

# Castlewood Elementary Connection

OCTOBER 2015



## School Hours:

8:10 - 3:30

Preschool  
8:10 - 11:45

## Principal Thoughts & Information

**REMINDER: If you prefer to receive your monthly newsletter via email instead of receiving a paper copy, please email me at [heather.eide@k12.sd.us](mailto:heather.eide@k12.sd.us). Thank you!**

As many of you know, Mrs. Bjerke our music teacher is battling cancer. The music parents will be selling sunglasses to support Mrs. Bjerke during her upcoming surgery and continuing treatments throughout the rest of the school year. There is a pink sheet attached to this newsletter. Please see the sheet for additional information regarding how you can help out. Thanks!

Castlewood PTO will be meeting for the 1st time on Monday, November 9th at 5:30. If you would like to join the group, please email me at [heather.eide@k12.sd.us](mailto:heather.eide@k12.sd.us) or call me at (605) 793-2351. If you were previously on the email list, you will already be included in all emails and meeting notices. The purpose of our Castlewood PTO is to promote open communication and understanding between the parents and the staff of Castlewood Elementary School. Working together will enhance and maximize the education of every child while aiding them in reaching their highest potential. Please consider being part of our team!

### Homecoming

Homecoming is Friday, October 9th. We want to encourage you to participate in the week's events. During the week at school, we will work hard to continue to have learning occur, even though it can get to be an exciting time. In order for all students to be able to focus and learn, we ask that students do not color their hair or paint their faces. Those things can cause a distraction to the learning environment.

Please remind your child(ren) to wear blue and gold or "Warrior Wear" on Friday for the parade.

The parade starts at 1:00. There is a pep rally following the parade. When the pep rally is over, the students will return to the school and be dismissed from there at around 2:15. Buses will run. Enjoy the 2015 Homecoming festivities!

### The NED Show is coming to Castlewood!!

The NED Show is a 45 minute school-wide character education assembly. NED is a loveable cartoon character whose name is an acronym for **Never give up, Encourage others, and Do your best.** The Goal of the NED show is to:

- ★ Improve Student Behavior
- ★ Strengthen Test Scores
- ★ Enrich Instructional Time
- ★ Increase Academic Achievement

***Picture Retake Day***  
***Picture Retake Day is scheduled for Thursday, October 29th. We will begin right away for NTHS students at 7:45 a.m. and plan to be finished by 9:00 a.m. at the latest.***

## Special Dates:

- **Friday, October 2**  
1st Quarter Midterm
- **Friday, October 9**  
Homecoming Parade & Pep Rally 1:00 - dismissal from school @ approximately 2:15
- **Monday, October 12**  
No School - Native American Day  
Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, October 13**  
Eastern Dakota Junior Music Festival - 6th Grade Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00 - 8:00
- **Wednesday, October 14**  
2:00 NED Show - K - 6
- **Saturday, October 17**  
Punt, Pass & Kick Sectionals @ 10:00 am - football field
- **Monday, October 19**  
Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00 - 8:00
- **Wednesday, October 28**  
Flu Shot Clinic @ school 12:30 - 3:00 & 3:00 - 5:00 for community members
- **Thursday, October 29**  
Picture Retake Day
- **Saturday, October 31**  
Booster Club Halloween Party - south gym - 3:00-4:00 for all children 6th grade and younger



Conferences are coming up quickly. We will hold parent-teacher conferences on Tuesday, October 13th and Monday, October 19th from 4:00 — 8:00 both evenings. Studies have shown that children whose parents are involved in their education do better in school. Parent-teacher conferences are one way for you to get involved. A parent-teacher conference is an opportunity for both you and your child's teacher to get a better perspective on your child's educational and emotional growth. You and the teacher are a team working toward one goal—the well-being of your child. Conferences are short, so in order to maximize your time it is best to be prepared ahead of time. Please be on time. The conference schedule is tight! If something comes up, notify the teacher as soon as possible.

