

---

# Waiau Elementary School

## February 2019 Parent Bulletin

---

Dear Waiau Families and Friends,

I am so proud of our students and how they strive and work every day to learn and grow. Learning and growing can be difficult. It takes perseverance and dedication when choosing to engage in the learning process daily. As a school, we want to recognize and encourage students to continue their journey in learning. To do this, we have introduced several awards that students can earn throughout the year. The three awards are below:

1. Principal's List
2. GLO-Getter
3. Kūlia

The Principal's List award can be earned quarterly and recognizes students that have shown academic excellence in that quarter. Students earn this award by getting "MP" or "ME" in all graded content areas on their report card.

The GLO-Getter award can also be earned quarterly and recognizes students that have shown excellent behavior in that quarter. Students earn this award by getting "Usually" or "Consistently" in all of the General Learner Outcomes on their report card.

The Kūlia award can be earned each semester and recognizes students that have shown excellent growth in language arts and/or math. Students earn this award by achieving their growth targets in language arts and/or math in that semester.

Students that earn these awards will receive a little sticker that they will place on their ID badges. Mr. Koga and I will meet with each grade level and present the awards to the students and celebrate their achievements.

Every student has gifts and talents that may be different from other students. The heart of these awards is to recognize and encourage all of our students to strive and learn every day. The three awards allow all of our students an opportunity to excel and be recognized in different ways with academics, behavior and growth. At Waiau, we strive to help each child grow every day to reach their fullest potential. KŪLIA I KA NU'U!

Sincerely,

Troy Takazono, Principal

---

## PTA Regal Foods Fundraiser

This year's Regal Fundraiser was a huge success. Through your efforts, Waiiau Elementary School raised \$11,680.21! The raised funds will help Waiiau in many ways, like paying for grade level buses and supplies for our classrooms. The PTA also sponsors many events at Waiiau like "Trunk or Treat", the blood drive and the Fun Run. We have been really fortunate because the money raised will impact everyone here at Waiiau. With the support of the PTA, D-Building had air conditioning installed last summer and we are hoping to install air conditioning in F-Building in the near future. Thank you for supporting Waiiau and making the fund raiser such a huge success!!!

We also want to recognize the students who won prizes through fundraising. The student who sold the most tickets was Carmelo Kinchiro, who received a \$300 cash prize. There was also a drawing held for anyone who sold 10 or more tickets. The winner of the drawing was Kayli Matsuda, who also received a \$300 cash prize. The class who sold the most tickets overall was Mrs. Hirata's 2nd grade class, who won a pizza party! Congratulations to our winners.

## Trunk or Treat 2018

On Saturday, October 27, 2018, the PTA sponsored our first "Trunk or Treat" event. There were 18 different "Trunks", each with a different theme. Trunks ranged in theme

from "Dancing tube people" to "Alice in Wonderland". Students and parents also dressed up and had fun doing the photo booth, games, costume contest and trick or treating at the various trunks. Some lucky people also received door prizes throughout the night. Thank you to all the families and teachers who participated in making this



event a huge success.

This event also doubled as a food drive. The total amount of canned goods/non-perishable items collected was about 350 pounds of food, which was donated to the Hawaii Food Bank! This food helped families throughout Hawaii. We wanted to thank all those who donated their food to this worthy cause.



## Parking Lot Reminders:

Please drive with aloha and patience through the parking lot for morning drop-off and afternoon pick-ups.

### Friendly Reminders:

- Pull up to the curb to drop-off or pick-up.
- Do not leave your car unless you have parked in a visitor stall. There is NO parking on the curb or double parking in the parking lot.
- *RIGHT turns only* out of the parking lot from **7:00am - 8:00am & 1:30pm - 2:30pm**
- Be aware of people walking/ crossing through the parking lot.

**Thank you!**



## Congratulations to both 5th and 6th Grade Waiau Basketball Teams!

We are proud to announce both 5th and 6th grade basketball teams won the 2018 Pearl City Basketball Tournament! The players showed a lot of dedication through practice and playing hard throughout the tournament. Coach Fong wanted to emphasize to his players the importance of representing Waiau and they were shining examples of sportsmanship and the Waiau core values. Congratulations to our basketball teams... you are awesome!

