

Early Learning Parents' Pages



September 2016

Practice baby safety, spend a day with your child's grandparents and gain a love for literacy.

Baby Safety Month

Parents, learn precautions and safety tips during [Baby Safety Month](#) this September.

While new parents must be aware of dangers in their homes and how to prevent accidents, all parents need to be vigilant about their children's safety.

When you bring a baby home to join your family, it is important to make sure your home is safe and you know how to keep him safe from injuries. Preventing injuries and diseases should be part of your monthly checklist of things to do for your family.



A [safe sleep environment](#) is important to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) in babies. Preparing your home for an infant includes his [sleeping](#) and playing spaces. A firm mattress and fitted sheet are all you need for your baby's crib, so remove blankets and toys. Place his crib and other furniture away from windows and blinds. Your baby will remain safe without strings or cords within reach.

Keeping your child healthy starts with immunizations and check-ups. Immunizations are important and should be part of his wellness check-ups. The Centers for Disease Control has an [immunization tracker](#) you can use to make sure he is getting all the immunizations needed.

You can also use the [Well-Visit Planner](#) to assist with planning for your child's next doctor visit and help you remember questions you may have for the doctor.

There are many important things to remember as a new parent. Do not allow smoking around your child. For help quitting, call 1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669) or visit [Women.Smokefree.gov](#).

It is important to practice child safety when you are riding in your car. Make sure you have the [safest car seat](#) for your child and that it is [installed correctly](#).



Find more [safety tips](#) and practice child safety throughout September in observation of Baby Safety Month.

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Vroom For Grandparents

Sunday, Sept. 11, is National Grandparents Day and a great day for grandchildren to spend the day with their elders.

Grandparents, do you remember playing with your favorite cars and trucks as a child or riding your bike and making "motor" sounds? These fond memories will help you remember a wonderful way to help your grandchildren learn skills that will prepare them for success in school.

Vroom is a new free app for your smart phone or tablet that will send you a message each day with a specific brain-building activity for your grandchild that supports brain development.



Designed for young children, birth to age 5, each activity is based on brain science.

Science has shown us that the first five years in a child's life are the years when their brains are developing at a rapid rate and building the foundation for all future learning. Talking, singing and reading to your grandchild helps develop language and thinking skills no matter when or where it takes place.

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Celebrate International Literacy Day

In 1965, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated Sept. 8 as [International Literacy Day](#) to focus attention on worldwide literacy needs.

The International Literacy Association supports [UNESCO's efforts](#) and is asking children, parents, teachers and child care providers to share the message that developing strong literacy skills can lead to a successful future.



"Put your best foot forward for students everywhere."

International Literacy Association



For many children in the United States, how or if they are going to school is a rare issue; yet, for other places, such as Pakistan or South Africa, the walk to school can be long and dangerous. In addition, many schools have a limited number of supplies and trained, qualified teachers are in short supply causing literacy to fall short.

International Literacy Day also provides the opportunity to spread the importance of [reading aloud](#) to children daily. Find more information and discover the [important role reading plays](#) in your child's language development.

Learn more about International Literacy Day and download the [2016 Activity Kit](#).

By taking steps to advance literacy, you can make a difference in a classroom, a school or even an entire community, but most importantly, you can change a child's life.



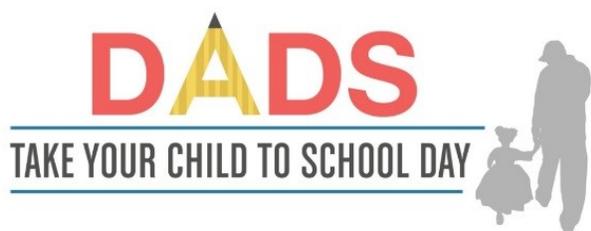
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Dads, Take Your Child to School Day

Research confirms that dads play an important role in the lives of their children. When dads take an active role early and more often in the lives of their young children, it strengthens the development of the social-emotional, language, cognitive and motor skills of their children.

The quality of the interactions between a dad and his child is more important than the amount of time of the interactions. For example, the interaction of a dad responding to and comforting a crying baby is more important to the development of a child than the interaction of a dad pushing the baby in a stroller while talking on a cellphone.

As a dad, you can have a big impact on the life of your child by showing that you value learning. The Florida Department of Education has designated Wednesday, Sept. 28, as Dads, Take Your Child to School Day.



While your child may normally ride a bus or travel with another family member, the day encourages dads to take their child to school or child care on Sept. 28, to show that you value school and think education is important. If your work and school schedule make it difficult to take your child to school, speak with your supervisor or the teacher at least two weeks ahead of the day and receive permission to be tardy.

Dads, Take Your Child to School Day focuses on the significance fathers and father figures can have by becoming more active in the educational experiences of their children. All dads, stepfathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, foster fathers and any other significant role model in your child's life is invited to participate. Mentors, Big Brothers and other school volunteers are welcome to join in and participate with children who may not have a dad or father figure to accompany them.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Each year, Americans of Hispanic ancestry join together to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. From Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America celebrate their histories, cultures and contributions throughout the years.

The observation began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon B. Johnson and was expanded in 1988 by President Ronald Regan.

The month-long celebration begins on Sept. 15, to commemorate the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.



Parents, visit [PBS' Hispanic Heritage Month page](#) for fun activities to teach your children about the importance of the month. From Oct. 1 to Oct. 15, PBS will air special episodes of *Maya & Miguel* that celebrate all kinds of heritage and culture.

Children can also learn more with the [Latin Fun Fiesta](#). Discover facts and find out about Hispanic heritage, famous Hispanic Americans and more.

[Parents and teachers](#) can also access many useful resources and activities to try at home and in the classroom. Check out [PBS Parents](#) and [PBS Teachers](#) for more information and start planning your celebration today.

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Vroom For Grandparents

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When you are with your grandchild, you can have brain-building activities at your fingertips to help support his or her learning. Vroom brain-building tips are easy to use and you can turn shared moments into brain-building moments for your grandchild anytime, anywhere.

There are tips designed to use at mealtime, bath time, riding in the car and during daily routines. Even changing a diaper or shopping for groceries can be a brain-building opportunity for your grandchild.

You already have what it takes to be a brain builder.



Grandparents, you can download the app on your smartphone or tablet by visiting joinvroom.org. Watch [videos](#) and learn that [everyone has what it takes](#) to become a brain builder.

"Remember, any time you spend playing with a child is special. Spend as much time as possible playing with your grandchildren." – Fred Rogers

Celebrate Grandparents Day

Grandparents Day is a time to celebrate the importance of grandparents in the life of your child and this Sept. 11, parents are encouraged to help their child reconnect with her elders.

If you cannot take your child to visit her grandparents, let her call or video chat with them. You can also help your child make a special card to email or send to her grandparents.

If your child's grandparents live nearby, encourage her to try [fun activities](#), such as building a family tree or looking at old photos.

You can also send your child's grandparents a [special book](#) to read with her each time she comes to visit.



Watch this [Grandparents Day video](#) with your child, so she can learn more about the importance of Grandparents Day and discover more ways to [encourage interactions](#) between your child and her grandparents.

Upcoming Events in October

October is National Book Month. Discover the best books to read to your child at each age.

Fall is here! How will you make the most out of the upcoming fall festivities and activities?

Celebrate Head Start Awareness Month and learn more about the life changing impacts Head Start has had on families across the nation.



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