

OFFICE OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TODAY'S FAMILY **LEARNING TIP***



February

- 1 February is African-American History Month! Encourage your child to research the accomplishments of famous African Americans throughout history.
- 2 Happy Groundhog Day! Predict whether the groundhog will see its shadow and then see if your family's predictions come true! Learn about the tradition here: <http://www.groundhog.org/>
- 3 Talk to your child about your day without words. Act out activities and current events.
- 4 Color quiz: Name household items that are red, yellow, blue, and green. Ask older students to identify indoor and outdoor objects.
- 5 With your children, list some polite behaviors. Provide children what they want only when they use appropriate manners. Why is respectful behavior important? Check it out: <http://www.cyh.com/HealthTopics/HealthTopicDetailsKids.aspx?p=335&np=287&id=2526>
- 6 The first motion picture with voices was released in 1927. Have your child imagine his or her favorite movie without dialogue. How would that affect the story?
- 7 What is your child's favorite animal? Have him or her draw a picture of him or herself as that animal.
- 8 The first passenger jet flight from Chicago to New York took 102 minutes in 1951. How long is it today? Can your child calculate the difference? Here's a history of U.S. air travel: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_transportation_in_the_United_States
- 9 Spend some time talking about money with your children. Regardless of whether your family has an allowance policy, discuss the value of savings and plans.
- 10 At the grocery store, have your children compare goods according to their unit-pricing to determine which item is the best buy.
- 11 How do you define success? Talk to your family about your most memorable achievements and challenges. Remind them that you are proud of their efforts.
- 12 Happy birthday, Abraham Lincoln! Born in 1809, Lincoln was the 16th president of the United States. Does your child know old he would be today? Learn about "Honest Abe" here: <http://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/abraham-lincoln>

*For additional ideas and daily parent tips, visit the [Maryland State Department of Education Family Literacy Take 15 Web page](#). Click on English or Spanish to view the tips.

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- 13 Talk to your children about dealing with stress. Teach and show them healthy ways to relax and release anxiety.
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day! Have your children write acrostic poems for family and friends to show them how much they mean! www.youngwriters.co.uk/types-acrostic
- 15 Today is Presidents' Day! The United States has had 43 different presidents. How many can your child name? Here's the list: www.presidentsusa.net/presvplist.html
- 16 Use sporting events to encourage good sportsmanship. Set a good example for your child at games by praising good plays by all players.
- 17 Create a math game with a deck of cards: Each player puts out a card, and the first to add or multiply the numbers on those cards is the winner!
- 18 The Federal Reserve, the central banking system of the United States, was created in 1913. Learn about the functions of the system with your child today using resources like this one: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Reserve_System
- 19 Does an apple sink or float in water? How about a pencil? Fill a bucket and experiment with different items. Can your child explain the results?
- 20 February 20 is Love Your Pet Day! Does your family have any pets? What skills and habits are necessary to care for a happy and healthy pet? Discuss with your family! <http://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-love-your-pet-day-february-20/>
- 21 Help your children to collect home and email addresses of friends whom they may not see over the summer. Encourage them to nurture their relationships by staying in touch.
- 22 Happy Birthday, George Washington! Born in 1732, Washington was the first president of the United States. Does your child know where he was born? Some helpful hints: <http://www.biography.com/people/george-washington-9524786#related-video-gallery>
- 23 Encourage your child to create a reading circle with friends. Choose a book and a time to gather. Then, take turns reading aloud. Invite younger kids to listen.
- 24 Allow your children to use objects made from different materials to produce sounds. Using adjectives to describe the sounds, then determine which materials produce similar sounds.

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- 25 In 1974, Hank Aaron hit his 715th home run, breaking a record set by a Baltimore-born outfielder often called the greatest baseball player of all time. Does your child know whose record Aaron broke? Find out here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hank_Aaron
 - 26 Famed teacher Anne Sullivan taught Helen Keller how to communicate. Check online for stories about this accomplished pair and share your findings with your family. You can start here: www.biography.com/people/anne-sullivan-9498826#star-pupil
 - 27 Polar Bear Day celebrates the world's largest carnivore. Take your child to the library to research this species. Where do they live? How big do they get? Learn all about them here: www.polarbearsinternational.org/
 - 28 Introduce your children to engineering concepts. Identify a problem and encourage them to design and implement a solution. Check these concepts out: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Engineering_concepts
 - 29 What is personal hygiene and why is it important? Explain to your child the benefits of cleanliness, oral hygiene, good posture, exercise, and a balanced diet.
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