### 6th Grade



## WAI'AU Blood Drive February 9th

Waiau Elementary PTA hosted a blood drive for the Blood Bank of Hawaii. There were many people who donated blood that day, but more than 200 blood donors are needed everyday in Hawaii. Thank you to everyone who gave someone hope through your donation of blood. If you did not come to our blood drive, please consider becoming a blood donor by contacting the Blood Bank of Hawaii.

**Set up an appointment by going to:**  
**[www.bbhdonor.org](http://www.bbhdonor.org)** or call **(808)848-4770**



**Blood Bank of Hawaii**

## Calendar Of Events

**February 21 - FUN RUN**

**March 2 - Spring Spectacular @ Pearl City Cultural Center**

**March 18-22 - Spring Break ( School not in session)**

**March 26-Prince Kuhio Holiday (School not in session)**

**April 19-Good Friday Holiday (School not in session)**

**May 17-Ho'olaule'a (School ends 1:15pm)**

### 5th Grade





---

## Career Day 2019

This year's Career Day was very exciting! Many different professionals came to share about their professions with all the students at Waiiau. In the morning the younger students were privileged to talk to and see

different vehicles used in a variety of professions. There were Police Solo Bike officers, the Bomb Squad, and Police cars.



HECO brought a large bucket truck. There was also an ambulance, a Coast Guard tent, a fire truck, a Humvee and lifeguards brought a truck with a jet ski! The afternoon sessions brought professionals from many different fields; Realtors, accountants, newscasters, farmers, dog trainers, a football player, firemen, police officers, photographers and many different professionals. It was an exciting day for everyone.

## Campus Clean up

We want to send a huge mahalo to Leeward Community Church for their participation in our campus clean-up earlier this school year. Members of their congregation, parents and teachers came out to help clean-up and beautify Waiiau Elementary School. There were many projects tackled by the volunteers, like painting both D and F building walls, pulling out large Bougainvillea bushes, weeding, cleaning the Kindergarten playground and even power washing the front of the school. We are grateful for the time and energy everyone gave that day.

## 6th Graders Inspired by Jordan Ta'amu

Waiiau 6th graders received an inspirational message about the importance of school and perseverance by Jordan Ta'amu, starting

quarterback for the Ole' Miss football team and a Waiiau Elementary School alumni. He brought along Chandler Tuitt, Offensive Lineman on the Ole' Miss football team. They both shared stories about their journey to play in a successful D-1 football program at Ole' Miss University. Jordan also shared his memories of Waiiau and also of Mr. Ohta. The students gained a lot of insight into the decisions which need to be made when considering which college to go to. They were also told how their study habits will influence opportunities in their future. Waiiau is grateful for Jordan Ta'amu being a great role model for our students to emulate.



## 2019 Waiiau Spring Spectacular!

The Waiiau PTA has put together a wonderful fundraising event where talent from our school and our community will be showcased. A flier for ticket sales went home for the March 2nd event and tickets are \$10. There will be food trucks and lots of entertainment. Please fill out the ticket request form and submit it back to your student's classroom teacher.

## Check in at School Office

All visitors to Waiiau Elementary School need to check in to the front office. We need everyone coming onto our campus, during school hours, to sign in so we know who is on our campus at all times. Thank you for your help in keeping our campus secure.

# Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

January 2019

Waiiu Elementary School



## SHORT NOTES

### A fresh start

Help your youngster begin 2019 on a positive note. As she returns to school after winter break, have her ease back into familiar routines. She may need gentle reminders to resume habits like setting an alarm before bed, packing a snack in the morning, or showing you papers from her backpack after school.

### Everyday fitness

To inspire your child to lead an active lifestyle, look for ways to fit physical activity into his day. For instance, turn on upbeat music and dance while the two of you do chores. Or he could do jumping jacks while waiting for the microwave to beep.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Laughing releases feel-good hormones that relieve stress. Take time each day to enjoy a good laugh with your youngster. Write a joke on a sticky note, and put it on her placemat at the dinner table. Share a funny video you find, or play a game that will make everyone laugh, such as charades or Pictionary.

### Worth quoting

"Children are our most valuable resource." *Herbert Hoover*

## JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** What has one eye but can't see?

**A:** A sewing needle!



## Read to succeed

Whether your child is solving a word problem in math or following instructions for a science experiment, strong reading skills play an important role. Here are activities to build his comprehension as he learns in three key subjects.

