

Parent Form Letters

Invite and encourage collaboration and cooperation between the school and the home.

These letters explain what the children are currently doing in the *Language for Learning* program and offer several suggestions for home activities.

The first letter provides a brief introduction to *Language for Learning* and should be sent to families when you implement the program in your classroom. The second, third, and fourth letters should be sent home when you begin lessons 40, 70, and 110, respectively. The last letter summarizes the language learning that has taken place during the year and serves as a reminder to continue this learning at home.



Dear Family,

Your child is beginning an important program called *Language for Learning*. This program will help your child build language skills needed to do well in school. We will be doing listening, speaking, and thinking activities, as well as listening to stories.

These are some of the things we will be learning during the next few weeks:

- name of the teacher and names of classmates
- names of the days of the week
- names of parts of the body
- words like *in*, *on*, *under*, and *over*

From time to time, we will send you a letter like this one. It will tell you what your child is doing in the *Language for Learning* program. It will also give you some ideas for helping your child at home.

Here are some things you can do with your child:

1. Ask your child to tell you about school projects and activities.
2. Look at family pictures together. Talk about the people in each picture and tell what they are doing.
3. Play *Follow the Leader*. Do simple actions that your child can copy. Say what you are doing (for example, "I'm taking off my shoe," "I'm putting my hand on top of my head," "I'm sitting on the couch"). Ask your child to copy each action and repeat the sentence. Then let your child be the leader.
4. Read to your child whenever possible. Go to the library. Ask your child to pick out books he or she would like. As you read a story, ask your child questions about what is going on in the story. Ask your child to tell about the pictures.

There are lots of ways you can help your child at home. Most important is to talk with your child—talk about school, talk about daily activities, talk about the television show you are watching, talk about what is going on in the neighborhood.

If you need more ideas or want information about your child's progress, please call the school. I'll be happy to talk with you.

Sincerely,

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Dear Family,

We have just completed the first 40 lessons in the *Language for Learning* program. Some of the things your child has learned are the name of the teacher and names of classmates, names of the days of the week, names of parts of the body, and words like *in*, *on*, *under*, and *over*.

New things we will be learning during the next few weeks are:

- names of shapes (square, circle, and so on)
- names of colors (red, blue, and so on)
- names of parts of things (flower= petals, stem, leaves, root, and so on)
- words that mean more than one (hands, dogs, and so on)
- what things are made of (metal, glass, plastic, and so on)

Here are some things you can do with your child at home to review what we've already learned:

1. Ask your child to name the days of the week. Make up a sentence about each day (for example, "On Monday, I go to school"). Ask your child to repeat the sentence.
2. Let your child help you in the kitchen. Talk about what you are doing as you work. Use words like *first*, *next*, *then*, and *last*.
3. Sing and act out songs such as "If You're Happy and You Know It, Clap Your Hands" and "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes."
4. Ask your child to name the parts of the body on a doll or an action figure.
5. Read to your child whenever possible. Go to the library. Ask your child to pick out books he or she would like. As you read a story, ask your child questions about what is going on in the story. Ask your child to tell about the pictures.

If you need more ideas or want information about your child's progress, please call the school. I'll be happy to talk with you.

Sincerely,

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Dear Family,

We have just completed the first 70 lessons in the *Language for Learning* program. Some of the things your child has learned are names of shapes, names of colors, names of parts of things, how to say a word that means more than one (hands, dogs, and so on) and what things are made of (metal, glass, plastic, and so on)

New things we will be learning during the next few weeks are:

- names of jobs, places, and things in nature
- names of the months of the year
- the words *some*, *all*, *none*, *and*, and *or*
- words that describe things

Here are some things you can do with your child at home to review what we've already learned:

1. Choose a shape and find things in your home that have this shape. For example, for *circle* you might find a plate, a clock face, a doorknob, a jar lid, and a button.
2. Play *I Spy* with colors. For example, choose an object in the room and say, "I spy something red." Ask your child to name red objects in the room until the object you chose is guessed. Then let your child choose an object, and play again.
3. Talk about the different parts of objects and how they are put together. For example, a chair has legs, a seat, and a back; a book has a front cover, a back cover, and pages in the middle.
4. Show your child more than one of a certain object (for example, a pair of shoes, three buttons, five spoons). Ask your child to give you the name for one object (shoe, button, spoon) and the name for more than one object (shoes, buttons, spoons).
5. Show your child something made of plastic. Ask your child, "What is this? What is it made of? How do you know? What do you use it for?" Then have your child find other objects made of plastic. Play the same game with things made of wood, metal, and glass.
6. Read to your child whenever possible. Go to the library. Ask your child to pick out books he or she would like. As you read a story, ask your child questions about what is going on in the story. Ask your child to tell about the pictures.

If you need more ideas or want information about your child's progress, please call the school. I'll be happy to talk with you.

Sincerely,

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Dear Family,

We have just completed 110 lessons in the *Language for Learning* program. Some of the things your child has learned are names of jobs, places, and things in nature, names of the months of the year, the words *some*, *all*, *and*, and *or*, and words that describe things.

New things we will be learning during the next few weeks are:

- names of the seasons
- words that tell about things that are the same or different
- words that tell *who*, *what*, *when*, and *where*

Here are some things you can do with your child at home to review what we've already learned:

1. Take a walk through your neighborhood. What kinds of jobs do people do there? Is there a clerk in a store? A bus driver? A police officer? A firefighter? A letter carrier? How many people doing different jobs can you find?
2. Ask your child to say the days of the week and the months of the year with you. Ask your child what day it is and what month it is. What day comes before this one? What day comes next week? What month comes before this one? What month comes next?
3. Play *None, Some, All*. Gather groups of things like milk jug lids, blocks, spoons, or buttons. Take turns giving and following directions such as "Give me *some* of the spoons. Give me *none* of the spoons. Give me *all* of the spoons."
4. Give your child choices in daily activities. Emphasize the word *or*. For example, "Do you want to play inside or outside? Do you want to eat a peanut butter or tuna sandwich?"
5. Give your child a mix of objects (spoons, buttons, toy cars, blocks, and so on). Ask your child to sort the objects into groups. Ask your child to tell about each group and why objects fit into that group.
6. Read to your child whenever possible. Go to the library. Ask your child to pick out books he or she would like. As you read a story, ask your child questions about what is going on in the story. Ask your child to tell about the pictures.

If you need more ideas or want information about your child's progress, please call the school. I'll be happy to talk with you.

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Dear Family,

Your child has just completed the *Language for Learning* program. The listening, speaking, and thinking activities in this program have helped your child build language skills needed to do well in school. Here are some things you can do at home to help your child continue to improve in language skills:

1. Ask your child to dress dolls or paper dolls for each season. What does a person wear for summer? Fall? Winter? Spring?
2. Play a game of *Same and Different*. Put two spoons, two forks, and two table knives on the table. Pick up a spoon. Ask your child to show you an object that is the same, then show you one that is different. Take turns. You can play this game with many other objects.
3. Take turns making up riddles about stories you know. Ask questions that start with *who*, *what*, *when*, and *where*. For example, in *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, "Who went to the house of the three bears? What did she do there? When did she leave? Where did the bears live?"
4. As you drive, ride, or walk through your neighborhood, talk about the sights, sounds, and smells around you.
5. Play games such as *Simon Says* or *Follow the Leader*. Take turns being the leader.
6. Talk about your child's day. "What did you do? How did you feel? What did you see? What did you have for lunch?"
7. Listen when your child talks. Say, "That's great. Tell me more."
8. Continue to read to your child whenever possible. Go to the library. Ask your child to pick out books he or she would like. As you read a story, ask your child questions about what is going on in the story. Ask your child to tell about the pictures. Remember, reading together is one of the most important things you can do with your child.

Your child has learned many important things this year. I want to thank you for working with your child at home. Please continue to help and encourage your child throughout the months ahead.

Sincerely,

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