

OFFICE OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TODAY'S FAMILY LEARNING TIP*

September 2015

- 1 September is National Attendance Awareness Month! Encourage your child to spread the word by creating a video public service announcement and submitting it to communications@bcps.org.
- 2 Is your child passionate about writing? Help him or her learn more about the publishing process by attending "Getting Published, Getting Read with Michael B. Tager" at LitMore, Baltimore's Center for the Literary Arts.
- 3 Knitting and crocheting are back! Visit Clay Pots in Baltimore for Knitting Circle, an evening event during which children ages 10 and up can learn how to create pieces that they can wear, using only a needle and yarn!
- 4 Has your child's school hosted its back-to-school night yet? Visit the school's website or call its main office to check and plan your visit. Remember, back to school involves you, too!
- 5 The Walters Art Museum is a great place to expose your child to a variety of art forms. Plan a trip with your family to see its "Gold of the Ancient Americas" collection, on display now through Oct. 11.
- 6 There's a lot to learn – and eat! – at the farmers' market! Visit Baltimore County's own farmers' markets with your family for a fun way to bond and pick up ingredients for meals this week.
- 7 Today, adults work an average of 8.7 hours each day. How many hours did they work daily during the 19th century? Have your child research Labor Day online to find out!
- 8 Ask your child what makes him or her curious. Then, instead of offering your knowledge about the subject, discuss ways that you two can learn more together.
- 9 Why is it important to develop good study habits? Ask your child to show you his or her school agenda each evening to ensure that all homework assignments are complete.
- 10 Conduct a science experiment with your child – build a model volcano, clean pennies or something else! Use the experience as an opportunity to teach your child about working together and learning from mistakes.
- 11 Though not a federal holiday, Patriot Day annually honors those who were injured or lost their lives 14 years ago on September 11. Encourage your children to show their respect by participating in a moment of silence.

*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 It's Baltimore County Day with the Orioles! Take your family out to the ball game for a fun way to bond – and give back! From each ticket purchased, \$5 goes to the Education Foundation of Baltimore County Public Schools.
- 13 Happy Grandparents' Day! Encourage your children to write letters to or create cards for their grandparents, thanking them for their love and support!
- 14 Does your child know what "Rosh Hashanah" means in Hebrew? It means "head of the year." Go online with your child and research other fun facts about Rosh Hashanah in celebration of the Jewish holiday.
- 15 Do your teenagers know how to be safe online? Discuss with them ways to protect themselves on social media. Invite younger children into the conversation by teaching them the benefits and dangers of using the Internet.
- 16 The Mayflower departed from England nearly 400 years ago on this date. Then what happened? Quiz your children to see if they know this aspect of America's history.
- 17 Constitution Day celebrates one of the nation's most important founding documents. Have your child write his or her own constitution from the perspective of someone living in the 21st century.
- 18 Have you signed up to be a volunteer in your child's school? Ask your child where volunteers might be needed in his or her school, then complete the training online to start dedicating your services!
- 19 Schoolyards aren't just fun places to play on weekdays; they're great places to keep your child active on the weekends, too! Stop by your child's school and turn exercising in the green space into a family outing!
- 20 Did you know that some 15 million Americans live with food allergies – and many of them unknowingly? Attend the FARE Walk for Food Allergy with your children to learn tips to help keep your family healthy and safe.
- 21 Where does your child study and complete homework assignments? Be sure that he or she has a clean, quiet space to work without distractions.
- 22 Yom Kippur begins tonight, but today, followers of the Jewish faith will celebrate with challah during their last meal before fasting. Encourage your child to learn more about challah and how it's made.

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- 23 What's in a healthy lunch? Replace fruit cups with fresh fruit, white bread with whole-wheat and juice with fruit-flavored water. Have your child help brainstorm ways to make breakfast and dinner healthier, too!
- 24 Has your child taken his or her first exam this school year yet? If so, discuss what went well and what he or she can do better next time. If not, share your best study strategies to help him or her prepare.
- 25 Today is Native Americans' Day. Native Americans were known for their hunting and gathering skills but also for being resourceful. Ask your child to brainstorm ways to use objects in nature to complete everyday tasks.
- 26 Johnny Appleseed was born on today's date more than 240 years ago. For what is he most famous? Discuss with your child the significance of his work while enjoying the fruit referenced in his name.
- 27 Has your family visited the Baltimore Book Festival yet? Today's the last day, so be sure to stop by to enjoy free readings, cooking demonstrations, walking tours and more!
- 28 Today marks the first day of Sukkot, a Jewish holiday observed five days after Yom Kippur each year. Why is it important to learn about cultures besides your own? See what your child thinks and compare ideas!
- 29 Do your children know Spanish or another world language? Encourage them to show you what they know by having them read, speak and write in the language.
- 30 One of the best ways to learn is through trial and error. Encourage your child to try something new – cooking, playing an instrument or something else! – and offer support when he or she is challenged.

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