### Math

Suggest that your youngster read a math story problem aloud and then retell it in his own words—leaving out the numbers! This allows him to focus on what the problem is asking him to do before he tries to solve it. *Example:* "A panda had a lot of bamboo. Then he ate some. Now he has less. How much bamboo does he have left?" He'll know that he needs to subtract.

### Science

Diagrams, charts, tables, and other graphics help your child "see" science concepts. Encourage him to create his own visual aids. If he's reading about the

layers of the Earth, maybe he will draw a diagram and label the *crust, mantle, outer core, and inner core.*

### History

Your youngster will go back in time by reading historical fiction about topics he studies. He'll feel as if he's walking the streets of ancient Greece, for instance, while also getting background information on people, places, and events. He might try a series like *Magic Tree House* (Mary Pope Osborne) or *Blast to the Past* (Stacia Deutsch and Rhody Cohon).♥



## Stay in touch with teachers

Think of communication with your child's teacher as an ongoing conversation. Consider these tips.

● **Share the good.** Let the teacher know that your youngster enjoyed working on a project or that you liked the class play. Email her, or send a note to school with your child.

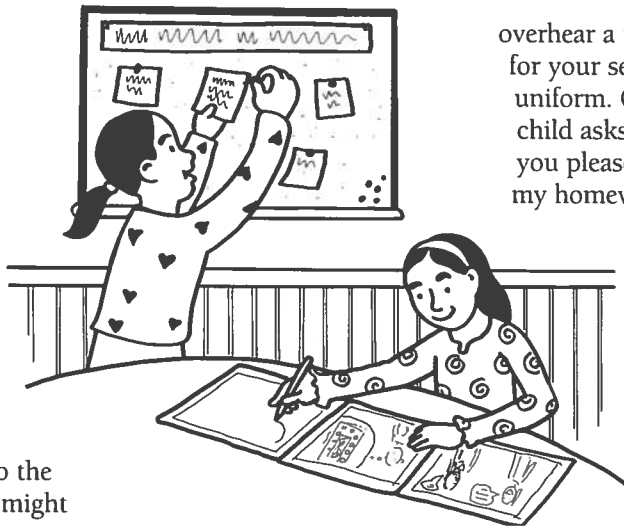
● **Work through problems.** If the teacher contacts you with a concern about your youngster, first listen to what she has to say. Respond calmly, and ask what you can do at home to help. Then, follow up with the teacher regularly to see how things are going.♥



# What does respect mean?

Showing respect will be easier for your youngster if she knows what respect sounds like and looks like in everyday life. Try these ideas.

**Make a “quote board.”** Have your child label a poster board or a bulletin board “The Sounds of Respect.” When a family member hears respectful language, she can write it on a sticky note and add it to the board. For instance, your youngster might



overhear a teller at the bank say, “Thank you for your service” to a customer in a military uniform. Or maybe you’ll notice that your child asks her brother respectfully, “Could you please sing more quietly while I finish my homework?”

**Draw a comic strip.** Brainstorm ways people show respect, such as by keeping commitments or respecting others’ wishes. Then, your youngster can create a comic strip that illustrates one of the examples. Perhaps she’ll draw one panel that shows her arranging a get-together with a friend, a second panel where a different friend invites her to a movie she’s anxious to see, and a third with her sticking to her original plans.♥

## ACTIVITY CORNER

### Adventures by mail

Your child can explore the world without leaving home! This activity turns him into a “flat traveler” — like Flat Stanley in the popular book series.

First, let him mail a photo of himself and a letter to a relative or friend who lives out of town. He could write questions that will help him learn about the place, perhaps about the weather, language, foods, geography, or landmarks.



The person should mail back answers, along with photos and even tourist brochures or postcards. For instance, his aunt may snap a picture of your child’s photo on a snowy mountain or in front of a famous skyscraper.

Suggest that your youngster put everything in a scrapbook that he can read to remind him of the places “he” has been. Then, he can send his photo on another adventure with a different long-distance relative or friend!♥

## PARENT TO PARENT

### Participating in class

My son, Sam, has always been a quiet kid. This year, his teacher told me that he rarely speaks up in class and prefers to work alone. So together, she and I came up with strategies to help Sam participate more.

