

Growing Strong Learners at Home

**Using What We Already Have in the
Canyon**

Parent Workshop

February 20, 2026

1:00-2:00



Our Purpose Today

- Build on family strengths
- Support learning using everyday resources
- Share simple literacy and math strategies
- Encourage confidence and consistency at home

You are your child's first teacher!

Think of one way your
child learns at home.

Type it in the chat.

Share ideas.

Learning Is Everywhere

- Talking and listening
- Helping with chores
- Cooking and daily routines
- Exploring nature and the Canyon
- Sharing family stories

Where does your child



Our Strengths as Families

- Teaching responsibility through daily life
- Passing down stories and traditions
- Using home language as a strength
- Learning together across generations



Think of a family story that you share with your kids? Type one word that reminds you of a story you of that story.



Passing Down Stories Helps Children Learn

When you share stories with your child, they are learning to:



✓ **Listen** and understand

✓ **Learn** new words

✓ Remember and retell ideas

✓ **Talk** clearly and confidently



✓ **Understand** stories they read later



✓ **Talk** clearly and confidently



✓ **Understand** stories they read later

Your stories matter.

Talking and sharing stories at home helps children become strong readers

The Story of the Green Crayon



Use First, Next, Last

Retell books, shows, or daily events

Let children draw and explain their stories

First → Next → Last



What happened next?



Building Vocabulary at Home

- Talk about objects in the home
- Label items in English and home language
- Explain what objects are used for





A **trifecta** of marshmallow perfection.
My son Kaleb!



Find any objective
around you right
now. How would
you talk about it?



Everyday Conversations

- Ask open-ended questions
- Encourage children to explain their thinking
- Listen and respond with interest

Would you rather questions are a great conversation starter!
My kids are still debating if an elf or leprechaun would win in an ultimate showdown.



Reading Is Everywhere



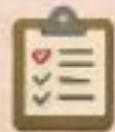
- Signs and labels
- Recipes and lists
- Game directions and announcements

- What is one game your family plays?
What is something you cook together?

What is a family game that you play? What math and reading skills do you learn from it? My family loves "Ticket to Ride".

Learning Through Chores at Home

Reading & Language Skills



Reading labels, lists, and directions

Learning new vocabulary (clean, sort, measure, organize)



Following multi-step instructions

Talking through tasks and asking questions

+ Math Skills



• Counting items (plates, socks, toys)

• Sorting by size, color, or type

• Measuring (water, soap, ingredients)



• Comparing more / less, full / empty

• Understanding time and routines

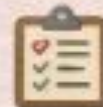


Thinking & Life Skills



Problem solving ("What goes first?")


Planning and sequencing steps




Planning and sequencing steps

Responsibility and independence



Bottom Line:  Everyday chores build reading, math, and thinking skills—no worksheets needed.



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Math in Nature

Counting in nature:

- Count rocks, steps, or plants
- Sort by size, shape, or color
- Compare more and less



Small



Medium



Large



More





Math in the Kitchen

- Counting ingredients
- Measuring and comparing
- Following steps in order

Building Math Skills by Building Stuff



Builds a (Blanket) Fort



-  Subtraction: figuring out how many blankets, pillows, & cushions are needed
-  Measurement: fitting sheets over the space



Builds a Birdhouse



-  Area & Volume: planning the size for the birds and nest
-  Geometry: measuring walls, cutting the roof angle


Builds a Pinewood Derby Car




-  Speed & Distance: adjusting weight and shape for speed
-  Data & Graphing: timing the car and comparing data

Builds a Ramp (for a toy car)



-  Slope: comparing ramps to see which one is steepest



-  Predictions: testing different materials or angles



Bottom Line: Building forts, ramps, birdhouses, and more teaches measurement, geometry, slope, predictions, and problem-solving.

Problem Solving

Which is bigger or smaller?

Which path is longer?

How can we solve this together?



Creating a Learning Space

A basket or bag is enough



Paper, pencil, book,
and counting items

Routine matters more
than space

What Research Says About Less Screen Time

What Research Shows

Less screen time in early childhood is associated with:

HOW screens are used matters most.

