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Get Your Child Ready for School

By Caroline G. Shaw

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Mom, Dad, play with your child.

Take out some paints, some paper and help your child discover colors. Mix colors as you name them. Paint shapes, paint animals with the shapes.

Take your child to the park. Talk about what you see. Show them boats in the bay or on the river, lake or creek. Go feed the ducks.

Go visit a farm and introduce your child to the cows, pigs, horses, kitties...whatever. Buy some farm produce and go home and make a salad or cook some veggies.

Bake with your child. Talk about measurement... 1 cup of this or that, ½ cup of that... 1 tbsp. of brown sugar, 1 tsp. of vanilla. Make something with cloth. Measure it first...perhaps a little pocket purse or pouch. Talk about which is heavier...a pencil or a toothpick, which is more...a drop of water or a cup of water.

Take them to the zoo and come home and make a book of all the animals you saw together. Find pics of them on the net and print to place in his/her book. <http://www.cpinternet.com/~sarah/rdr012.html>

Make letter cards...practice them with your child. Practice the sounds as well as the names of the letters. Make number cards and do the same.

Have library day...go to the library and pick a book to read with your child. Go to a second hand bookstore and buy some books for your child. Read the books over and over again. Ask questions about the story. Have your child retell the story. Have your child draw the story.

Buy some play money. Talk about pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. A penny is 1 cent, a nickel is 5 cents (etc.) Ask how many pennies are in a nickel. How many in a dime? How many coins make 12 cents, 13 cents (etc.)?

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Review shapes with your child ...have a shape of the week, number/letter of the day, color of the day, shape of the day.

Get a children's magazine and read the stories, do the activities with your child. Help your child direct a play with neighborhood friends. <http://www.parentinginformation.org/booksboxes.htm>

Hug your child, pray with your child at night, go on walks in the woods with your child. Go to the pool with your child. Love them and take time for them. They grow up quickly. My youngest is going into 10th grade!

Get Your Child Ready for School, From U.S. Dept. of Education:

<http://readyweb.crc.uiuc.edu/library/1992/getready/getready.html>

Caroline Shaw holds a B.S. degree from Duquesne University in Secondary Education, English. She is mom to six children, editor and publisher of the Online Magazine, "AMomsLove.com" Each issue contains informative articles for WAHMs, single moms, working moms, and more. She lives with her husband, three "still at home" children, a collie and three kitties in Western Pennsylvania. Her hobbies are writing, cooking, gardening, decorating and crafts.

A New School Year

By Kimberly Chastain

Depending on where you live school will be starting this month or next month. A new school year is usually exciting and scary at the same time. Most children won't admit it, but they are ready to get back to school and see their friends. As much as I love not having a rigid schedule in the summer, I do miss the structure of the school year. We get up later in the summer and go to bed later as well.

When you think of a new School Year what are your first thoughts? Back to school shopping for clothes and school supplies. A big transition from elementary to middle school, or to high school, even college. A new teacher who you heard is strict or not strict enough? There can often be lots of anxiety with a new school year for parents as well as children.

Can I offer a few suggestions for your back to school list? Remember whose children they are. Yes they are our children, but they are God's children. He cares about them and loves them more than we ever could. Pray for your children. Pray for their academics, choice of friends, study habits, and wisdom to make Godly choices. Pray for their teachers. If their teachers are not Christians, pray that God can use you to be an example to their teachers. Pray for the administrators in your child's school. Pray for the safety of your child and all the children at their school. Pray that your children will see a Godly example in you, with how you handle school difficulties or problems with your children. Begin praying with other mothers for their children as well. We don't have to carry the burden alone. Above all remember God is in control. I often have a difficult time remembering that principle.

Get Your Child Ready for School

In closing, God is a mighty God and he cares about our concerns. I often pray on the way to taking my children to school. I pray when my children are having difficulties with friends. God cares about everything in our lives and He truly cares about our children. My mother is a prayer warrior for my children and myself. May we all become prayer warriors for our children. Take your problems to Him and leave them there.

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Kimberly M. Chastain, MS, LMFT is the Christian Working Mom Coach and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who specializes in helping Christian women make the most of their lives. She is the author of the on-line course, "I Can't Say No" and Pearls of Encouragement for Christian Working Moms, a free e-book. If you suffer from "I Can't Say `No" Syndrome, visit Kimberly's site today for the details on an exciting email course that's sure to set you free!

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A New School Year

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How To Help Your Child With First Day Anxiety

Keep Preschoolers Cool about School

Help Your Child Succeed In School

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