

Reading While Road Tripping!

Highlighted by Go Baby's Summer 2007 E-newsletter

Your child can only watch so many hours of DVD's in the car. And you only have patience for so many rounds of your child's favorite songs. As an alternative, try out the following interactive games that will foster your child's literacy development, keep both of you engaged, and don't require materials that cost more than a dollar!

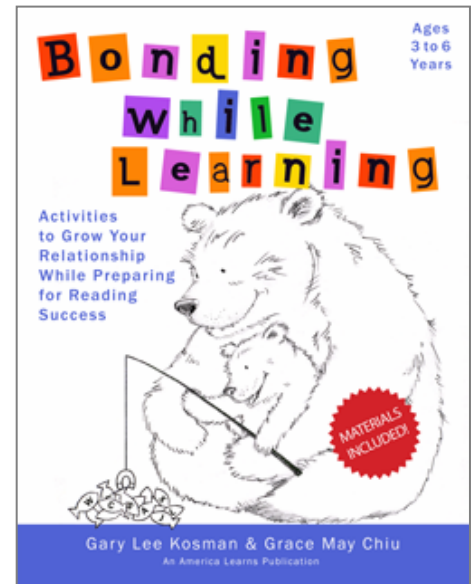
AN ACTIVITY TO REINFORCE THE ALPHABET

Alphabet Safari

As you zoom through the countryside or slouch through a freeway traffic jam, use this activity to help your child identify letters and discover that letters are all around her.

What to do

As you're driving, point out examples of how letter formations can be found everywhere. The letter O can be found on a streetlight. The letter V can be seen upside-down on some a-framed rooftops. After you point out some formations, ask your children to do the same. If there's more than one child in the car, turn this into a little competition by having them keep track of how many formations they each see.



AN ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN LEARNING TO READ WORDS

Word Searching on the Road

Use this activity if your child is on the verge of reading and writing. It offers them the opportunity to hear, say and talk about words and their uses in everyday life. Children are ready for this activity when they have learned to read and write most of their letters.

What to do

Create a stack of cards with short words that you keep in the car. When you're driving, hand your child a card and ask them to find that word. Celebrate when they find it! If your child mispronounces the word when he calls it out, when you celebrate, say the word correctly and try to do so in a sentence so you can reinforce how the word should be used.

A RHYMING ACTIVITY FOR THE LUNCH-TIME DRIVING BREAK

Draw Me a Rhyme!

Use this activity to develop your child's rhyming skills and her phonemic awareness (the ability to distinguish sounds that make up words). This could also be a great way to talk about everything you've done on any given day.

What to do

When you're out to eat and are waiting for food, grab a napkin and a pen and tell your child that you're going to draw a picture together. Say that you're going to come up with some rhymes about something, but that you'll leave the last word out. Your child will then come up with a rhyming word to fill in "the blank" and will then draw that object. So let's say you're going to create some rhymes about an ape you saw at the zoo. You may say, "When drawing an ape, it is SAID, always start with his big, round ____." Your child will then draw a HEAD or any other rhyming body part she names. This is also a great game for siblings to play with one another.

Want more ideas? Pick up America Learns' newest publication, *Bonding While Learning*, before you head out on your next trip! Do so at Amazon, Barnes & Noble or at

<http://americalearns.net/families.htm>.