

OFFICE OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TODAY'S FAMILY **LEARNING TIP***



January

- 1 Happy New Year! January is Family Fit Lifestyle Month! How can you and your family be healthier this year?
- 2 There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar: Quotation marks, brackets, parentheses, braces, and ellipses are five. Can your child name the other nine? Check out <http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/punctuation/what/fourteen-punctuation-marks.html>.
- 3 Plan "imagination vacations" with your family. If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Check maps, calculate travel time, and read about your destinations.
- 4 What does M&M's stand for? What is the dot on a lowercase "i" called? Do you know how Curious George came to America? Celebrate Trivia Day with these and other fun questions!
- 5 Did you know that there are around 10,000 species of birds known to humans? Quiz your children to see how many they can name! For the full aviary, look here: <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/browse>
- 6 Have your child interview a family member about his or her educational past. What similarities and differences are there between education then and now?
- 7 Play an observation game with your family: Rearrange several objects while some people are out of the room. Then, see who detects the most changes!
- 8 In 1775, Paul Revere made his famous ride from Charlestown to Lexington, shouting, "The Red Coats are coming!" Who were the Red Coats and why were they coming? Ask your child! More information: www.biography.com/news/paul-reveres-ride-facts
- 9 Compare a documentary and non-fiction book with a movie that deals with the same subject. What did your children learn from the documentary that they didn't from the book, and vice versa?
- 10 Have your child keep track of costs on shopping trips. If one book costs \$5, how much would three books cost? Here are some more grocery store games you can use: <http://kidsactivities.about.com/od/EducationalTrips/a/Grocery-Store-Learning.htm>
- 11 Create a wish list of summer plans and activities with your family. Let your children know what to expect by using a calendar to schedule trips and projects.

*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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- 12 How many gallons of water does it take to fill an 18-foot round swimming pool with a depth of 2 feet? How many pints? Challenge your child to solve these problems by hand!
- 13 Make it a Family Dance Night tonight! Remember the twist? The hustle? The cha cha? What dances can your children teach you? Try some of these --
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_dances
- 14 Take a look at the clouds; how do weather conditions affect how clouds form? Have your children brainstorm ideas, then conduct research to find out why! Here is some helpful information:
<http://www.mbgnet.net/fresh/cycle/clouds.htm>
- 15 Happy birthday, Martin Luther King, Jr.! King was one of the main leaders in the African-American Civil Rights Movement. Who were other movement leaders? Learn more about Dr. King here:
[http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/martin-luther-king-jr.](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/martin-luther-king-jr)
- 16 Do a worldwide weather check with your child. What area has the most snow? Where is it warmest? What determines those differences?
- 17 Create your family's own puzzles by cutting up pictures from a magazine and putting them back together! Here are some other fun activities, especially if it's too snowy or cold outside:
<http://www.todayparent.com/family/parenting/20-fun-indoor-games/>
- 18 Each year, the third Monday of January is Civil Rights Day, also known as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. In what ways can your family celebrate King's accomplishments? Learn more:
<http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/civil-rights-day>
- 19 How does corn go from a cob on a cornstalk to popcorn pieces in the movie theater? Show your child how by visiting the grocery, making popcorn, and enjoying a movie together at home tonight!
- 20 Have your child read a review of a movie that he or she is planning to see. After viewing the movie, discuss with your child whether he or she agrees or disagree with the review.
- 21 There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar. How many ways can your child figure out?
- 22 Sandra Day O'Connor was the first female justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. How many women serve on the court today? Who are they? Here's some information:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Justices_of_the_Supreme_Court_of_the_United_States
- 23 Be sure to read information your child brings home, especially class notes and school newsletters. Keep in touch with teachers when necessary.

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- 24 Compare two newspaper accounts of the same story. What differences does your child notice? Discuss reasons for those differences.
- 25 Eva Peron was the world's first female president. Can your child find her country and capital city on a map? https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eva_Per%C3%B3n
- 26 If there are 24 hours in a day, 60 minutes in an hour, and 60 seconds in a minute, ask your child how many seconds are there in a day. In a month? In a year?
- 27 Have an indoor family picnic. Allow your children to pick and decorate the site. Sit on the floor and enjoy your meal without any ants!
- 28 Memorize with music! Sing times tables or history facts with your child in your family's favorite style of music. Use blues, jazz, rap, or country to recite and recall fast facts.
- 29 With your child, identify and count shapes around the house. The refrigerator is a rectangle. Where are the circles, squares, and triangles?
- 30 In 1947, Jackie Robinson became the first African American to play major league baseball when he batted for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Where do the Dodgers play now? Learn more at the Baseball Hall of Fame: <http://baseballhall.org/hof/robinson-jackie>
- 31 The first telegraph company opened four offices on the East Coast in 1847. How did the telegraph affect the nation's development? Discuss with your child! To learn more, check out: <https://eh.net/encyclopedia/history-of-the-u-s-telegraph-industry/>

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