Now as part of Sam’s homework, he decides on one question or comment about the material to share in class the next day. Practicing what he plans to say prepares him to speak up. Also, when the teacher assigns group projects, she tries to put Sam on a team that includes at least one student he knows well.

The teacher reports that Sam is speaking up more often. And the other day, he came home excited about a great idea his partner had for the diorama they’re working on together.♥



## Q & A Sharpen critical thinking

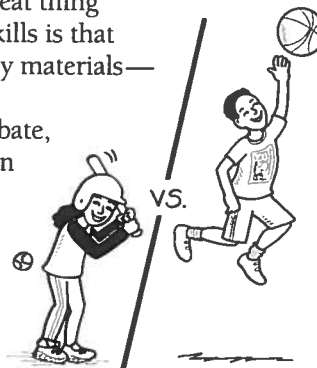
**Q:** At a recent curriculum night, the principal talked about critical thinking. Are there fun ways to work on this at home?

**A:** Absolutely! And the great thing about building thinking skills is that your child doesn’t need any materials — just her brain.

Try holding a family debate, with a twist. Ask a question like “Which is better, basketball or baseball?” Let each person answer, then argue in favor of the sport she didn’t choose. Your

youngster will need to think critically to take a view that’s the opposite of her own. For instance, a baseball fan might say that basketball is more fast-paced and exciting.

Or encourage your daughter to look at familiar situations in new ways. Have her pick a situation or an event (say, a snowstorm). Now take turns looking at it from others’ perspectives. How would a truck driver, a toddler, or a squirrel feel about the snow?♥



### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated  
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630  
800-394-5052 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com  
www.rfeonline.com

ISSN 1540-5621

# Home & School

Working Together for School Success

## CONNECTION®

February 2019



Waiiau Elementary School

### SHORT NOTES

#### A parenting mission statement

Can you name the three most important things to you as a parent? Putting them in writing will help to guide your parenting. Fill in the blank in the sentence, "I'm raising a child who \_\_\_\_" ("is kind to others," "works hard in school").

#### Find learning treasures

A secondhand store offers more than clothing and household items—you can find learning tools there, too. Help your youngster look for gently used books or board games (check to make sure all the pieces are there). He might also find magnetic letters or numbers, arts and crafts supplies, and small whiteboards or chalkboards.

#### Practice cursive

If your youngster is learning cursive, suggest creative ways to practice. She could make nameplates for family members' bedroom doors or write greeting cards and thank-you notes in cursive. *Idea:* Encourage her to use cursive when she takes notes in class. It's faster because she doesn't lift her pencil off the paper after each letter.

#### Worth quoting

"Joy is not in things; it is in us."  
Richard Wagner

### JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** What did the banana say to the apple?

**A:** Nothing. Bananas can't talk!



## Embrace empathy

When Claire notices a classmate on crutches struggling with his books, she senses his frustration and offers to help. She has empathy—she can understand and share others' feelings. Build empathy in your child with these ideas.

#### Read feelings

Learning to identify other people's emotions is the first step toward feeling empathetic. Take turns acting out a feeling for family members to guess. For example, open your eyes and mouth wide to show fear. Or slump your shoulders and look down to display sadness. *Variation:* Draw faces on paper plates, and guess the emotions.

#### Create an "empathy identity"

Notice ways your youngster shows that she cares how people feel. You might say, "I can tell you feel bad that your brother is sick. It was nice of you to bring him a blanket." You could also point out others



showing empathy, too—in real life and in books and movies.

#### Respond appropriately

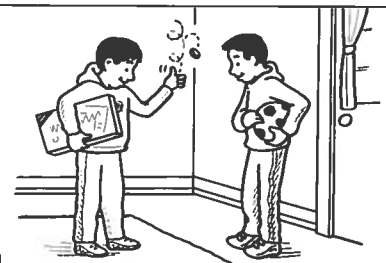
When someone is having a hard time (say, a friend's parents are getting divorced), your child may not know what to say. The good news? Sometimes people just want another person to listen and express empathy. Brainstorm honest responses like "I'm not sure what to say, but I'm glad you told me," or "I'm sorry this is happening. I'm here if you want to talk."♥

### Let's collaborate!

Knowing how to collaborate with classmates will help your youngster work well and learn in a group. Try these tips to practice collaboration skills at home.

