
Improving your child's learning

“How can I make the most of the early learning years?”

Parents are teachers on a daily basis. Their actions, reactions and choices are all observed by little eyes. This often leads to children imitating parents, or taking their cues from their parent's behaviour.

In order to improve your child's learning, you have a wealth of opportunities. These opportunities are not only present in the classroom and library, but in various other teaching opportunities. The grocery store, doing laundry and baking are all excellent opportunities to include your child and enhance their learning.

Teaching Opportunities and Skills:

Grocery store

- practice handwriting the list
- object to label correspondence
- labelling colours
- counting objects from a larger set
- money concepts
- social interactions
- reading
- organization
- labelling objects
- fine motor and gross motor actions
- addition
- task completion

Laundry

- labelling colours
- sorting by colour
- associations (socks go on feet)
- use of machines (washer & dryer)
- task completion
- attributes (big/small, long/short, hot/cold)
- counting objects
- labelling clothing items
- measuring (detergent)
- folding
- addition and subtraction

Teaching Tips:

Backwards Chaining: A teaching procedure that begins with the last element in the chain and progresses to the first element. Ex: Teach your child how to take the laundry out of the dryer first, and then teach previous steps, one at a time.

Generalization: Ensuring behaviours are observed across environments, instructors, materials and instructions. Ex: Teach your child to grocery shop in various stores, or to follow a list in another type of store (hardware store, toy store).

Modeling: A sample of a given behaviour is presented to an individual to induce that individual to engage in a similar behaviour. Ex: Teach your child to count the apples in the grocery store by counting out loud so that they follow your model.

Next Steps:

We encourage you to explore the various Parent Workshops offered by eXL to help you and your child reach your full potential.

References:

Intensive Behavioural Intervention: A Manual for Instructor Therapists. Office of Integrated Services for Children, Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services. 2003.