GOOD LEARNERS MAKE GREAT TEACHERS

ED U. GATOR HELPS HIS SISTER

A DREAM COME TRUE
Did you know that mammals are types of animals that have hair or fur, produce live babies and nourish their young with milk? Did you know that the smallest mammals are less than two inches long, like shrews and mice, and the largest mammal, the blue whale, is 100 feet long? Did you know that 70 percent of the Earth is water? Did you know that every snowflake that falls has a completely unique design? Did you know that dinosaurs roamed the earth 200,000,000 years ago? It’s just incredible what you can learn about the world!

Learning is great fun! Every minute you’re awake you can learn something new. When you were a tiny baby you learned to recognize faces and voices, and how to make funny noises so someone would hear you. Then you learned how to move around to get from place to place. Each new step in the learning process was very exciting for you and your family. When you got a little older you learned lots of new words from listening to people and having them read to you. Even when you didn’t know you were learning, YOU WERE LEARNING! And guess what? You never stop learning, no matter how old you are. You can’t stop your eyes, ears, mouth and nose from sensing new incredible information!

Learning is a life-long thing, so enjoy it!

When you learn something, you can turn around and teach it to somebody else. That’s pretty cool! You can tell your grandfather or your baby sister about the stegosaurus, the iguanaodon and the triceratops. You can explain to your cousin or your next door neighbor how the heart pumps blood through your whole body. You could even teach your teacher how to tap dance, roller blade, or do a somersault! Chances are they’ll be very impressed by your knowledge and skill! They might even say, “You’re so smart!” They’ll probably ask, “How did you know that?” And you can say, “I learned it! I LOVE TO LEARN!”

GOOD LEARNERS MAKE GREAT TEACHERS

VOCABULARY:

Recognize: to know as something you’ve heard or seen before.
Process: a method of doing something that usually involves a number of steps.
Information: facts learned about something.

ACTIVITY:

You learn everyday, at school, at home, or just by talking with your friends. Think of something you learned today that you didn’t know before. Then think of something you taught somebody else.
i gators, crocs, girls and guys! Ed here. I’ve been having a blast at school lately. Mr. Salam Ander has been teaching us interesting stuff about different parts of our bodies. We’ve been learning fascinating things about the brain, the heart and the stomach. Last week Mr. Ander brought in a real skeleton to show us what our bones look like. Wow! That was kind of creepy and cool at the same time! Sometimes school is so much fun, I forget I’m learning something!

But last weekend I realized I’ve learned a lot. Friday El came home from school, and I could tell something was bothering her. I knocked on her door and asked her what was up. She said she was having trouble reading and spelling. She said the other kids in her class knew a lot more than she did. I felt bad for her. I remember when I was her age and I was having difficulty learning to spell and read, too. I made a deal with her. I told El that if she helped me finish painting my clubhouse, I’d help her with her homework. She said, “Great! When can we start?”

El and I looked at her books all day Saturday. I taught her some tricks I had learned for recognizing words, and for sounding out letters. I helped her write out a short paragraph about her favorite activity: bike riding. She was really catching on fast! She had the biggest smile on her face when she read a page from her story book all by herself! I could tell how proud she was. I was proud of her, too! It was fun to be the big brother giving his little sister tips about learning. I was really glad I had the information to give her!

When Sunday morning came, El was sleeping late. I had to wake her up. “Remember our deal,” I said, “it’s time to paint the clubhouse.” And then the funniest thing happened. While we were choosing paints for the clubhouse sign, El showed me how to make a really cool purple by mixing red and blue. When we were done, the sign was awesome! I never would’ve thought my younger sister could teach me something, too. I guess you’re never too old to learn, and you can learn something from anyone!

QUESTIONS

1) Why was Ed having so much fun at school? What were some of the things Mr. Ander taught the class?

2) What was bothering El?

3) What did Ed do that helped El with her school work?

4) How did Ed feel about teaching his little sister?

5) What did El teach Ed?

6) Why was Ed so surprised?
**DIFFERENT WORDS, SAME IDEA**

*Directions:* In the left column below is a list of words. In the right column there’s a list of different words that mean the same thing, but they’re all mixed up. Match the words from each column that go together.

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**I’M HAPPY WHEN I’M READING**

*Directions:* In this drawing, a young girl is enjoying reading one of her favorite books. Color in the picture, and then list below it the names of some of your favorite books.
IN THE NEWSPAPER

Directions: Look through the comic section of the newspaper with an adult. Try to find a comic strip where one of the characters learns something. What did he/she learn?

THE AMAZING FACTS YOU’VE LEARNED ABOUT YOU!

Directions: Fill in the answers below to these questions about you.