**Balance speaking and listening.** During family discussions, give each person a chance to talk. Your child should listen carefully so he can acknowledge what everyone says and build on their ideas. ("I liked what you said about \_\_\_\_\_. I think \_\_\_\_\_.")

**Encourage compromise.** If your youngster has a disagreement with a sibling or friend, such as whether to play indoors or outdoors, think of it as a learning opportunity. Ask them to think of a way they could both feel satisfied, perhaps by doing a jigsaw puzzle outside at a picnic table. Or they might flip a coin to decide which to do first.♥

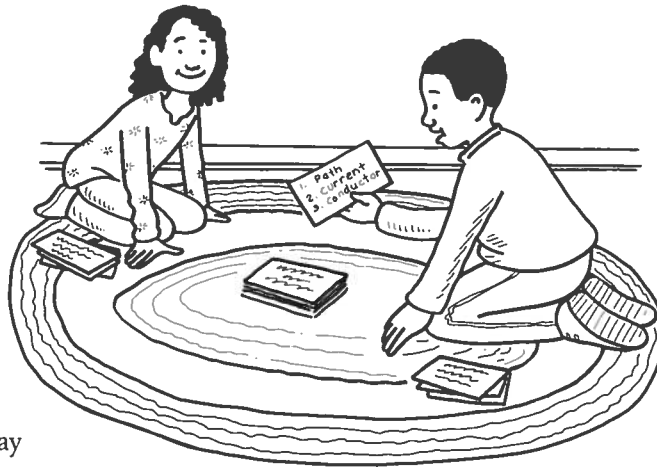


# Mix-it-up study methods

Fresh techniques will breathe new life into your child's study sessions. Share these ways to add variety and help him stay motivated.

## Create a mural

Suggest that your child hang a big sheet of paper on a wall. On it, he can write and illustrate facts, concepts, and procedures he's studying. Say his math test includes rounding numbers, he might write the rule ("If a number ends in 5–9, round up") in big orange letters across the bottom and add examples



in green going sideways up the mural. Let him design a new panel for each subject. He'll have a handy study tool—and a colorful piece of art.

## Play with clue cards

Encourage your youngster to make and play a card game with a study partner. He could write each concept on a separate index card and list three clues on the back. For

"electric circuit," clues might include "path," "current," and "conductor." He can shuffle the cards and stack them clue sides up. Players take turns drawing a card, reading the clues, and saying what's on the other side. Keep the card if you're right—the person with the most cards wins.♥

## ACTIVITY CORNER



## Write a picture book

Your youngster can use her imagination to retell a familiar story, then preserve her version in a homemade book! She'll practice experimenting with characters, setting, and plot as she writes.



First, let your child pick a story and think of ways she could put her own twist on it. She might write a plot based on *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Roald Dahl) but use herself and her friends for the main characters. Or maybe she'll pick a story set in another country, such as *Madeline* by Ludwig Bemelmans, and have it take place in the United States.

Next, have your youngster write each sentence or paragraph of her story on a separate sheet of paper and illustrate it. Finally, invite her to read her book aloud to your family.♥

## PARENT TO PARENT

## Boost independence

Coaxing my daughter, Grace, through her routine on school mornings was no easy task. I decided that she needed to become more independent—and that our mornings could be more pleasant. So I've started having her get ready by herself.

I let Grace pick out an alarm clock and showed her how to set it. Then, on her closet door, we posted a list of her morning tasks, including getting dressed, brushing her teeth, and fixing her hair.

Now when we're both ready, we meet downstairs for breakfast before we head out the door. Our mornings are much easier, and I think Grace is proud of her newfound independence.♥



## Q & A Time for a cell phone?

**Q:** My fourth-grader says some of his friends are getting cell phones, and now he wants one. Are cell phones appropriate at this age?

**A:** Most kids this age don't really need a cell phone, since they're supervised by adults who carry phones. And owning a phone, especially one with internet access, is a big responsibility. To decide when to give your son a phone, first think about your family's budget. Also, consider how well he

follows safety rules and takes care of his belongings. Those are good indicators of how he will behave with a phone.

