



TLJA TIMES

A newsletter for Timothy L. Johnson Academy parents and families.
Timothy L. Johnson Academy 4615 Werling Dr., Fort Wayne, In 46806 (260) 441-8727

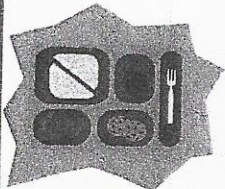
New Year Blessings!!

Dear TLJA Family,

I hope everyone had a restful winter break. Now that students have returned to school, we will be finishing our middle of year assessments. It is an important time to see if your student has made the growth that they need to have from the beginning of the year. Our partnership with you is so crucial to your student's growth as well as for the school's success. Please encourage your child to complete their homework, read 20 minutes a day, get a good nights sleep, and always come to school ready to learn. We then can provide scholars strong academic instruction. This is even more crucial as we are testing. We appreciate all you do!! Thank you for your partnership with us!!
Dawn Starks, TLJA Superintendent /School Leader



We are here to serve you and your family! If you have any questions, please contact the school office at 441-8727.



Breakfast & Lunch

All students attending TLJA will receive free school meals. Timothy L. Johnson Academy has been approved to implement the Community Eligibility Provision for breakfast and lunch. This means that parents will not need to fill out the long meal application.

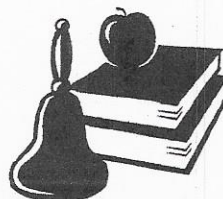
Always watch the local stations for delays and closings. If the weather does not improve with a delay, then there may be an E-Learning Day for everyone. We try to make decisions as early as possible. Thank you for your patience!!

Important Dates-

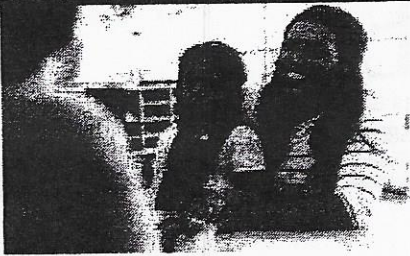
Jan. 16th– No School to honor Martin Luther King Day. Scholars will return on January 17th.

Be sure to have your scholar dress in the appropriate dress code for school each day. Coming to school prepared and ready to learn is crucial for success.

Thank you for all you do to support our school!!



Please be sure to read with your child at least 20 minutes every night!!



PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

On February 3rd. TLJA will be hosting our next Parent/Teacher Conference Day. Please plan to meet with your child's teacher to see how your student has progressed and what you can do at home to help continue your child's learning progress.

When you receive the notice from your teacher requesting a time to meet with him/her, please return it as soon as possible.

We look forward to meeting with you and your student at Timothy L. Johnson Academy on Friday, February 3rd.

Remember, there will be no regular classes for students on February 3rd.

NEED WARM CLOTHING?

Since we are now in the middle of the winter season, please be sure your child is dressed appropriately. The best approach is layering clothing (coat or jacket, sweatshirt or sweater, etc.) including head and hand coverings.

Please do not allow your child to leave home with exposed skin (ears, hands, legs) as this may increase the chance of frostbite if standing outdoors for any extended length of time in extreme weather conditions.

If your child needs warm clothing for proper protection and none is available to you, please call the school at (260) 579-4916 for assistance. We will help to ensure that our TLJA students have warm clothing necessary for the winter season.

Important Dates to Remember and mark your calendar:

January

- 1/9 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Professional Day for Teachers
- 1/10 School in session with buses running on normal schedules
- 1/12 Vision Screening for Grades 1, 3, 6 students
- 1/16 Martin Luther King Day
SCHOOL CLOSED

February

- 2/3 Parent/Teacher Conf.
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
- 2/20 Presidents' Day
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

PARKVIEW NURSES VISIT TLJ ACADEMY

On January 12th. Parkview nurses were at Timothy L. Johnson to administer vision screening for First, Third and Sixth grade students. Also, any classroom teacher who felt a student was having difficulty in seeing the boards in class could request a screening for a student.