My name is: ________________________________

My address is: ______________________________

My phone number is: _________________________

My height is: ______________________________

My weight is: ______________________________

The color of my eyes is: ______________________

The color of my hair is: ______________________
There was once a tiny green inchworm named Scrunchie. Scrunchie moved very slowly along, but that was the way he liked it. Moving slowly let him explore in great detail the world around him. Sometimes it would take him a whole day to get 10 feet, especially when there was fascinating stuff to discover. And there usually was! He loved to learn as much as he could about everything! Each day brought amazing new sights, sounds, smells and textures. He kept track of his findings in a tiny little diary. Scrunchie hoped one day to publish a book entitled, "Scrunchie Sees the World an Inch at a Time." Of course, that was a very big dream for such a little creature, but Scrunchie always believed he could do whatever he really set his mind to do.

Scrunchie met many entertaining personalities on his travels. He learned to speak a little French from a toad he met in New Orleans. He learned how to make a delicious leaf pudding from a rabbit in Nebraska. He learned a great deal about fossils from an anteater in Arizona. There was always so much to learn from others! Scrunchie carried his precious tidbits of knowledge with him everywhere. Each character was sure to play an important part in his book!

Scrunchie often wondered what his life would’ve been like if he had never left his home in Tennessee. Not quite as interesting, he supposed! When Scrunchie got too old to travel he returned home. He opened a tiny schoolhouse in the meadow and taught whoever came to listen everything he had learned in his delightful little life. He found that teaching was as wonderful as learning! Telling his stories again and again kept the characters he had met, and the places he had been, fresh in his cherished memory. Oh, and by the way, Scrunchie did publish his book. And for an extremely tiny book it was a huge success!
hen Gertrude Elion was 15 years old, her grandfather died of cancer. Elion hoped that one day she would be able to help others who suffered from this fatal disease. When she got older her dream came true. For 50 years, Elion worked as a scientist, developing drugs that helped save thousands of lives. The world benefited greatly from this courageous woman’s love of learning, and dedication to the field of chemical research. In 1988 at the age of 70, Elion was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine, one of the highest honors presented to anyone.

In 1941, Elion graduated from New York University with a degree in biochemistry. It was very difficult at that time for women to get jobs in the field of science. But she never stopped trying, and in 1944 she was hired by Burroughs Wellcome, a pharmaceutical company. There she worked with another scientist named George Hitchings. Together they studied how normal cells in the human body differed from cancer cells, bacteria and viruses. They developed drugs to treat leukemia, malaria and other deadly diseases. The work they began enabled other scientists to perform successful organ transplants, and helped pave the way for drugs used in the treatment of AIDS.

**VOCABULARY:**
- **Cancer:** a serious disease that affects cells in the body.
- **Fatal:** deadly.
- **Research:** to study something in depth.
- **Biochemical:** a field of science.
- **Pharmaceutical:** having to do with drugs or medicines.
- **Transplant:** an operation to replace a sick organ with a healthy one.
- **AIDS:** a deadly virus that affects the body's ability to fight disease.
1) Help your child understand that learning isn't something that happens just in school. We learn in all of our encounters with people, in our relationships with friends and family, and just by being aware of the world around us. When you see or discover something interesting, point it out to your child. Your curiosity and sense of wonder will undoubtedly rub off on her.

2) Look for adventures and excursions that are inexpensive but rich in learning. It's amazing what can be taught and learned from a simple walk in the woods, a hike in the mountains or a stroll by a stream.

3) Don't be reluctant to learn from your children, too. Kids are studying subjects to which we never were exposed. Many kindergartners can identify a long list of dinosaurs with complex names. If your child sees how much you appreciate and respect what he's learned, it will encourage him to keep learning, and to keep sharing his new knowledge with you.

4) Television can be a great educational tool, but it can never replace the value of books. If you haven't already done so, let your child get her own library card, and make regular trips to check out books. Most libraries offer multi-media learning experiences now with audio, video, computers and hook-ups to the Internet. Many branches also have story-hours or shows catering to kids. The library can be a lot of fun, and a great place to get lost in a quiet zone for a couple of hours.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

If your child shows interest in a particular school subject, use it as an opportunity to create a fun and exciting all-around learning experience. Take dinosaurs, for instance. Take a trip to the library or a favorite bookstore and see how many different books you can find on the subject. Take a trip to the video store and see if you can find an educational film on dinosaurs. Many museums have dinosaur exhibits, and most malls have a science or nature store that is filled with dino stuff. It should be thrilling for your child to see his favorite subject come alive in so many different ways.

RESOURCES

Cole, Joanna and Stephanie Calmenson. Ready...Set...Read! Guild America Books, 1990.