



## The Importance of Community for Your Child

## Learning Activities for you to do at Home

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# Bring the Learning Experience Home

Childtime is committed to providing an enriching learning experience to every child in our care. But we also know how important it is for families to incorporate educational activities into their home as well. Here are some great things to do with children of all ages!

## Infant

When your child is alert and interested, sit on the floor next to him while holding a small mirror. Place a towel over the mirror and put it in front of his face. While he is looking at it, take the towel off and say, "Boo!" Continue playing peek-a-boo if he seems interested.

## Toddler

Gather some ice cubes and place them in a bowl on the table. Put another empty bowl on the table as well. Hand your child a measuring cup or large serving spoon and encourage her to scoop out the ice cubes and place them into the other bowl. Make sure you have towels available to wipe up any spills. If your toddler chooses to use her hands to explore the ice cubes, ask her to describe how the ice feels.

## Preschool/Pre-K

Gather some magazines or some of your child's favorite books and sit together. Ask your child to choose one and open up the book to any page. Ask your child if he can find something on the page that is "big." Turn to another page and ask your child to find something that is "small." Continue looking at different pages. If your child is interested, have him look for things which are "up/down," "light/dark" or find different colors on the different pages. Come up with other searches that will challenge your child. If possible, switch roles and let him ask you to find something.

## School-Age

Sit down facing your child and make sure both of you have paper and a pen or pencil. Take turns interviewing each other. You can ask each other the same questions. When you are done interviewing each other try interviewing other people in the family. Possible questions could be: What is your favorite food to eat? What is your favorite color? What is your favorite song? What is your favorite T.V. show? Encourage your child to come up with other questions to ask.

# The Importance of Community

Children grow and thrive when they are in dependable relationships that provide love, security, nurturing and support. We want both you and your children to feel safe, accepted and valued at our school. We want you to feel a sense of belonging to our community.

Therefore, it is essential that you communicate openly with school staff and keep them informed of current events at home. It is equally important that we regularly share with you the details of your child's daily life here. We have the chance to create and establish relationships with each other every day by just doing that.

Other ways you could build relationships with your school include:

- **Listen.** Work with the director and your child's teacher to build and maintain a positive relationship. Keep the lines of communication open and listen to each other's perspectives and expertise.
- **Participate in your child's classroom activities.** Go on a class field trip, share a special interest or talent, make a batch of play dough, or help out in your child's class for an hour or two whenever you can. When you come into the classroom you might read stories with children, sing songs, play games or help with special projects.
- **Contribute objects from home to your child's classroom.** "One person's trash is another person's treasure." Talk with your child's teacher to find out which items might be useful.
- **Help in the creation of classroom materials.** You could help make pretend play items, block ramps, planting boxes, etc.
- **Offer to share what you do professionally and share your "tools of the trade" with your child's class.** Even though you may think that your job is not very interesting, children will be fascinated. Whether you are an assistant, a nurse, a postal worker or a mechanic, children will be very interested in what you do and the tools and equipment you use to do your job.
- **Get to know your child's teachers, as well as other children and families around you.** Network with other parents to form carpool groups or to swap recipes. Share your childrearing experiences and advice with each other. Another parent may be able to empathize with you and offer support.

Becoming involved will benefit your child. We invite you to establish relationships and become an active member of your school community.

# Let's Be Friends!

Our new Childtime social media pages offer informative updates, helpful tips, interactive media and honest conversations. Connect with us today!

 **Facebook:**  
<http://www.facebook.com/Childtime>

 **Twitter:**  
<http://www.twitter.com/childtime>

 **YouTube:**  
<http://www.youtube.com/ChildtimeSchools>



## Is Your Child Overscheduled?

*Hurry, scurry, worry, flurry  
There go the grown-ups  
To the office, to the store  
Subway crush, traffic rush  
No wonder grown-ups  
Don't grow up anymore  
It takes a lot  
Of SLOW  
To GROW* – Eve Merriam

A generation ago few children had as much organized activity in their lives as they do today. Most days consisted of attending school, playing in the yard or neighborhood, eating dinner with the family and preparing for school the next day. Some children had a piano lesson, baseball practice or a ballet class one afternoon a week, but few encountered today's great variety of programming options.

While extracurricular activities can provide children an opportunity to learn important skills, some families today, with the best of intentions, often overdo it. Some kids have not just one extracurricular activity a week, but two a day! Some are involved in a different sport every season and also enrolled in dance class, music lessons, karate instruction, swimming lessons, art classes, tutoring programs, second language programs and more.

These activities are now often being offered to children at earlier and earlier ages. It's not uncommon to hear three-year-olds discussing and comparing their busy itineraries.

Some children excel at such activities, but too much programming can have detrimental effects. It's stressful to be rushed from one activity to the next. It's tiring to be among a group of children in an organized program all day long, and then be taken to yet another structured class. Kids need time to play and relax in whatever ways they want. Also, the reduction of unstructured time with family and close friends is a loss for young children's emotional development.

If you are concerned that you might be over-programming your child's time, you might ask yourself questions like: Is this activity good for my child's self-esteem? Is this something she is truly interested in? Is he overly tired? Has she begun to exhibit behavior problems not previously present? If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," it may be time to rethink your child's extracurricular schedule.

**If you would like to respond to anything you read, have parenting questions or child development topics that you'd like to see explored in future issues of the monthly newsletter, please e-mail us at [educationteam@learningcaregroup.com](mailto:educationteam@learningcaregroup.com). We would love to hear from you.**

# HOLIDAY BREAK CAMP AT CHILDTIME®

## *Open for the Holidays!*



**SPECIAL  
HOLIDAY  
PROGRAM!**  
**DON'T MISS IT!**

### **Flexible options during the holiday break!**

**Choose your days or sign up for them all!\***

**Monday, Dec. 20 – Thursday, Dec. 23**

**Monday, Dec. 27 – Thursday, Dec. 30**

Holiday Break Camp at Childtime is an opportunity to sample everything our programs have to offer:

- Structured play and learning
- Fun and creative activities
- Flexible part- and full-time options
- Safe environment
- Accommodating hours: Mon. – Thurs.; 6:30am – 6:30pm (Excludes Christmas & New Year's Day)
- Programs for children ages 6 weeks to 13 years

### ***Invite your friends!***

\*Dates and times vary by school. See school for details.

**Holiday Break Camp at Childtime**  
*Here for your child – here for you.*

## ***ONE WEEK FREE\****

### **Parent Referral Program**

As participants of the Parent Referral Program, the referring and referred families listed below are entitled to **ONE FREE WEEK OF TUITION** at our school. Thank you for being a part of the Childtime family.

**REFERRING/CURRENT FAMILY:**

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**REFERRED/FUTURE FAMILY:**

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_



[www.childtime.com](http://www.childtime.com)

\*Offer valid at this location only. Subject to availability, offer available only to those accounts paying full tuition in advance. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Referred family must enroll for a minimum of three half days per week. Offer valid only for families who have not been previously enrolled at Childtime. Applicable on tuition for each child in referred family if more than one child is enrolled. Referring (current) family will receive free week after referred (new) family has been enrolled for four weeks. Referred (new) family will receive free week after being enrolled for four weeks. Offer not valid for Learning Care group associates or their immediate families. Code: ReferFRWK