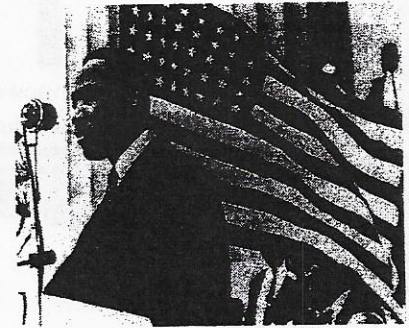
If a student who was tested failed his/her screening, a letter will be sent to the parents suggesting that they follow up with their doctor.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the boys' and girls' basketball team members as they complete this fall's schedule.

Also, a big thank-you to the girls' cheerleading squad for all of their support and enthusiasm during the games.

The final boys' basketball game of the season will be Thursday, January 19th.



MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

January 16, 2023

Martin Luther King Day is a federal holiday held on the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year, which is around King's birthday, January 15th. The holiday is like the holidays set under the Uniform Holiday Act.

Martin Luther King, Jr was born in the USA to African American parents. At birth, he was named Michael King, but his father later changed his name to Martin Luther King Jr. When he was growing up, life was hard for African Americans.

When he was six years old, he was told he was not allowed to play with his white friend anymore – his friend's father wouldn't allow it!

His first major role in the Civil Rights movement came 1955 when Rosa Parks, an African American lady, was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a bus. After 381 days of protest, a court finally rules that such segregation laws should no longer be recognized.

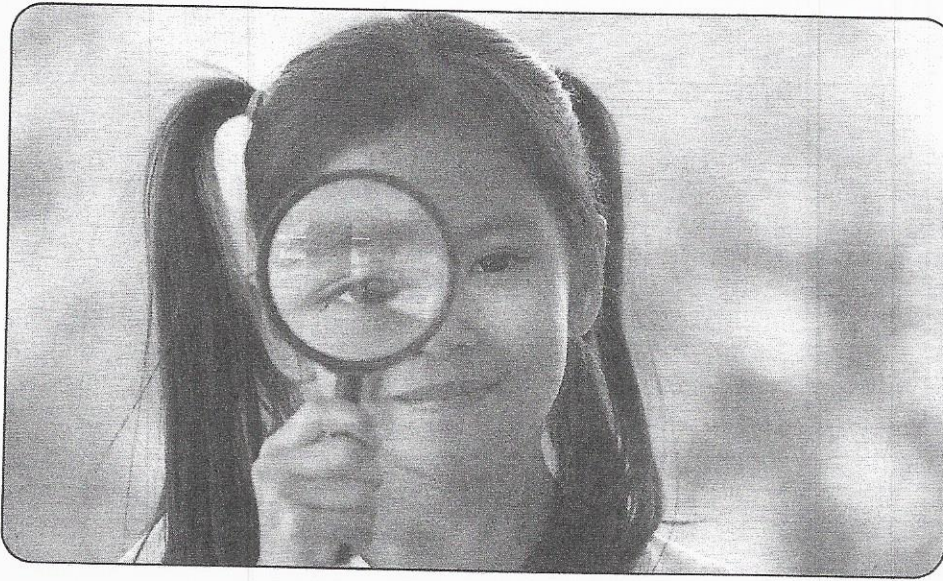
In 1963, Dr. King gave his famous "I Have A Dream" speech at a rally named "March on Washington." Speaking on the importance of civil rights has become one of the most famous speeches in history.

99 years after the abolition of slavery, the Civil Rights Act was passed outlawing racial segregation and discrimination in the USA.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in 1968 in Tennessee, where he had given a speech the day before. He is remembered for his tireless work during the Civil Rights Movement and his dream that one day everyone would be treated as equals. A statue, built in his memory, stands in Washington D.C.

Parents[®]

make the difference!



Share the wonders of science with your elementary schooler

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to teach your child about science. Just do some simple things like these:

- **Encourage your child** to collect and organize objects, such as leaves, rocks, shells or bottle caps.
- **Encourage investigation.** Give your child a magnifying glass. Ask, "What things do you see?" "What's similar and what's different with and without the glass?"
- **Talk about the science** that happens at home. Which cereals get soggy in milk? Why do foods in the refrigerator get moldy? Why do some plants need more water than others?
- **Show an interest in science.** Look at the moon and the stars with your child. Weigh snow. Mix paint colors.
- **Include your child**—as an observer or, better yet, a helper—when you make household repairs or work on the family car.
- **Nurture curiosity.** Ask your child questions. "Why do you think ... ?" "What might happen if ... ?" and "How can we find out ... ?"
- **Go to the library.** Check out books on different scientific topics.
- **Give your child something** to take apart—a ball point pen, a candle, an old toy. Encourage your child to figure out how it works.
- **Talk about the weather.** Have your child record the temperature each day for a month. Note whether the day was sunny, cloudy, rainy or snowy. Which was the coldest day? How many snowy days were there?

