

OFFICE OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TODAY'S FAMILY **LEARNING TIP***

March

- 1 March is Nutrition Month! What are healthy meal options that you and your family can make together? Look here for more information -- <http://www.choosemyplate.gov/>
- 2 Today is Dr. Seuss Day because it is also Dr. Seuss' birthday! Do your children know what Dr. Seuss' full name is? How many books did he write during his lifetime? Check out: www.catinthehat.org/history.htm
- 3 Play "Word of the Day: Family Edition." Pick a word out of the dictionary in the morning and see who can use it at least three times during the day. www.merriam-webster.com/
- 4 Help your child create a list of academic goals for the upcoming school year. Talk about what will be expected and how to meet those objectives.
- 5 Plan cooking experiences where fractions are needed. Then, invite your family to lend a hand – and a little mental math support, too!
- 6 After school and organized activities, take time for unstructured, imaginative play. Allow your child to invent toys or make up games.
- 7 In 1990, Boris Yeltsin became the first democratically-elected president of Russia. Who is that country's president now? Help your child to research democratic systems around the world. Learn more at www.worldaudit.org.
- 8 As a family, discuss ways to save energy at home and then put those ways into practice every day for a month – or longer! Here are some ways to start: <http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/energy-saver-guide-tips-saving-money-and-energy-home>
- 9 Craft a family board game. Use a pizza or cereal box for the board. Think about a name, design, and strategy based on your children's interests and abilities.
- 10 Harriet Tubman Day honors the Maryland native with a rich history of social reform. Encourage your child to research Tubman's life and the Underground Railroad to learn more: www.harriettubman.com/day.html
- 11 Start a jigsaw puzzle. Help your child sort shapes and colors. Take turns fitting pieces.

*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 Roses are red / Violets are blue / Today is Plant a Flower Day / The choice is up to you! Gather your family together and plant some flowers today! <http://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-plant-a-flower-day-march-12/>
- 13 Daylight Saving Time starts today! In 1895, George Vernon Hudson suggested the idea, but it was not put into practice until World War I. Have your child research why! Learn more here: www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0907862.html
- 14 Happy Pi Day! Compete with your children to see who can remember the most digits of pi. The winner earns a big piece of pie! For background, check this out: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pi_Day
- 15 Identify architecture in your neighborhood. What are some differences between homes and offices? Have your child design his or her own dream house.
- 16 What does the symbol of three arrows in an endless loop mean? What happens to recycled materials after they are collected? Discuss the recycling process with your child! Check out Baltimore County's recycling info -- www.baltimorecountymd.gov/agencies/pub
- 17 St. Patrick's Day is always March 17. What other holidays fall on the same date every year? Which holidays fall on different dates? Discuss these questions with your child! www.history.com/topics/st-patricks-day
- 18 Have your children out-grown any of their clothes? Collect hand-me-downs for younger brothers and sisters or donate old clothes to children in need.
- 19 Observe different forms of architecture with your child: Look for structures shaped like cubes, spheres, cones, and cylinders.
- 20 Happy first day of spring! Help your child create a nature notebook. Each day, draw a new object – a tree, a bird, etc. – and write a brief description of what the object looks like.
- 21 Blowing bubbles is fun! Make your bubble solution with 1/8 cup dishwashing liquid and one cup of water. Why do the bubbles eventually pop? Discuss with your child! Investigate the question here: www.hometrainingtools.com/a/bubbles
- 22 Created by the United Nations in 1993, World Water Day draws awareness to the importance of maintaining and drinking clean water. How can your family promote the United Nations' message? Find out by visiting www.unwater.org/worldwaterday/about/en/.

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- 23 An inventor used wallpaper cleaner to create modeling clay in 1956. The popular toy may be found in many classrooms today, but does your child know what it is? Ask to find out! Here's a hint: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Play-Doh>
- 24 There are more than one hundred million dogs and cats in the United States. Have your children take a poll among their friends to find out which animal is most popular.
- 25 Maryland Day celebrates the arrival of the first European settlers in the Province of Maryland in 1634. Can your child guess the names of their ships? Look here -- <http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/html/mday.html>
- 26 How do animals communicate? Have your children pretend to be their favorite animals and brainstorm ways to share thoughts without using words.
- 27 American sculptor Alexander Calder was born in 1898. He worked with many different materials and invented the mobile. Ask your children to help make a mobile with items at home. Here's more about Calder: <http://www.theartstory.org/artist-calder-alexander>.
- 28 Take a family nature walk. Collect leaves, husks, and other natural materials. Identify the fall foliage and create a nature collage.
- 29 There are only four words in the English language that end in "dous." One of them is tremendous. Can your child name the others? Stumped? Look here: <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us/words/what-english-words-end-in-dous>
- 30 Today is National Doctors' Day! Doctors play an important role in promoting our health and well-being. Remind your child to give thanks during his or her next doctor's appointment! www.cute-calendar.com/event/national-doctors-day/13030-usa.html
- 31 César Chávez Day honors César Chávez, a farm worker and Latino-American civil rights leader. Ask your child to research Chávez and other Latino-American civil rights leaders online. Learn more here: <http://www.biography.com/people/cesar-chavez-9245781>

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