation and literacy building.



### Give Families a Voice

- **Ask for Feedback:** Invite families to complete a survey to share their experience after contacting your office.
- **Parent Volunteer:** Establish volunteer opportunities for parents to contribute ideas and feedback on outreach events and activities to foster a sense of ownership and community.



### Celebrate Traditions & Community

- **Host Seasonal Events:** Honor family traditions with potlucks and story times.
- **Connect with Community:** Partner with local organizations to bring additional resources and services to families.



### Encourage Providers

- **Encourage Provider Engagement:** Host a local competition and encourage providers to submit examples of engagement activities.
- **Recognize Providers:** Feature one provider each week in a newsletter or on social media to celebrate their impact.



## Promoting Family Engagement in Early Learning Programs

Family engagement plays a vital role in high-quality early learning. When families are actively involved, children experience deeper connections with educators and smoother transitions into school settings.

Here are effective strategies that early learning providers can use to build and foster genuine partnerships with families:



### **Build Trusting Relationships with Families:**

#### **Create a Welcoming Atmosphere**

- Greet families with warmth and genuine enthusiasm.
- Maintain an open-door policy to show that their input and concerns are valued.

#### **Communicate Consistently**

- Share weekly newsletters featuring upcoming events, parenting tips and ways to get involved.
- Ensure communication is accessible by using families' preferred languages when possible.

#### **Celebrate Family Connections**

- Display banners and signage throughout your facility that honor and celebrate families.
- Showcase family-centered activities on social media and distribute flyers focused on child development.

#### **Host Family Fun Nights**

- Plan themed evenings with games, crafts or movies to foster connection and joy.



### **Empower Families as Partners in Learning:**

#### **Encourage Volunteer Involvement**

- Use your website and social media platforms to spotlight family events and share stories that highlight meaningful involvement.

#### **Provide Flexible & Responsive Support**

- Offer evening or weekend events to accommodate different work and life schedules.







## Family Engagement Checklist

Instructions: Reflect on each statement below and mark yes or no. For any items marked "No," write how you can begin to incorporate that activity in the final column. Share your responses with your child's teacher to strengthen your combined partnership and enhance your engagement.

| STATEMENT                                                                                                                                                           | YES                      | NO                       | If no, ways you can do more. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Communication</b> - I regularly communicate with my child's teacher about my child's progress and celebrate their milestones and achievements.                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |                              |
| <b>Events</b> - I attend parent-teacher conferences and school events. I read my provider's newsletters and emails.                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |                              |
| <b>Volunteering</b> - I volunteer in the classroom or at school events when possible.                                                                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |                              |
| <b>Engagement</b> - I review and discuss homework and activities with my child.                                                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |                              |
| <b>Sharing</b> - I encourage my child to share their school experiences with me.                                                                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |                              |
| <b>Reading</b> - I read to my child for 15 to 20 minutes daily and encourage a love of reading.                                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |                              |
| <b>Community</b> - I take my child to community events to learn about civic engagement and how contributing to others can improve the quality of life for everyone. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |                              |
| <b>Homework</b> - I provide a quiet and supportive environment for my child to do homework.                                                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |                              |
| <b>Healthy Habits</b> - I promote healthy habits, such as proper nutrition and sleep, to support my child's learning.                                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |                              |