Get more out of conversations with your child



Are you tired of asking your child questions about school and getting little response?

Then try this strategy:

Instead of asking lots of questions when your child gets home from school, share a few things about your day first. For example: "I've had such a busy day. I had a meeting with my boss in the morning. I took Grandma to her doctor's appointment this afternoon. Then we stopped by the store to pick up groceries. It was good to get home."

After you've finished, ask your child to tell you a little bit about the school day. Prompt with open-ended questions if necessary: "What was the best part of your day?" "Tell me about what you learned today."

You can also use this strategy to start discussions about schoolwork. If your child brings home artwork from school, look at it and make some observations about what you see. Comment on the colors. Say what you like about it. Tell what it reminds you of, etc. Then ask your child, "What does it mean to you?"

Teach your child to achieve any goal by following four steps



January is a time for taking stock and setting goals. Many adults make some type of New Year's resolutions. Then two weeks later, most realize that they haven't followed through. Kids are no different.

This year, show your child how to achieve a goal. First, encourage your child to choose a goal that can be reached in a short time frame. Then, help your child follow four steps for achieving the goal:

1. **State the goal.** "My goal is to learn my multiplication facts." Ask your child to write it down and hang it in a prominent spot.
2. **Plan how to meet the goal.** "I will make flash cards and study them for 15 minutes every night. I will ask Dad to quiz me on Fridays."

3. **Talk about the goal with others.**

This builds commitment to the goal. Your child should tell the teacher about the goal, too.

4. **Do each step in the plan, one at a time.** If problems come up, talk about possible solutions. Perhaps your child is too tired to review flash cards after a long day of school. It might work better to study them in the mornings while eating breakfast instead.

Notice effort and progress each step of the way—and celebrate together when the hard work pays off!

"Set your goals high, and don't stop till you get there."

—Bo Jackson

Responsibility helps students have success in the classroom



Children who learn to be responsible do better in school. They get along better with teachers and peers. They make better decisions. They're more apt to try, follow through and succeed.

To strengthen your child's sense of responsibility:

- **Match chores to abilities.** Are you still packing your child's lunch? How about making the bed? If so, pass the torch. Most elementary schoolers are capable of handling such tasks. Don't overload your child with too many chores, but work toward giving meaningful responsibilities.
- **Teach lessons about money.** Consider giving your child a

small allowance. When children manage their own money, they tend to develop more respect for it. Include your child when you're working on your budget. You don't have to share specific financial details, but demonstrate what budgeting looks like. Say things like, "I'd love to order pizza tonight, too, but it'll have to wait. Payday isn't until Friday."

- **Use consequences to teach.** When children experience the consequences of their actions, they are more likely to learn not to make the same mistake again. If you're always running to the rescue, your child won't learn how to take responsibility for anything.

Are you making read-aloud time the best it can be?



Time spent reading aloud is critical to helping children become better readers. It's also fun!

Are you making the most of your read-aloud time? Answer *yes* or *no* to each of the questions below to find out:

___ 1. Do you have a regular read-aloud time with your child that lasts at least 20 minutes each day?

___ 2. Do you make read-aloud time fun by letting family members take turns picking the books you read together?

___ 2. Do you encourage your child to read a few pages aloud to you?

___ 4. Do you stop reading at an exciting place so your child will want to read again the next day?

___ 5. Do you sometimes pause to talk about what you've just read or to make predictions about what's about to happen?

How well are you doing?

More *yes* answers mean you're making the most of the time you spend reading aloud with your child and other family members. For each *no* answer, try that idea in the quiz.

Elementary School
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make the difference!