Here are some tips for getting the most out of your conference:

BEFORE YOU GO	DURING THE CONFERENCE	AFTER THE CONFERENCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find out how your child feels about school - favorite &amp; least favorite subject</li> <li>Review your child's midterms which will be coming home next week</li> <li>Make a list of anything you want to tell the teacher. (This could be information to help the teacher better understand your child, or any problems from outside of school that may be affecting your child.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you don't understand an educational term, don't hesitate to ask what it means. (We sometimes forget we speak our own language.)</li> <li>Ask about homework and what role you should take.</li> <li>Ask how your child is adjusting socially.</li> <li>Discuss how to resolve any problems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up on all suggestions the teacher makes.</li> <li>Keep track of your child's progress with the use of Campus.</li> <li>Regularly review classwork, homework, and tests.</li> <li>Keep in touch with your child's teacher. You do not need to wait until a formal conference to express concerns.</li> </ul>

- Questions you may want to ask the teacher:
- How is my child doing in all subjects?
  - What are my child's strengths? In what subject does my child need help?
  - Do I need to meet with any of my child's other teachers?
  - How is my child's attention span? Does my child pay attention in class?
  - How can I help my child do better in school?

### Birthday Invites

**Please do not bring birthday invitations to school to hand out unless the entire class is being invited or if all girls or boys in a class are asked to attend. If some children receive invites and others do not, it can cause hurt feelings and disagreements.**



### Sunny D Labels



*We are collecting Sunny D labels. Once a classroom has collected 20 labels, they can redeem them for 20 free, good quality books from Sunny D. For this program, Sunny D actually partners with Scholastic. This means the books each classroom receives are grade appropriate and often times books "hot off the press." We only have until November 30th to get our labels postmarked. However Sunny D has offered this same program in the past and will probably continue to do so in the future. This means we can continue to collect UPC codes all year and be ahead next year.*

### Attendance

So much of our students' learning takes place during instruction and group/partner discussions. There are valuable lessons that we are not able to recreate for absent students. It is vital that your child be in school daily unless seriously ill or absent due to a family emergency. Thank you for helping to ensure that your child receives as much out of his/her educational career as possible by getting your child to school on time daily.

### Flu Shot Clinic

The Flu Shot Clinic will be held at the school from 12:30-3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28th. The vaccination is free to children from 6 months to 18 years of age. There will be a community session held from 3:00 - 5:00 pm as well. Parents/guardians are encouraged to be there when the vaccine is administered. However, if you would like your child to receive the vaccine but are unable to attend, there are parent consent forms available in the school office. There is a short letter and information regarding the flu shot clinic attached to the newsletter.



## Castlewood School District - Master Calendar



October 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 DVC Oral Interp at Arlington at 9:00	2 1st quarter mid-term  Chester Marching Band Festival  FB - by week (no game)	3 American Lit./One-Act Play field trip to Mpls - Nature - 9:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.
4	5 Coronation at 8:00 p.m.  JH FB vs Deuel and Estelline (H) begins at 4:00  LCC Cross Country at DeSmet - 4:00  Oral Interp at Milbank	6 VB vs Florence/Henry (H) - 7th at 4:00, 8th at 5:00, JV at 6:30	7 CEO meets at 3:35  DVC Cross Country at White - 2:00	8 All State Choir prep day at Brookings  Bookmobile 9:00-1:30  Oral Interp at Arlington  VB at Arlington - 7th at 4:00, 8th at 5:00, JV at 6:30	9 FB vs Colman/Egan (H) - 7:00 p.m. Castlewood Homecoming  Home-coming Parade - 1:00, pep rally to follow on west end of Main St., dismiss at approx. 2:15	10
11	12 Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.  JH/JV FB vs Colman/Egan (H) at 4:00  No school / No NTHS - Columbus Day	13 Conferences 4:00-8:00  Eastern Dakota Junior Music Festival at Lake Preston	14 Elementary Staff Meeting at 3:35  NED presentation at 2:00 (gr. K-6)  Region Cross Country meet at Webster - 2:30 p.m.  Staff Meetings at 7:50 & 8:30	15 VB vs Deubrook (H) - 7th at 4:00, 8th at 5:00, JV at 6:30	16 FB vs Elkton/Lake Benton at Elkton - 7:00 p.m.	17 PP&K Sectional at 10:00 a.m. - Football field  VB DVC Tourney at White - begins at 9:00
18	19 Conferences 4:00-8:00  JH/JV FB at Elkton - 4:00	20 VB at Estelline - 7th at 4:00, 8th at 5:00, JV at 6:00	21 ASVAB Test for juniors at 12:15, NCRC Test for seniors at 12:15	22 FB vs Arlington/Lake Preston (H) - JH at 5:00, V at 7:00 p.m.	23 VB vs ORR at Oldham - 1 JH game at 5:00, JV at 6:30	24 Marching Band to Hobo Days at Brookings  State Cross Country Meet at Sioux Falls - time tba
25	26 Oral Interp Fall Festival at Brookings  VB vs Elkton/Lake Benton (H) - 1 JH game at 5:00, JV at 6:30 (Parents Night for VB & Cross Country)	27 FB Play-offs	28 Flu Shot Clinic at the school 12:30-3:00 for students & 3:00-5:00 for all community members	29 Oral Interp Scrimmage at Castlewood  Picture Re-takes	30 All State Chorus at Rapid City	31 All State Chorus at Rapid City  Booster Club Halloween Party 3:00-4:00 at the school (all children 6th grade and younger are welcome)