If you feel he's ready, you might start with a lower-cost one with limited features. Then, create guidelines. Perhaps he

may use his phone only to call or text family members and close friends. Discuss consequences for breaking or losing it. And set times when his phone is off-limits, such as during family meals, in the hour before bedtime, and after lights-out.♥



## OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated  
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630  
800-394-5052 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com  
www.rfeonline.com

ISSN 1540-5621



# Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

March 2019

Waiiu Elementary School



## SHORT NOTES

### Display schoolwork

Saving work your youngster brings home is one way to show her that school is important to you. Consider creating a hallway gallery of framed papers and artwork, or store her work in a coffee-table binder. *Tip:* Take photos of her sculptures, dioramas, and other 3-D projects. Display the photos, or add them to her binder.

### A list-making habit

Get your child in the routine of making checklists in a student planner or notebook. Suggest that he write down tasks in the order he needs to complete them. Encourage him to check off each item as he tackles it—he will enjoy a sense of satisfaction as his list grows shorter.

### Promote a work ethic

A good work ethic, or a belief in the value of hard work, will make your youngster better at any job she undertakes. Develop this trait by giving her regular chores like taking out the recycling or sweeping the floor. Then, let her know how her contribution makes a difference. (“The kitchen looks nice and tidy thanks to you!”)

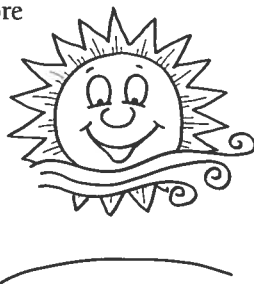
### Worth quoting

“Why fit in when you were born to stand out?” *Dr. Seuss*

## JUST FOR FUN

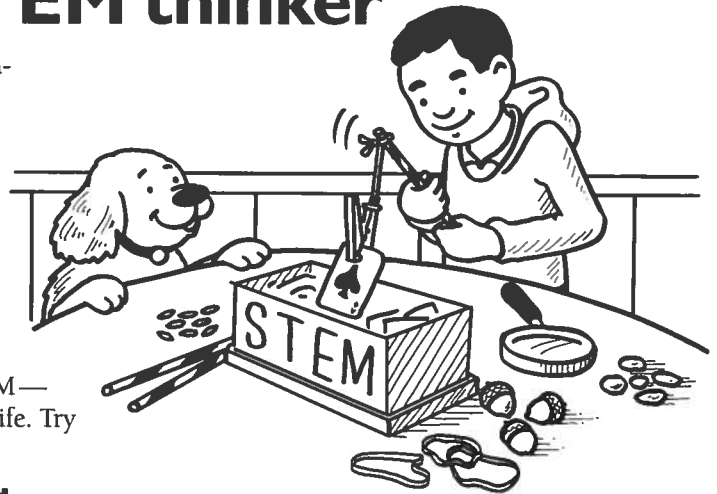
**Q:** “I pass before the sun but make no shadow. What am I?”

**A:** The wind.



## Be a STEM thinker

With science, technology, engineering, and math jobs in demand, STEM is a hot topic these days. Being a curious, critical, creative thinker who can solve problems will help your child do well in STEM—and in every area of life. Try these ideas.



### Wonder out loud

Bring out your youngster’s natural curiosity by discussing what you’re curious about. (“I wonder why rainbows are curved and not straight.”) Then, he could experiment to find out. Perhaps he’ll create his own rainbows using a flashlight, a mirror, and a pan of water.

### Make a “tinker box”

Your child will use critical thinking skills by tinkering with natural objects and loose parts. In a shoebox, let him collect items like pebbles, acorns, seeds, straws, rubber bands, and clothespins.

He could add new objects as he finds them. Maybe he’ll design a “claw machine” that picks up small objects or examine an acorn under a magnifying glass.

### Promote problem solving

Treat everyday problems as learning opportunities. Say the TV remote won’t work, even though you just replaced the batteries. Have your youngster think of solutions and test them. He might check that the batteries are inserted correctly, try batteries he’s sure are fresh, or turn the TV off and on again.♥

## Parent-child chats

Regular conversations with your youngster keep the two of you close—and build her language skills. Here are suggestions for making chats more meaningful.