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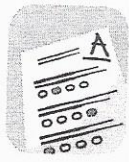
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Share test-taking strategies to boost your child's test scores

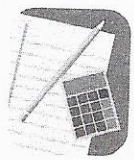


There is an important test tomorrow, and your child wants to do well. In addition to studying, there are several things students can do during the test to increase the likelihood of success.

Share these test-taking strategies with your child:

- **Focus on directions.** Your child should always read the directions very carefully before starting the test. If something doesn't make sense, your child should ask the teacher.
- **Write down information.** Some students struggle with memorization. If your child writes down key material from memory as soon as the test starts, it will be there to refer to later.
- **Read through all the questions** quickly before starting. Your child can then calculate how much time there is to spend on each question.
- **Skip a question if unsure of the answer.** Tell your child to answer all of the easy questions first, then come back to the others.
- **Remember the true/false rule:** If any part of an answer is false, the whole answer is false.
- **Use multiple-choice strategies.** Your child should try to answer the question before looking at the choices. Or, eliminate wrong answers and choose among what's left.
- **Outline essays.** Encourage your child to make a plan and stick to main points and key details. Even a brief outline is better than no answer.
- **Allow time to go back and check answers.** Do they make sense? Are sentences complete?

Here's why teachers give different types of assignments



While doing a math assignment, your child says, "Why do I have to do the same kinds of problems over and over? I'm so tired of them!"

It's true that teachers sometimes assign repetitive work, and it's helpful for students and families to understand why.

Here are four kinds of assignments—and the reasons teachers use them:

1. **Practice assignments.** Doing the same kind of work repeatedly helps students remember a skill. This is especially true when it comes to learning math, word definitions and spelling.
2. **Preparation assignments.** This is a way to introduce students to new topics. For instance, students might read a book about animals before studying animal families.
3. **Extension assignments.** Students need to be able to connect separate topics. For example, they might be asked to compare and contrast two historic events.
4. **Creative assignments.** These assignments challenge students to use different skills to show what they have learned. For instance, your child might be asked to build a model for science class.

Of course, all schoolwork builds self-discipline. So remember, even if your child doesn't see a reason for an assignment, completing it will still teach valuable lessons.

Source: M. Martin and C. Waltman-Greenwood, *Solve Your Child's School-Related Problems*, HarperCollins.

Q: My child has absolutely no patience and the teacher says it is becoming a problem at school. How can I help my child develop more patience?

Questions & Answers

A: In this era of on-demand entertainment, online shopping and instant communication, it can be challenging for children to learn to wait. However, patience is vital for learning and interacting in school.

Here's how to help your child develop more patience:

- **Explain that everyone** has to learn to wait, and that you're going to help your child with this skill.
 - **Be empathetic.** Let your child know you understand how hard it can be to wait for something.
 - **Offer opportunities** to be patient. When your child asks for something, say, "In a minute." If you're on the phone, develop a hand signal that means, "When I'm finished."
 - **Help your child save money** for something instead of buying it right away.
 - **Enjoy activities together** that require patience, such as playing board games, putting together jigsaw puzzles, baking and planting.
 - **Help your child develop strategies** for waiting—like singing songs quietly, playing "I Spy" or reading a book to pass the time.
 - **Model patience.** Stay calm when you're stuck in traffic, for example. Say something like, "It looks like we're going to be in the car for a while. Let's use the time to play a word game."
- With practice, your child will learn the patience needed for success in school—and in life.

It Matters: Motivation

Encouragement is more effective than praise



Most adults praise children with phrases like “Great job!” and “That looks amazing!”

But experts agree that *encouragement* has a more significant effect than *praise* on a child’s motivation. So what is the difference between the two?

Praise:

- **Focuses on results.** “You did a great job on your science project! You got an A!”
- **Uses opinion words** such as *good*, *great*, *terrific* and *wonderful*.
- **Is typically given** when children do what is expected of them.

Encouragement:

- **Recognizes effort and progress.** “Look at that project! I can tell you’ve spent a lot of time on it! It must feel good to know you worked so hard!”
- **Uses descriptive words.** “You picked up your room without being asked. Look at that *clean* floor and *organized* desk!”
- **Can be given** regardless of a child’s performance. “That didn’t work out the way you planned, did it? I can tell you’re disappointed, but I know you’ll try again next week. What do you think you might do differently next time?”