## Castlewood School District - Lunch Menu

October 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Breakfast - Waffles and sausage  Lunch - Fish, mashed potatoes, steamed carrots, bread, mixed salad, applesauce	2 Breakfast - Breakfast sticks  Lunch - Ham patties on WG bun, cheese sauce, sweet potato fries, peaches, applesauce	3
4	5 Breakfast - Cheese omelet  Lunch - Chicken wraps, lettuce, black beans, pineapple, oranges, fresh veggies and Ranch	6 Breakfast - Egg and cheese biscuit  Lunch - Spaghetti, bread sticks, green beans, pears, apples, fresh veggies and Ranch	7 Breakfast - Breakfast bars  Lunch - Cubed chicken and gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, peaches, oranges	8 Breakfast - Pancakes and sausage  Lunch - Cheese pizza, lettuce, mandarin oranges, apples, chocolate chip cookie	9 Breakfast - Cinnamon roll  Lunch - BBQs on wg bun, chips, fruit, and relishes	10
11 National School Lunch Week Oct. 12-16	12 No School - Columbus Day	13 Breakfast - Burritos  Lunch - Hamburger gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, mixed salad, pears, oranges	14 Breakfast - Scrambled eggs and ham  Lunch - Tuna wiggle, crackers, peanut butter bread, corn, mandarin oranges, apples	15 Breakfast - Egg and sausage sandwich  Lunch - Taco burgers, lettuce, black bean salad, refried beans, applesauce, oranges	16 Breakfast - Coffee cake  Lunch - Pork chops, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread, peaches, apples	17
18	19 Breakfast - French toast sticks  Lunch - Beef tacos, refried beans, lettuce, pears, bananas, fresh veggies and Ranch	20 Breakfast - Biscuits and gravy  Lunch - Chicken patties on WG bun, vegetable salad, applesauce, lettuce, oranges	21 Breakfast - Egg McMuffin  Lunch - Stromboli, baked beans, cooked carrots, peaches, apples, fresh veggies and Ranch	22 Breakfast - Waffles and sausage  Lunch - Hot dog on WG bun, tri tator, lettuce, fruit cocktail, oranges	23 Breakfast - Cereal bar  Lunch - Quesadillas, lettuce, mandarin oranges, apples, rainbow sherbet	24
25	26 Breakfast - Breakfast stick  Lunch - Teriyaki chicken, rice, corn, pineapple, bananas, bread, fresh veggies and Ranch	27 Breakfast - Egg and cheese biscuit  Lunch - Chili, crackers, cinnamon roll, pears, oranges	28 Breakfast - Cheese omelet  Lunch - Chicken strips, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread, peaches, apples	29 Breakfast - Pancakes and sausage  Lunch - BBQ on wg bun, sweet potato fries, steamed broccoli, fruit cocktail, oranges	30 Breakfast - Cinnamon roll  Lunch - Pepperoni pizza, mixed salad, lettuce, mandarin oranges, apple, chocolate chip cookie	31

**October 1, 2015**

**RE:** Influenza Vaccination Clinic

The South Dakota Department of Health is again offering free seasonal influenza vaccines to all children 6 months through 18 years of age. Adults may receive a flu shot for \$25. We will also bill Medicare and Medicaid.