More Screen Time



- Less talking and listening
- Weaker language development
- Shorter attention and focus



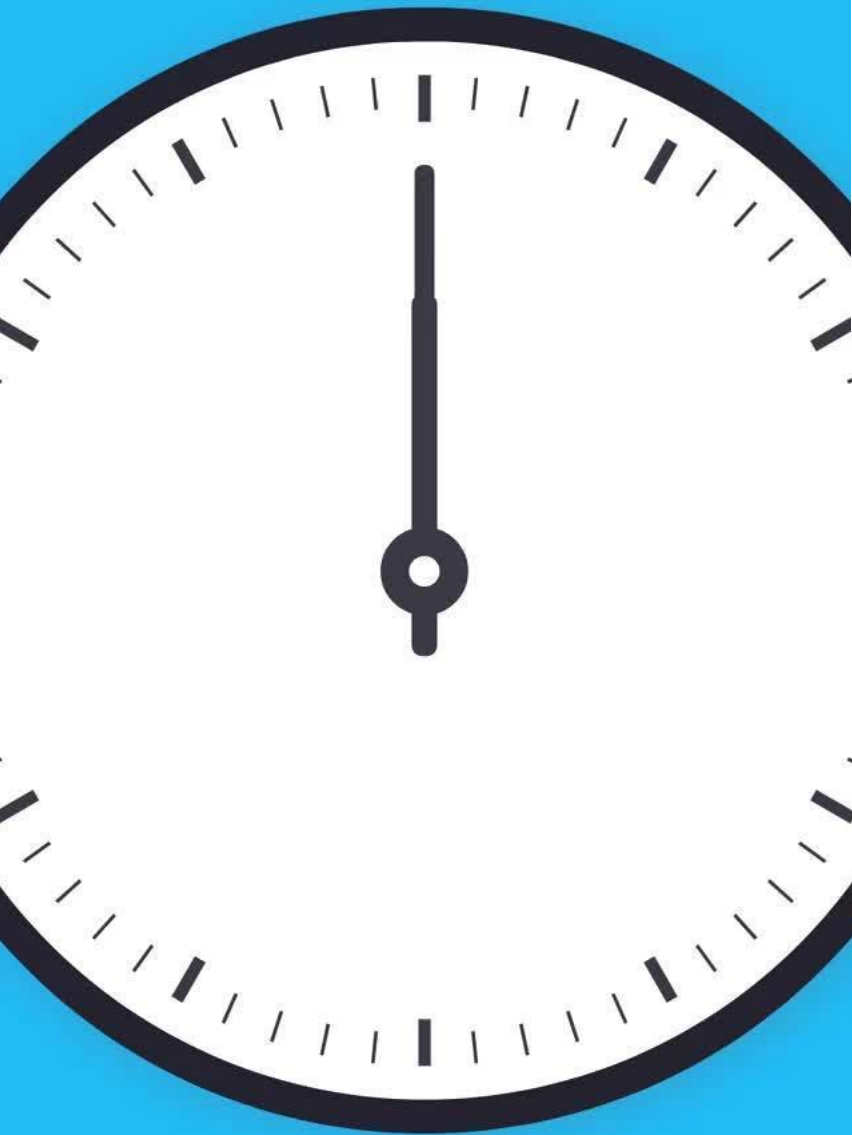
More Interaction



- More talking and listening
- Stronger language development
- Better attention and focus

Bottom Line: 🍌 Less screen time means more time for learning through interaction.

- American Academy of Pediatrics. (2016). Media and young minds. *Pediatrics*, 138(5), e20162591.
- Christakis, D. A. (2019). The challenges of defining and studying "screen time" in children. 🌱🌱 *JAMA Pediatrics*, 173(11), 1051-1052.
- Zimmerman, F. J., Christakis, D. A., & Meltzoff, A. N. (2007). Associations between media viewing and language development in children. *Journal of Pediatrics*, 151(4), 364-368. *Journal of Pediatrics*, 151(4), 364-368.



Simple Daily Routines

- Choose the same time each day
- 10–15 minutes is enough
- Read, talk, or count together
- Do homework from school



Encouraging Your Child

- You tried!
 - You are learning!
 - Show me how you did that!
 - What is one thinking you already do that helps your child learn?
-

What Will You Try This Week?



Storytelling
time



Nature
counting



Learning
basket



Mealtime
conversation

You Are Already Helping

- Your home is a place of learning
- Your child learns from you every day
- You are doing important work



Questions and Sharing

- What questions do you have?
- What ideas stood out to you?

