

OFFICE OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TODAY'S FAMILY LEARNING TIP*

July	1 July is Recreation and Parks Month! Go online and look for ways that your family can have fun outdoors.
	2 Racehorse and Triple Crown winner Whirlaway was born in 1938. Which races make up the Triple Crown? (Hint: one of them takes place in Baltimore!)
	3 Check your children's progress with their recommended summer reading lists. Make sure that the books are available at home or the library.
	4 Happy Independence Day! Encourage your children to investigate the science behind fireworks and explain their findings to family and friends before seeing fireworks tonight!
	5 Encourage your family to learn a new trick today: try magic, jumping rope or juggling. Visit your library for books or videos about your family's new trick.
	6 Time for some exercise – it's Dad and Daughter Take a Walk Day! Moms and sons can lace up for their own walk, too!
	7 In 1807, the Slave Trade Act abolished slavery in Great Britain and Ireland. When did slavery end in the United States?
	8 They're not all bad! Set aside an extra hour today to join in on your child's gaming for Video Games Day.
	9 Smells like something's baking – it's Sugar Cookie Day! Bake up a batch of this tasty treat with your children today!
	10 The modern pencil was created in the 14th century. What did writers use to erase unwanted marks before rubber erasers were invented in the 1700s?
	11 It's cool in the pool! Celebrate Swimming Pool Day with your children by taking a dip in your community's local pool!
	12 Take care of your pets. Make sure that they have plenty of water in hot months. Arrange to have someone feed and walk them if you are away.

*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 The northernmost and westernmost points of the United States are in the same state. Can your child locate this state on a map?
- 14 Happy Bastille Day, known in France as the Fête nationale! Discover the fascinating history of this holiday with your family by browsing your local library for books on France.
- 15 Make words with names! See how many words your children can create using only the letters of their names.
- 16 Which president signed the National Security Act, creating the Department of Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency and the Joint Chiefs of Staff? What is the role of each department?
- 17 In 1945, the United States dropped an atom bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. Have your children talk to an older relative or neighbor about memories of World War II.
- 18 Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the month-long Ramadan fast and the first day of Shawwal. Have your child research some of the many ways that Muslims celebrate this important day.
- 19 Encourage your children to conduct an ice cream survey with family and friends. What is the most popular flavor? Do they prefer rainbow or chocolate sprinkles?
- 20 How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop? Give a few Tootsie Pops to your children and find out today on Lollipop Day!
- 21 Talk to your children about stranger safety. Remind them never to offer information about the family over the phone or online and practice safe ways of answering the phone and the door.
- 22 It's Spoonerism Day! Do you know what a spoonerism is? Look up a few examples and try them out on your kids!
- 23 Check online movie reviews written by professional and student writers before seeing a summer film. After the movie, have your children write their own reviews.
- 24 While drinking your morning cup of joe, discuss the extensive coffee production process with your children for Coffee Day!

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- 25 Travel back to the Paleolithic Era for Act Like a Caveman Day! How can your children use their imaginations and the great outdoors to entertain and shelter themselves?
- 26 Challenge your children with vocabulary and math problems. Check www.abcteach.com for resources.
- 27 Ready for a good laugh? Today is Take Your Plants for a Walk Day! What are some silly ways that your family can stay active this summer?
- 28 When the first United States census was completed in 1790, there were four million people in the country. How many people live in the United States today?
- 29 This one's for you – it's Parents' Day! Invite your children to participate in activities, such as biking or gardening, that you enjoy.
- 30 Maryland native Samuel Hopkins was issued the first U.S. patent in 1790 for an invention that improved the process of making potash. Why are patents important?
- 31 Author J.K. Rowling shares her birthday with her most well-known character. Who is he?
- August**
- 1 August is Back-to-School Month! Prepare your children for the new school year by sending them to bed 15 minutes earlier each night until they reach their school-year bedtime.
- 2 The first Sunday of this month is Friendship Day. Have your children create a card, a poem or even a song to let their friends know that they are appreciated.
- 3 Play ball! The Baltimore Orioles debuted in 1954 and won their first World Series in 1966. Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken, Jr., are just two notable players. Can your child name others?
- 4 Jacob Fussell of Baltimore was the first to manufacture ice cream on a large scale. Have your children research how ice cream is made.
- 5 Everyone makes mistakes, so it's important to learn to forgive family and friends for theirs. Talk to your child about the importance of forgiveness for International Forgiveness Day.
- 6 Teach water conservation and responsibility in your home. Collect rain and use it to water indoor plants.
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- 7 The world's oldest functioning lighthouse is located at the northwest tip of Spain. What's the name of this lighthouse? Find out on National Lighthouse Day!
- 8 How can your children lend a helping hand to senior citizens in your community? Contact a local retirement home about volunteer opportunities on Senior Citizens Day.
- 9 Ask your child how many bones he or she has in his or her body. Adults have 206; babies are born with about 275. What happens to them as you grow?
- 10 Check the newspaper for sales on school supplies. Allow your children to pick some of the items and work on a budget.
- 11 Parents, your sons and daughters are a significant source of joy in your life, but do they know that? Remind your children of how special they are to you on Sons and Daughters' Day.
- 12 Give your children some grown-up responsibilities for the night. Have them cook dinner, clean up and read to you before bed.
- 13 After visiting a park, playground or beach, always leave it better than you found it. Encourage your children to clean up their messes, and others might do the same.
- 14 Share an old family recipe with your children. Ask them to double the recipe, then cut it in half.
- 15 Everyone could use a little break! Prepare a pitcher of ice-cold lemonade and set out a few blankets or lawn chairs in the backyard for Relaxation Day with your family.
- 16 Have fun with numbers while traveling. Add up the numbers on license plates; then, multiply and divide them!
- 17 Jazz musician John Coltrane was born in 1926 in North Carolina. What makes jazz music different from classical or blues?
- 18 Protect your children online by talking about cybersafety. Set up parental controls and remind them never to share personal information online.
- 19 What is aeronautics? Take your family for a trip to the library to learn more about this fascinating science in celebration of National Aviation Day!

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- 20 French painter Claude Monet was known as the father of what style of art? Have your children pick a landscape and paint it in that style.
- 21 It's Hawaii Day! Did you know that there are only 12 letters – A, E, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, P, U and W – in the Hawaiian alphabet?
- 22 Does your child believe in the Tooth Fairy? Encourage your child to draw a picture of what he or she believes this fantasy figure looks like for Tooth Fairy Day!
- 23 John F. Kennedy was elected president in 1960. At 43, he was the youngest man elected to the office. What is the minimum age requirement to be president?
- 24 Create a well-lit, comfortable and TV-free schoolwork spot for your children. Review homework expectations for the coming school year.
- 25 Help your children plan for the first day of school: pick out a special outfit, get plenty of sleep and prepare a healthy breakfast.
- 26 Happy first day of school! Ask your children to share stories and information from their teachers with you.
- 27 Plan to attend the back-to-school events at your child's school. Talk to teachers about how to support learning at home.
- 28 At the 1963 March on Washington, Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. Have your children write about their dreams for the future.
- 29 Read your child's student handbook. Be sure you and your child understand the school behavior rules and regulations.
- 30 In 1762, the Earl of Sandwich created a simple-to-eat meal by putting meat between two pieces of bread. What do we call this lunch staple today?
- 31 Find out what books your child will read in school this year and read them yourself. Talk about your favorite childhood book.

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