Vaccinating children helps protect them from serious influenza illness and complications, and decreases the spread of influenza in the community as children are often the biggest spreaders of influenza to adults and other children.

A flu clinic for school-age children will be held at the **Castlewood School** on Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Students in school with signed consent forms will begin getting immunizations at 12:30 pm. The state is supplying the vaccine free of charge and there will be no administration fee at the school-based clinic for anyone between the ages of 6 months and 18 years. Community members are welcome to come to the school between 3:00 & 5:00 pm to receive a vaccine at the cost of \$25.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to come to the clinic to be with their child when the vaccine is administered. If you would like your child to receive the vaccine but you are unable to attend the clinic, please complete the following:

- Review the Vaccine Information Statement carefully – keep for future reference.
- Complete the 2015-2016 Influenza Consent Form.
- Return the completed consent form to the school by Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Based on a child's history of receiving flu vaccine in the past several years, children age 8 and younger may need 2 doses of vaccine this year separated by 4 weeks.

If you have questions about the vaccine or the scheduled clinic, please contact **Hamlin County Health Office** at **605-783-3681**.

## VACCINE INFORMATION STATEMENT

# Influenza (Flu) Vaccine (Inactivated or Recombinant): *What you need to know*

Many Vaccine Information Statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See [www.immunize.org/vis](http://www.immunize.org/vis)

Hojas de información sobre vacunas están disponibles en español y en muchos otros idiomas. Visite [www.immunize.org/vis](http://www.immunize.org/vis)

### 1 Why get vaccinated?

Influenza (“flu”) is a contagious disease that spreads around the United States every year, usually between October and May.

Flu is caused by influenza viruses, and is spread mainly by coughing, sneezing, and close contact.

Anyone can get flu. Flu strikes suddenly and can last several days. Symptoms vary by age, but can include:

- fever/chills
- sore throat
- muscle aches
- fatigue
- cough
- headache
- runny or stuffy nose

Flu can also lead to pneumonia and blood infections, and cause diarrhea and seizures in children. If you have a medical condition, such as heart or lung disease, flu can make it worse.

Flu is more dangerous for some people. Infants and young children, people 65 years of age and older, pregnant women, and people with certain health conditions or a weakened immune system are at greatest risk.

Each year **thousands of people in the United States die from flu**, and many more are hospitalized.

**Flu vaccine can:**

- keep you from getting flu,
- make flu less severe if you do get it, and
- keep you from spreading flu to your family and other people.

### 2 Inactivated and recombinant flu vaccines

A dose of flu vaccine is recommended every flu season. Children 6 months through 8 years of age may need two doses during the same flu season. Everyone else needs only one dose each flu season.

Some inactivated flu vaccines contain a very small amount of a mercury-based preservative called thimerosal. Studies have not shown thimerosal in vaccines to be harmful, but flu vaccines that do not contain thimerosal are available.

There is no live flu virus in flu shots. **They cannot cause the flu.**

There are many flu viruses, and they are always changing. Each year a new flu vaccine is made to protect against three or four viruses that are likely to cause disease in the upcoming flu season. But even when the vaccine doesn't exactly match these viruses, it may still provide some protection.

Flu vaccine cannot prevent:

- flu that is caused by a virus not covered by the vaccine, or
- illnesses that look like flu but are not.

It takes about 2 weeks for protection to develop after vaccination, and protection lasts through the flu season.

