

Parent Engagement for Active Child Enrichment



A 501 (c) (3) Nonprofit Organization

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Newsletter Vol. 1 –March, 2020

Recent PEACE Events

1/15/20: *Understanding Characteristics of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders* At India House

1/21/20: *Nurturing the Growing Mind- workshop - Developmental Stages and Cognitive Stimulation* At Alief ISD PEP Program, Taylor High School

1/22/20: *Positive Behavior Approaches to Disciplining Children: Ten Behavior Support Strategies* at Patterson Elementary, HISD

1/22/20: *Birth-Two Developmental Stages and Promoting Your Child's Growing Brain* At Hope Through Housing

2/12/20: *Autism Seminar 2:* at India House

2/18/20: *Nurturing Growing Mind: Fostering Literacy and Language Development* at Alief ISD PEP Program, Taylor High School

STEM & Chess Stations at Learning Fair



Research Informs Us

Researchers say various types of play teach children important concepts relating to science, technology, engineering and math. The authors of "[The Roots of STEM Success](#)" reviewed more than 150 studies and found that kids capable of developing complex thinking skills at a very young age.

Rood, the director of the Center for Childhood Creativity at the Bay Area Discovery Museum and the co-author of the report says the research is clear that talking to kids about ideas and concepts is critical. She says, "Find those everyday moments and talk with your kids and use big words and describe phenomena. Don't get so hung up on feeling like you have to teach them. Just have an experience with them that's tapping into the wonder of how math and science and engineering is all around us."

Parent-Child Engagement Tips To Encourage STEM Thinking

Some of the ways adults can encourage STEM thinking skills in children from an early age are listed below:

1. Give children toys that have "manipulative elements" like balls and rattles. Ask children to control elements of these toys, like building higher towers or making the rattle softer or louder.
2. Have children explain how simple tools in your house work, like a can opener or a door hinge.
3. Allow infants to practice "repetitive play," like dropping a spoon over and over, which helps the child learn about concepts like gravity long before they learn what gravity is.
4. Give children time to practice four kinds of play: **pretend play** that involves a child using their imagination; **exploratory play** where children create experiments or take things apart; **guided play** where adults play and interact with children, and **free play** without an adult involved.
5. Allow exploratory play (within reason and with safety in mind), even if that means a toddler may get dirty.
6. Ask "why," "what" and "how" questions as much as possible to push children to explain their thinking.

2/25/20: *Nurturing the Growing Mind: Cultivating Cognitive Development of Infants and What Brain Research Tells us* at Santa Maria Hostel (SMH)

Upcoming Events in March and April

3/10/20: *Nurturing Social-Emotional Development: Behavior Issues and Possible Solutions* at Alief ISD PEP Program

3/18/20: *Autism Seminar- A Panel Presentation* at India House

3/28/20: STEM-focused Learning Fair at Channelview ISD

3/31/20: *Nurturing the Growing Mind: Fostering Language Stimulation of Infants* at SMH

4/21/20: *Nurturing Social-Emotional Development: Positive Behavior Solutions @ SMH*

5/19/20: *Cultivating Impulse Control and Resilience in Children @ SMH*

The PEACE Mission

To enable caregivers with limited resources to actively engage with their children to enrich their growing minds and prepare them for school and life success.

Why we do what we do?

Research shows that a home environment that encourages learning is even more important than parents' income, education level, or cultural background.

Contact PEACE to learn more about our services and to schedule workshops and Learning Fairs at your location:

Tel: 832-415-3088

Email: pps4peace@yahoo.com

Website: www.peacenurtureskids.org

Like us on Facebook:

[Facebook.com/peacenurtureskids.org](https://www.facebook.com/peacenurtureskids.org)

Follow us on Twitter @PEACEnurtures

Visit our website (peacenurtureskids.org) to see a list of forthcoming workshops offered by PEACE in collaboration with our partners.

Padmaja Sarathy, the president of PEACE, who develops these newsletters with research-based parenting tips, is the author of multiple books (www.infinitepossibilities-sped.com).

7. Use complex and accurate vocabulary words, even with babies. Introduce them to words like “stable” when building a tower or “fragile” when touching objects.

8. Teach children that they are constantly learning by encouraging them to say, “I can’t do this yet” instead of “I can’t do this.”

Book Recommendations: With A STEM Focus

Age range: 3 to 7

Title: Baby Animals

Author: Marfe Ferguson Delano

Age range: 4 to 6

Title: Seed to Plant (National Geographic Readers)

Author: Kristin Baird Rattini

Age range: 4 to 8

Title: Bugs are Insects

Author: Anne Rockwell

Title: Running on Sunshine

Author: Carolyn Cinami DeCristoFano

Age range: 5 to 10

Title: Awesome Engineering Activities for Kids

Author: Christina Schul

Age range: 8 to 12

Title: Everything Robotics

Author: Jennifer Swanson (National Geographic Kids)

PEACE has Embarked on a New Initiative

We are posting brief videos on diverse parent engagement topics on our [Facebook page](#) to guide families to promote imagination and creativity in their children, the skills needed to be 21st century innovators.

The current videos include **stories** serving as models, **story-telling and story-building strategies** and **playing games** with children to have fun and build their brains. Future videos will present **positive behavior strategies, STEM-focused activities**, and many more. Visit our Facebook page to see the videos: [Facebook.com/peacenurtureskids.org](https://www.facebook.com/peacenurtureskids.org)

Visit our website (peacenurtureskids.org) to see a list of forthcoming workshops offered by PEACE in collaboration with our partners.

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