● **Phrase questions thoughtfully.** Questions that require more than a one-word answer will lead to more informative answers. Try “What made you laugh today?” rather than “Did you have a good day?”

● **Show you’re paying attention.** It’s easy for busy parents to respond out of habit without focusing on what youngsters are really saying. Instead, look your child in the eye, and stop to consider her words. She’ll know that what she has to say matters to you.♥



# Learning to be patient

Patience is a skill that can be learned. Kids who develop it tend to have greater self-control and even do better in school. Foster patience in your youngster with these tips.

**Live in the moment.** Encourage your child to enjoy what's going on right now, rather than looking forward to what will happen next. For example, she could look out the window at the sunset while she waits for you to get off the phone. Or if she's having trouble falling



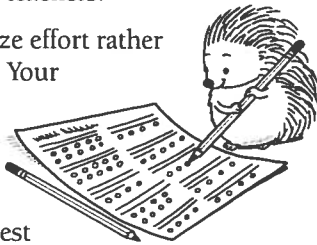
asleep because she can't wait to visit her friend tomorrow, she might focus on how warm and cozy she feels in her bed now.

**Enjoy the payoff.** Have your youngster think of something that took her a while to master, such as learning to read music. Then, remind her of how good she felt when she succeeded. Share an example from your life, too. *Idea:* Let her take on an activity or a project that requires patience, like growing a plant or putting together a jigsaw puzzle.♥

## Top tips for standardized tests

How can you help your child do well on standardized tests? Consider this advice from teachers:

- "Emphasize effort rather than scores. Your youngster will feel more confident and relaxed on test day if he knows that doing his best is what counts the most."



- "Have your child do any practice tests or packets that the teacher sends home. Ask him about the material, and look over the work to be sure it's complete."
- "Make sure he gets enough sleep, at least 9–11 hours, each night. He'll be more alert and focused during the test."
- "Give your youngster a balanced breakfast on test day so he has energy and isn't distracted by a growling stomach. Whole-wheat toast, fruit, and yogurt make a brain-boosting combination."♥

### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators,  
a division of CCH Incorporated  
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630  
800-394-5052 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com  
www.rfeonline.com  
ISSN 1540-5621

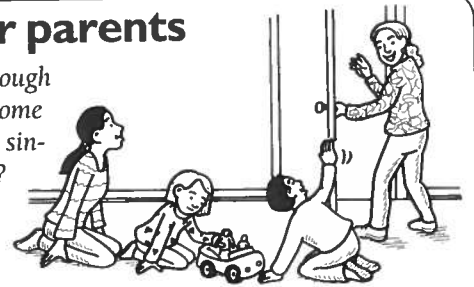
## Q & A Autism: Support for parents

**Q:** My daughter has autism, and although she's making good progress, she has some behavioral challenges. I'm a working single parent—how can I handle the demands?

**A:** To take the best care of your daughter, you need to also take care of yourself. If possible, try getting up before she does. Take a warm shower, and enjoy a cup of tea. You'll feel calmer and ready to start the day on a positive note, which can help her behave better.

Also, look for people who will stay with your child while you recharge. You might run errands or try a new hobby. Ask friends, family, and neighbors if they're able to help or know anyone who can.

Finally, consider joining an autism support group. Connecting with other parents who face similar challenges will make you feel less alone, and you'll get information and advice for helping your daughter. Check online, or ask your child's doctor for referrals.♥



## ACTIVITY CORNER

### Pump up your memory

A good *working memory* lets your youngster switch back and forth between tasks and do work that involves more than one step. Sharpen his memory with these activities.

#### Story chain

Build a "repeating story" by remembering what everyone before you has said. One person starts with a sentence like "I'm riding a \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_," filling in the blanks. ("I'm riding a kite to the moon.") The next person repeats the sentence and adds his own sentence. Continue until someone

skips a sentence, says them out of order, or can't remember one.

#### The last time I...

When was the last time you used a ruler or saw frost on a window? This game strengthens your child's power of recall. Take turns calling out a question, such as "When did you last eat an egg?" To answer, everyone needs to think about details and context.

("We had tacos in school on Monday. So it must have been Tuesday, when I got the salad bar and put hard-boiled egg slices on my lettuce.")♥

