



## OFFICE OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TODAY'S FAMILY LEARNING TIP



Educating & Empowering Families

### January

- 1 Happy New Year! Ask each person in your family to make a resolution for the new year. Write them down so you can return to them at the end of the year!
- 2 Does your family have a favorite board game or a new one you haven't tried yet from the holidays? Take it out for a family game night tonight!
- 3 Did you build blanket forts growing up? Let your children have a turn by building one in your home. It's a great way to engage their creativity and problem-solving skills!
- 4 Who painted the Mona Lisa? When did Christopher Columbus sail the ocean blue? What is the largest planet in our solar system? Ask your child these and other fun trivia questions for National Trivia Day!
- 5 What books are your children reading? Help them bring the stories to life through book-themed celebrations! For example, if they're reading *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, bake a batch of cookies together!
- 6 Do your children like to play with their food? Let them! Mixing different liquids can teach them about colors, measurement, and ratios.
- 7 What would life be like without technology? Challenge your children to find out by using books instead of computers, letters instead of telephones, and newspapers instead of TVs!
- 8 Does your child love trains? Then check out the model train display at the Baltimore Society of Model Engineers! Go to [www.baltimoreschild.com/events/operating-model-train-display-2017-01-08/](http://www.baltimoreschild.com/events/operating-model-train-display-2017-01-08/) for more information.
- 9 Are you looking for a new way to keep your children active during the winter? Try bowling! Stoneleigh Lanes has a special for \$3 games and \$4 shoe rentals every Monday. Check out [www.stoneleighlanes.com](http://www.stoneleighlanes.com) for more information.
- 10 How much energy does your family use? Discuss with your children ways to cut down your energy use. For some ideas, go to [www.realsimple.com/work-life/money/saving/cut-energy-costs](http://www.realsimple.com/work-life/money/saving/cut-energy-costs).
- 11 Do you read your child a bedtime story every night? Change it up! Ask your child to read you a story before going to sleep tonight!



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- 12 Fencing is fun! Check out the youth and adult beginner classes with your child at Salle Palasz today! For more information, go to [www.baltimoreschild.com/events/beginner-fencing-lessons-2017-01-12/](http://www.baltimoreschild.com/events/beginner-fencing-lessons-2017-01-12/).
- 13 Are your children on Facebook, Twitter, or other social media sites? Talk to them about staying safe on the Internet by keeping their information and photographs private.
- 14 How does snow stick together in a snowball? Why is snow white if it's made from water? What makes snow melt the fastest? Find the answers to these questions by going out on a snowy day with your child!
- 15 Is your family visiting the grocery store today? Ask your little ones to help you sort the groceries! It's a great way for them to learn about different foods and develop their organizational skills!
- 16 Your children probably learned about Martin Luther King, Jr., in school, but there's a lot to know about his legacy. Go to [www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/history/martin-luther-king-jr/](http://www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/history/martin-luther-king-jr/) together for more information.
- 17 Do your children keep journals? Encourage them to start! Journaling not only lets kids express themselves; it also helps them remember important events and improve their writing skills!
- 18 It's time for some arts and crafts! Make a pine cone bird feeder with your child by following the instructions at [www.theoutdoorparent.com/?p=645](http://www.theoutdoorparent.com/?p=645).
- 19 Have your children ever wondered what makes corn kernels pop? Hint: It's not just the heat! Go to [www.recipes.howstuffworks.com/question255.htm](http://www.recipes.howstuffworks.com/question255.htm) to find out and then share a bowl together for National Popcorn Day!
- 20 It's Inauguration Day, a day that marks the start of a new presidential term. Watch the inauguration ceremony with your children and talk about what presidents do. Do they want to be the president someday?
- 21 Did you know Greetings & Readings of Hunt Valley holds Kids Story Time every Wednesday and Saturday? Check it out today or go to [www.greetingsandreadings.com](http://www.greetingsandreadings.com) for more information.
- 22 Skating on frozen lakes and ponds can be dangerous; take your family to a rink instead! Get \$2 off at the Reisterstown Sportsplex for wearing your Orioles gear. Go to [www.rtownsports.com](http://www.rtownsports.com) for more information.



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- 23 Some people think your handwriting reflects your personality, but does it? Compare your child's handwriting to the analysis at [www.realsimple.com/work-life/life-strategies/handwriting-101](http://www.realsimple.com/work-life/life-strategies/handwriting-101). Do you two think it's true?
- 24 It's National Compliment Day! Encourage your child to spread praise and show admiration by paying someone a nice compliment today!
- 25 Shoveling snow might be a chore, but it doesn't have to be a bore! Make it fun by asking your children to count how many piles they shovel or measure how deep the snow is.
- 26 Report cards go out today! Which classes did your children do well in? Which classes do they need help with? Brainstorm strategies to do better next quarter.
- 27 Kids love the Maryland Science Center! Take your family to the center's observatory for a night of stargazing! For more information, go to [www.baltimoreschild.com/events/friday-night-stargazing-2017-01-20/](http://www.baltimoreschild.com/events/friday-night-stargazing-2017-01-20/).
- 28 Today is the Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival. What do your children know about this holiday? Ask them and then visit [www.softschools.com/facts/holidays/chinese\\_new\\_year\\_facts/143/](http://www.softschools.com/facts/holidays/chinese_new_year_facts/143/) together to learn more!
- 29 Does your family have any puzzles lying around the house? Gather them up and do them together for National Puzzle Day!
- 30 You might not think about it, but you're always reading – signs, menus, text messages, you name it! Encourage your children to notice how much they're reading by making a list or talking about it together.
- 31 Who doesn't love hot chocolate? On a cold day, ask your children to help you make some of this tasty drink to help warm you up. Older children can measure the ingredients, while younger ones can pick out the mugs.