

# 15 Organic Learning Ideas for Parents to Utilize at Home



**What is organic learning?** Organic learning is learning that occurs naturally. It's not forced, and it's often incorporated into children's everyday activities.

**How does it relate to school readiness?** By finding ways for organic learning to happen at school and at home, teachers and parents can help children develop the skills they need for kindergarten success.

- 1. Ask children to help set the table for meal time.** This gives them various opportunities to practice counting, balancing, problem solving, and sequencing.
- 2. Encourage children to play outside and try to go out with them as much as possible.** Being outside exposes children to different textures and colors and helps them stay active.
- 3. Make sure your children participate in cleanup time every day.** Cleaning up after themselves helps children learn important life skills and helps them learn to follow directions.
- 4. Have them help with simple laundry tasks, such as folding washcloths and matching socks.** This teaches them responsibility and gives them an opportunity to practice their matching skills.
- 5. Play board and/or card games with children a couple times a week.** Playing games can help children learn good sportsmanship and emphasizes the importance of taking turns.
- 6. Encourage children to start their own collection of something (stamps, marbles, cards, etc.).** Starting a collection is a great way for children to practice their patterning and classifying skills.
- 7. Take time to make snacks and meals together several times a week.** Allowing your children to help you make meals gives them a sense of responsibility, helps them practice following directions, and helps them learn basic nutrition concepts.
- 8. Start a story and ask children to finish it.** Coming up with the rest of the story encourages children to use their imagination and practice their creativity.
- 9. While driving or on public transportation, point out what different colors and signs mean.** Say things such as "The stoplight is red, so we need to stop. Oh, it turned green, so that means we can go." This teaches children about colors, rule following, and more.
- 10. Take children to the grocery store with you.** Children can practice counting and color identification in the produce area, practice their manners when talking with people, learn how to ask for help when needed, and wait for their turn in the checkout line.
- 11. Get children involved in caring for your pets.** Helping feed and/or water a family pet can help children learn about being responsible and helps them learn about routines.
- 12. Work on children's memory skills by discussing the things you did during the day.** "I'm so happy it was sunny for our walk today." "Did you like the green beans you ate for lunch?"
- 13. Encourage children to brush their teeth, wash their hands, and get dressed on their own.** This inspires self-care and self-confidence and helps children learn important life skills.
- 14. Take time to read with your children on a regular basis.** Reading helps children develop their listening and language skills, expands children's knowledge, and gives you quality bonding time.
- 15. Take children to a public park or to storytime at your local public library.** This is great for helping children develop social skills because they're being exposed to more of their peers and they have to learn how to communicate and get along with the other children.