### 3 Some people should not get this vaccine

Tell the person who is giving you the vaccine:

- **If you have any severe, life-threatening allergies.**  
If you ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction after a dose of flu vaccine, or have a severe allergy to any part of this vaccine, you may be advised not to get vaccinated. Most, but not all, types of flu vaccine contain a small amount of egg protein.
- **If you ever had Guillain-Barré Syndrome (also called GBS).**  
Some people with a history of GBS should not get this vaccine. This should be discussed with your doctor.
- **If you are not feeling well.**  
It is usually okay to get flu vaccine when you have a mild illness, but you might be asked to come back when you feel better.



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

## 4 Risks of a vaccine reaction

With any medicine, including vaccines, there is a chance of reactions. These are usually mild and go away on their own, but serious reactions are also possible.

Most people who get a flu shot do not have any problems with it.

**Minor problems** following a flu shot include:

- soreness, redness, or swelling where the shot was given
- hoarseness
- sore, red or itchy eyes
- cough
- fever
- aches
- headache
- itching
- fatigue

If these problems occur, they usually begin soon after the shot and last 1 or 2 days.

**More serious problems** following a flu shot can include the following:

- There may be a small increased risk of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) after inactivated flu vaccine. This risk has been estimated at 1 or 2 additional cases per million people vaccinated. This is much lower than the risk of severe complications from flu, which can be prevented by flu vaccine.
- Young children who get the flu shot along with pneumococcal vaccine (PCV13) and/or DTaP vaccine at the same time might be slightly more likely to have a seizure caused by fever. Ask your doctor for more information. Tell your doctor if a child who is getting flu vaccine has ever had a seizure.

**Problems that could happen after any injected vaccine:**

- People sometimes faint after a medical procedure, including vaccination. Sitting or lying down for about 15 minutes can help prevent fainting, and injuries caused by a fall. Tell your doctor if you feel dizzy, or have vision changes or ringing in the ears.
- Some people get severe pain in the shoulder and have difficulty moving the arm where a shot was given. This happens very rarely.
- Any medication can cause a severe allergic reaction. Such reactions from a vaccine are very rare, estimated at about 1 in a million doses, and would happen within a few minutes to a few hours after the vaccination.

As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a serious injury or death.

The safety of vaccines is always being monitored. For more information, visit: [www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/)

## 5 What if there is a serious reaction?

**What should I look for?**

- Look for anything that concerns you, such as signs of a severe allergic reaction, very high fever, or unusual behavior.

Signs of a severe allergic reaction can include hives, swelling of the face and throat, difficulty breathing, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, and weakness. These would start a few minutes to a few hours after the vaccination.

**What should I do?**

- If you think it is a severe allergic reaction or other emergency that can't wait, call 9-1-1 and get the person to the nearest hospital. Otherwise, call your doctor.
- Reactions should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Your doctor should file this report, or you can do it yourself through the VAERS web site at [www.vaers.hhs.gov](http://www.vaers.hhs.gov), or by calling 1-800-822-7967.

*VAERS does not give medical advice.*

## 6 The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) is a federal program that was created to compensate people who may have been injured by certain vaccines.

Persons who believe they may have been injured by a vaccine can learn about the program and about filing a claim by calling 1-800-338-2382 or visiting the VICP website at [www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation](http://www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation). There is a time limit to file a claim for compensation.

## 7 How can I learn more?

- Ask your healthcare provider. He or she can give you the vaccine package insert or suggest other sources of information.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
  - Call 1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO) or
  - Visit CDC's website at [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)

### Vaccine Information Statement Inactivated Influenza Vaccine

08/07/2015

42 U.S.C. § 300aa-26

Office Use Only



# Home & School

Working Together for School Success

## CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

October 2015

Castlewood Elementary School  
Ms. Heather Eide



### SHORT NOTES

#### Enjoy poetry

It's fun to think about what a poem might mean. Let your youngster check out a volume of poetry from the library, and take turns reading aloud from it. Talk about what the poet could be saying. Your child will work on reading comprehension as she discovers the joy of poetry.

#### Support for special needs

If your youngster struggles with friendships because of a disability, a social skills group may help. He'll practice strategies like starting conversations, listening to what others say, and waiting his turn to speak. Plus, he might make friends he can get together with outside of the group. *Tip:* Ask your child's school counselor, doctor, or therapist to recommend a group.

