

# Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

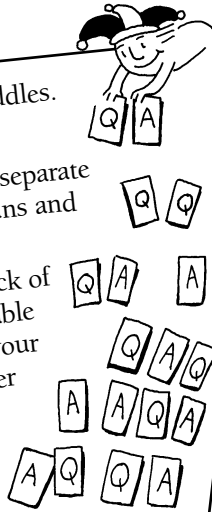
MAY 2010

## READING Riddle Me This

Reading and logical thinking are fun with these mixed-up riddles.

**Ingredients:** book of riddles, 20 index cards, pencils  
Have your youngster write five riddles and their answers on separate index cards, and you do the same. Example: What always runs and never walks, tells you something but never talks? A clock.

Write a Q on the back of each question and an A on the back of each answer. Turn the cards facedown on a table in five rows of four cards each. To play, let your child turn over a question card and an answer card. If they belong together, she takes both cards and gets another turn. If not, she turns them facedown, and it's your turn. Take turns flipping cards over until all the riddles are put back together again.



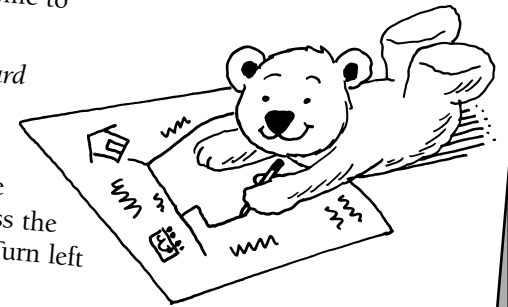
## GEOGRAPHY My Map

Your youngster can explore the world of maps by charting the route from home to school.

**Ingredients:** paper, pencil, poster board

Together, walk or drive from your house to your child's school. As you travel, have her write notes about the route. (Go right on Sterling Lane. Pass the supermarket. Cross over the bridge. Turn left onto Brook Road.)

When you get home, let your youngster draw a map of the route on poster board. Have her label each street and draw symbols on the map for each landmark. Examples: a house for home, a shopping cart for the supermarket, a school bus for the school.



## Refrigerator Poster

Just hang your *Recipes* poster on the refrigerator and sneak in an activity when you have a few minutes. These fun activities will help develop school success and positive behavior. Check off each box as you complete the "recipe."

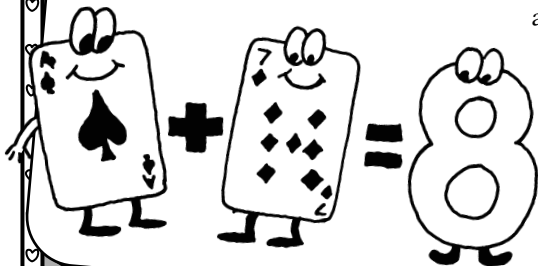
## MATH Math Sentences

Use a deck of cards to play this math game with your youngster.

**Ingredients:** 4 slips of paper, pencil, deck of cards with face cards removed

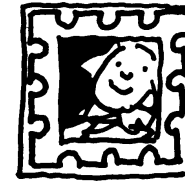
Let your child write +, -, x, and ÷ on four separate slips of paper and lay them facedown. Then, shuffle the playing cards and put them in a stack.

On each turn, a player chooses an operation slip of paper and two playing cards and uses them to make a math problem. For example, if your child draws an addition card and picks down the cards to make 1 + 7. Then, he says the answer (8) and sets the cards aside. The answer is his score. The player with the highest total after 10 rounds wins.



## GEOMETRY

How big is a square inch? Your child can find out by drawing a square with one-inch sides. Then, have him find different things around the house that could fit inside a square inch. Examples: safety pin, stamp, ring. How many can he find?



## HEALTH

Challenge your youngster to get at least an hour of physical activity every day. You can motivate her by having her write down each time she exercises and for how long ("Jumped rope for 10 minutes," "Played tag for 15 minutes"). Have her total the times at the end of each day.



# Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

## Character Corner

MAY 2010

### GRAMMAR Never-Ending Messages

Give your child practice with capitalization and punctuation by sending him a puzzling message.

**Ingredients:** paper, pencil

Write a five-sentence message to your youngster, but run all the sentences together with no capitalization or punctuation. *Example:* how are you today i am fine wow this is fun do you like this game

It's your youngster's job to correct the message. He should capitalize proper nouns and the first words of each sentence and insert correct punctuation marks (period, question mark, or exclamation point). *Example:* How are you today? I am fine. Wow! This is fun. Do you like this game? Then, let him write a never-ending message for you. He can check to see if you do it right.



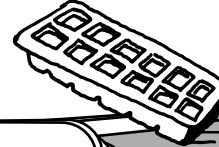
### READING

With your youngster, browse the entertainment section of the newspaper. Ask her to find several free or inexpensive events she'd like to attend (a carnival, a play, an outdoor concert), and choose one or two to do as a family. Have her write each event, time, and place in the proper square on a calendar.



### SCIENCE

Do some liquids freeze faster than others? Let your child fill half an ice cube tray with water and the other half with juice. Place the tray in the freezer, and have him check every 15 minutes. The water will freeze faster because the sugar in the juice slows down the freezing process.



### RESPONSIBILITY

Give your child a small notebook, and put her in charge of writing down items that family members need throughout the week (pencils, milk, envelopes). Take her along when you go shopping, and let her pick them out.



### HANDLING MISTAKES

Help your youngster see mistakes as opportunities to learn. When he makes a mistake, ask him what went wrong ("I forgot to take my homework to school"). Then, ask him what he could do differently next time ("Remember to put it in my backpack the night before").



### PERSEVERANCE

Teach your children perseverance by helping them make a "stick-to-it" stick. Cover a wooden ruler with paper. When a family member accomplishes a goal (learns a new song on the piano, memorizes the multiplication tables), he can initial and date the stick. How many goals can your family meet in a month?



### Congratulations!

We finished \_\_\_\_\_ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)

### MATH

Pick a number between 1 and 100 (say, 35). Ask your youngster to look around the house for numbers that are *greater than* the one you chose (79 in a catalog). Then, see how many numbers he can find that are *less than* the number you picked (8 on the microwave).



### LANGUAGE ARTS

Play a game of charades to help your child understand the meaning of verbs (action words). Have each person write three verbs (crawl, dribble, dance) on separate index cards and put them in a small box. Players take turns drawing a card and acting out the verb, and the other players try to guess what it is.

