

OPEN THE GATE

SPRING ISSUE



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Learning at Home Ideas for Teachers And Parents

By Lisa Van Gemert

Non-internet activities for learning at home

What's interesting is that the most effective learning experiences at home are just being mindful of daily life and seeing the learning in everyday experiences. I really learned this when I was homeschooling while we lived in Germany.

Here's what I mean:

Cooking:

Have children cook with you. Cooking is science and math and language arts and social studies. They can:

- Figure out how to double a recipe.
- Identify what kind of food it is (culture).
- Think about the process that is cooking the food. How much heat did it take? How long? Play around with the temperature and time – what happens if you cook it longer at a lower temperature?
- Have them rewrite the recipe to make it easier to follow.
- Have them record themselves making the recipe with you as if you were a cooking show.
- Let them go through cookbooks and choose some recipes to try.
- Have them create a month's menus and corresponding shopping list.

Home Management:

- Make your own cleaners.
- Test the bacteria in your house. Here's [a great article](#) on a few ways to do that. Then test with different cleaners for practical science!
- Try to find the most efficient ways to clean. Can you find a faster way to change the sheets? Can you test different dishwashing liquids? Can you

try different ways of cleaning baseboards (foam paint brush, dust cloth, dryer sheet) and compare which works best?

- Do a big organizing project on the garage or attic or closet, taking time to take measurements.
- Create a photo catalog of the entire house. Have them take photos of everything in every room. It sounds crazy, but it really gives you a feel for how much there is.
- Have them create a catalog of all of their toys, including a photo. Note how long they've had it, how often they play with it, why they think it's fun, how it benefits them, etc.
- If they're old enough, have them engage with household finance. Our kids were very involved in our family finances, and teaching them about how much of the household budget goes to different areas is helpful. Have them create a budget and even do pie charts of where the money goes. Caveat: If the family is in financial crisis, don't do this.

Games:

- Board games are the bomb. They build relationships, teach important social skills, and, if you pick the right (?) game, can last for hours (days that feel like years...).
- Consider playing War, but not letting the child take the hand unless they can tell you by how much they won. Here are the [rules for War](#).
- Learn a new card game.
- Learn how to play a game that is complicated that you don't normally have time to play.



Editor's Note

RECENTLY WE HAD A GATE staff meeting in which we discussed how GT services would be provided. While there are many uncertainties as we move ahead, one thing was made clear, our GATE staff is ready to support the social and emotional needs of this special population. If for any reason you or your child is needing support, please feel free to contact our GATE staff. We would love to answer your questions, and support you and your child through these uncertain times. Below is a list of all GT staff, along with their email contact information.

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Learning at Home Resources: Cont...

Games Cont...

- *Play two games simultaneously.
- *Complete puzzles together. Try different methods (Edge first? Sections first?). Time yourself completing a puzzle, then take it apart and time the solving again. How much faster were you? Why do you think you were faster? Repeat. Compare the rate at which your speed is increasing. Are you getting faster at the same rate, or is it

slowing down/speeding up?

Reading:

You thought I'd pick this first, didn't you? It's the best and easiest of all at-home analog activities.

In addition to straight up reading, consider having kids:

- *Organize the home's books
- *Create a reading plan for someone in the family
- *Write book reviews (see my [how-to's for that](#))
- *Try a completely

different genre

*Re-read a favorite from much earlier

*Read to you while you do something that doesn't require thinking

Outside

If you're blessed with a yard or garden, the possibilities are endless.

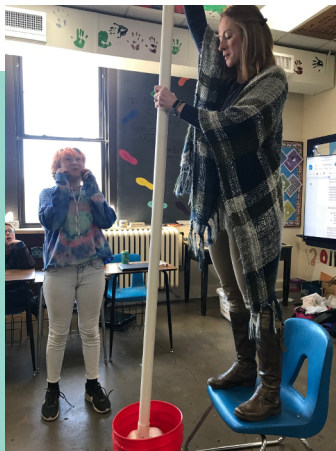
*Do a quick search of "backyard science activities with kids" and I'll see you again in five years.

Kids can obviously help to maintain the yard, but they can also:

*Create a catalog of the plants growing.

For full article visit:

<http://www.giftedguru.com/learning-at-home/>



CCMS students were busy with a space STEM challenge. Students worked together to build a protective space suit for their balloon that would protect it from space trash.

CCHS students toured 4 universities in 2 days. CU, CSU, UNC, & Colorado School of Mines