The big difference is that words of praise lead children to rely on *your* assessment of their accomplishments. It promotes a dependency on affirmations. Words of encouragement, on the other hand, lead children to form their *own* positive assessment of themselves—which makes them feel capable.

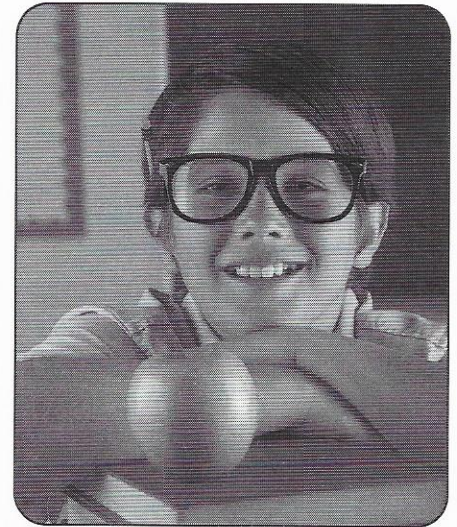
High expectations motivate students to succeed in school

When adults expect elementary schoolers to succeed, students’ chances of doing so improve greatly. Expect them to come up short, and the odds are that they will.

Children are usually keenly aware of how their families view them, and they often tailor their actions to those views. So it’s very important to have high expectations—and to express them to your child.

To set effective expectations:

- **Make sure what you expect** is within your child’s abilities. If you set expectations that are either too high or too low, your child may do poorly.
- **Post a list of expectations.** Include your expectations for behavior in places and situations such as home, school, study time, etc.
- **Be consistent.** Don’t lower your expectations to make your child



happy. Don’t raise them because you’ve had a rough day.

- **Set your child up for success.** Offer support to help your child meet expectations. For example, provide a well-lit study space and keep distractions to a minimum.

Boost your child’s desire to read with thee five strategies



When children *like* to read, they do it more often—which boosts reading skills and overall school success. To ignite your child’s love of reading:

1. **Celebrate.** Instead of simply checking out books at the library, make an event of it. Select interesting books, then choose a special place to enjoy reading together.
2. **Explore.** Help your child discover an appealing book series. Kids often can’t resist picking up the next book in a series.
3. **Investigate.** Ask a question and encourage your child to find the answer by doing some research online.
4. **Play.** Turn something you just read together into a fun challenge: Ask your child to summarize the story using only three sentences. Can your child use the characters from the story in a new story?
5. **Experiment.** Read a variety of books together. If your child is used to reading fiction, try reading a biography or how-to book, for example.

Helping Children Learn[®]

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



January 2023

Encourage excellence by setting high, achievable expectations

There are two important things to consider when setting expectations for your elementary schooler:

- 1. Research shows that students** tend to live up to parent and teacher expectations, whether they are high or low. So it's important to set the bar high for your child.
- 2. Expectations should be realistic.** If only near-perfection satisfies you, your child may think, "What's the point?" and stop trying altogether.



To set expectations that are high, realistic and effective, keep these guidelines in mind:

- **Expect your child's best efforts** in all activities.
- **Gear your expectations to your individual child.** Avoid comparisons to siblings, classmates and others.
- **Praise effort and progress.** Express pride in your child, and remind your child to take pride in working hard.
- **Show interest in what interests your child.** Parents' support for their children's passions can motivate kids to try their best in all pursuits.
- **Be a role model.** Set high expectations for yourself and talk about how you plan to meet them. Let your child see you give your best effort.

Source: J.A. Fredericks and others, *Handbook of Student Engagement Interventions*, Academic Press.



Show support when your student does schoolwork at home

Being involved when your child does assignments shows that you think schoolwork is important. The best way to be involved is to set your student up for success. Here's how:

- **Give schoolwork top priority.** If your child can't finish assignments because of other activities, a schedule adjustment is needed to make it possible.
- **Remember that schoolwork** helps students practice what they are learning. Your child's work doesn't have to be perfect.
- **Take complaints in stride.** Your child shouldn't melt down over every assignment, but a little whining is normal.
- **Show enthusiasm.** "You sure know a lot about Ancient Greece. Tell me something else!"
- **Suggest ways to find help** if your child has questions—call a classmate, reread the directions, etc. This shifts the responsibility away from you and onto your child—where it belongs.

