**Things to do along the way to encourage academic growth:**

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**Around the house encourage your children to:**

1. This is a great time of year for students to learn their address. Write thank you cards or address your holiday cards or invitations. Have them mail them as well.
2. Measure everything. Tools to invest in are a tape measure, thermometer, measuring cups and a scale. Make a measurement book to record measurements. Children will enjoy comparing the daily temperature and recording how much they grow. Be sure to record the unit of measure. (ex. Height: 4 feet, not just 4).
3. JOURNAL!! Keep a diary of activities and discoveries. Be sure to make time to share sections of the journal each week.
4. All things money: encourage your children to count change at every opportunity; Estimate the number of pennies in a jar; Save coins in a jar and count them often.
5. Schedule activities- Limit television watching and allow children to make a schedule for favorite programs. Make plans for outings. Discuss and record the time you need to wake up to get ready, and what time you need to leave home, etc.
6. Get a new calendar. Help children record important dates.
7. Play card games and dominoes. War, Go Fish, Concentration, and Sequence games like Solitaire build skills.
8. Make flash cards. Students can use the cards to review math facts & sight words.
9. Look for shapes, both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional. How many sides and corners does the shape have?
10. Put on a show: Dance, sing songs or act out a story for the rest of the family.
11. Use holiday advertisements for your children to create lists of what they would buy for other family members if they could.

**In the kitchen encourage your children to:**

1. Read recipes and organize ingredients.
2. Measure ingredients using measuring cups, scale and measuring spoons.
3. Determine what time to begin and end cooking.
4. Time items while they are cooking.
5. Sort dishes and food, organize cabinets. (ex. Boxes on one shelf, cans on another.)
6. Estimate the number of beans or treats in a bag. Have them count the items into a container to verify their estimates.
7. Make containers for treats. Children can divide the treats after shopping, giving each family member an equal number. This will provide experience with division and multiplication.
8. Look for fractions (ex. The pizza is cut into 8 equal pieces.)

**In the car or on the bus, encourage your children to:**

1. Estimate how long it will take to get to familiar places.
2. Get a local map and trace your route, or have your child use the GPS to be your navigator.
3. Tell you if you should make a left or right turn.
4. Determine what direction you are traveling (north, south, east, west).
5. Watch the speedometer and tell you how fast you are going.
6. Determine how many miles you have traveled. Use the odometer to make up math problems with larger numbers.
7. Do oral drills. Math facts, spelling and rhyming games are quick, fun and easy.

**At the grocery store encourage your children to:**

1. Bring a list and have your child check off items when you add them to your cart. (stronger students can write the list for you.)
2. Weigh your fruit and vegetables. As they get better, estimate how many pieces of fruit weigh a pound or two.
3. Add the cost of items in your cart & estimate how much money you will need to pay.
4. Figure out how much money you will get back in change.
5. Look for patterns on the shelves.
6. Compare the cost of different brands of the same product.
7. Compare the size of items.
8. Sort the items while bagging. (ex. Things that go in the bathroom or laurndry in one bag, things for the refrigerator in another).
9. Take a copy of the sales flyer home and make a grocery list. Start with 2 items and gradually add more. Determine the cost of the items.
10. Request paper bags for projects. (ex. Making masks or costumes.)

These are just a few activities to help make learning fun. Begin with a few a day and before you know it, your child will be creating your own activities.