#### Promote self-confidence

Nothing builds success like success itself, so give your youngster plenty of chances to shine. Let her pursue her interests—even if they're not what you would have chosen for her. Or encourage her to learn a new hobby. Feeling capable is a great confidence booster.

#### Worth quoting

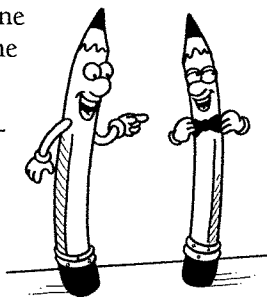
"Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm."

Abraham Lincoln

### JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** What did one pencil say to the other?

**A:** You're looking sharp!



## Positive attention = positive behavior

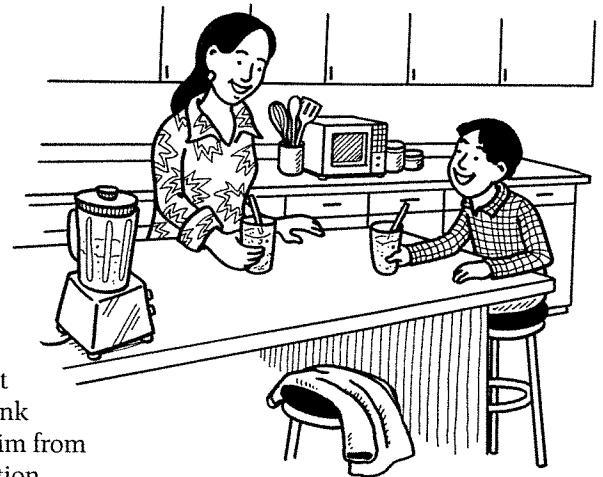
A little attention goes a long way toward helping your child behave well. Here are loving ways to inspire better behavior.

#### Announce a "time-in"

It's the "opposite" of a time-out—you and your youngster take a short break together *before* a situation where he tends to misbehave. During your time-in, you might color, play a quick game, or drink smoothies. This may prevent him from acting out to get negative attention.

#### Be playful

Pretending or being silly can make things go more smoothly. For example, to prevent your child from dragging his feet while getting ready for school, you could say, "Let's pretend we're astronauts. T-minus 10 minutes to blastoff!" Your playful discipline may not work every time, but your youngster just might discover that it's fun to cooperate.



#### Inspire a turnaround

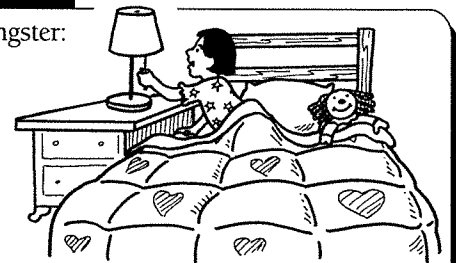
Steer your child toward better behavior while you run errands by giving him jobs to do. In a store, you could say, "Okay, you're the leader. Can you find the garden department?" Or at the bank, have him count the coins while you count the bills. He'll feel important—and be less likely to get bored and misbehave. ♥

### Early to bed, ready to learn

Share this interesting fact with your youngster:

While she's asleep, her brain is busy organizing and storing information she has learned. Use these guidelines to help her get a good night's sleep and improve learning and memory:

- Elementary school students need 9–11 hours of sleep—experts recommend a range because some kids require more sleep than others. If your child has a hard time waking up or feels drowsy in school, move to an earlier bedtime.
- The light from a computer (or any screen) can prevent your youngster from winding down. Have her turn off anything with a screen at least an hour before bed. ♥



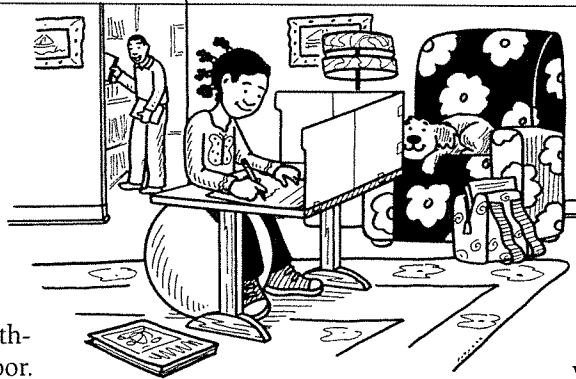


# Hints for homework time

Make homework more pleasant for your youngster with these ideas for starting out strong and staying on task.

**Get comfortable.** Some children concentrate best by sitting at a desk, while others do better sprawled on a bed or the floor. Kids who tend to fidget might think better while balancing on a big exercise ball. Let your child experiment to see what she prefers. Then, she'll be able to focus on her work—not on getting comfortable.

**Get focused.** Your youngster could work in her room, away from siblings and the TV. If she shares a room or likes doing



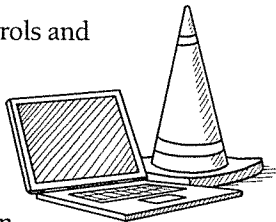
homework in the kitchen or living room, help her set up a file-folder “cubicle” to block out distractions. She should staple together file folders (long edge to long edge) and stand them up to block off her work area. *Idea:* Have her write helpful information on the sides facing her, such as math facts or words she frequently misspells.

**Get started.** Sometimes beginning her homework is the hardest part. Encourage your child to start with an easier assignment—the satisfaction she feels from finishing it may give her momentum to tackle more challenging work. Or she could tell herself that if she completes one subject, she can take a break to ride her scooter or call a friend.♥

## Q & A How to be careful online

**Q:** My son is just starting to use the Internet. We set up “parental controls,” but I know they’re not perfect. Other than watching him every second, what can I do to help him stay safe online?

**A:** Parental controls and supervision are important, but it’s also a good idea to teach your son habits to use on his own.



First, explain that “real life” safety rules apply online. For instance, he shouldn’t talk to strangers or go places that you haven’t approved. When he wants to visit a new website, he needs to let you know so you can make sure it’s appropriate. Keep in mind that sites with user comments or chat features usually aren’t good choices because they allow strangers to post or to talk to him.

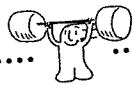
Finally, just as in real life, he should tell you right away if a stranger tries to contact him or if he sees something confusing or upsetting.♥

### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators,  
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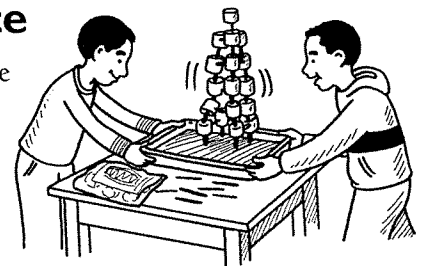


## ACTIVITY CORNER

### Shaky science

Can your child create a building strong enough to withstand an “earthquake”? With this activity, he will practice thinking like an engineer.

1. Together, prepare an 8½ x 11 pan of gelatin dessert. Cover and refrigerate overnight, until set.
2. Have your youngster connect toothpicks with marshmallows to create a building that rises out of the gelatin.
3. Grasping opposite ends of the pan, gently shake it back and forth to create an earthquake. Does his building tumble, or do pieces fall off? He can redesign and test again. Which designs work best?
4. Talk about how engineers might make earthquake-proof buildings. For example, a low, wide building may fare better than a tall, narrow one. Also, which shapes (squares, rectangles, triangles) make the base or walls stronger?♥



## PARENT TO PARENT

### Fun with family photos

My daughter Annabelle loves storytelling. She often uses her imagination to act out tales with her miniature people and animal figures. When I heard her naming them after our family members and pets, I had an idea.

We gathered family photos, including ones with her grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Then, I helped her flatten empty pasta and cracker boxes and glue photos to them. She cut out around each person

and pet and stuck the cardboard figures in globs of play dough to make them stand up.

Now Annabelle likes to act out family stories using the figures. She reenacts beach vacations, holiday meals, and more. Sometimes we play along with her,

each pretending to be a different person. It’s a great way to build her language skills—

and to “spend time” with relatives we don’t see often.♥