Have math fun with words

Try this fun family math puzzle: Give each letter of the alphabet a monetary value. A is one cent, B is two cents, etc. Next, ask:

- **Whose name** is worth the most?
- **Who can think** of a jewel that's worth the most? Is gold worth more than rust?
- **How many words** can you think of that are worth exactly \$1?
- **What is the shortest word** you can find that is worth the most?

Retelling enhances reading

Research shows that retelling stories they've read helps students become more thoughtful readers. As your child

retells a story, offer open-ended prompts, such as "What happened next?"

If your child doesn't remember, just say, "Let's go back and read that part again."

Your child will learn that it is often necessary to read things more than once to fully grasp them.



Source: B.M. Taylor and J.E. Ysseldyke, *Effective Instruction for Struggling Readers: K-6*, Teachers College Press.

Share test-taking strategies

Knowing a few basic strategies can boost test performance. Encourage your child to:

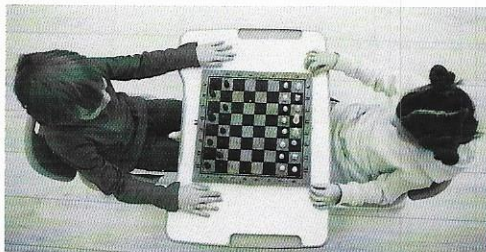
- **Read everything carefully**—directions, questions and answer choices.
- **Use time wisely.** If your child is stuck on a hard question, it's better to move on and come back to that question after answering everything else.
- **Reduce multiple choice options.** Your child should cross out answers that *can't* be right, then consider the remaining choices.





Q&A My children aren't very good sports. What can I do?

Q: Competition is taking the fun out of games. One of my children runs out of the room in tears after losing, and the other cheats when my back is turned. How can I help my children learn to be good sports?



A: Elementary schoolers can be competitive. But in school and life as well as in games, they need to learn to compete fairly and accept the results.

To instill a sense of fair play:

- **Discuss the importance** of being a good sport. Explain that you expect your kids to be humble when they win and gracious when they lose.
- **Limit game time.** Establish a time to end the game in advance, then set an alarm before you start. When it goes off, the game is over.
- **Downplay mistakes.** Be gentle when correcting your children for a wrong move or mistake. If necessary, explain what to do instead.
- **Discourage cheating.** Start each game by reviewing the rules. The first time a child tries to cheat, simply repeat the rules. The second time, calmly say "When you don't play by the rules, people get upset and don't enjoy playing. If it happens again, the game is over." If it does happen again, put the game away without saying more.
- **Call fouls.** Every put-down, poke or unkind comment results in a foul for that player. Five fouls and the player is out.

Parent Quiz

Are you helping your child learn to follow instructions?

Children who know how to follow directions achieve better results—in the classroom, on schoolwork and at home. Are you helping your child practice this elementary skill? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below:

- ___ **1. Do you get** your child's full attention before giving directions? Call your child's name and make eye contact.
- ___ **2. Do you break** instructions down into specific steps?
- ___ **3. Do you ask** your child to reread or repeat instructions before beginning a task?
- ___ **4. Do you post** checklists of your child's daily tasks?
- ___ **5. Do you praise** your child for following directions?

How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are helping your child learn to follow directions successfully. For each no, try that idea.

"Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them."

—James Baldwin

Responsible behavior at home carries over to school

Chores offer a hands-on way for your child to practice being responsible. To encourage willing participation, brainstorm a list together of what needs to be done. Then:

- 1. Let your child choose** a few tasks off the list to do this week.
- 2. Rotate chores each week**, so no one feels stuck with a particular chore.
- 3. Use a chore chart.** Let your child place a star next to tasks after completing them.
- 4. Set an example.** Dive into chores without complaining. Talk about how good it feels to see a responsibility through.

Sink an orange for science

Here's a safe, kid-friendly science experiment your child can conduct in your kitchen sink:

- 1. Fill the sink** with water and have your child drop in a whole orange. Does it float or sink? (It should float.)



- 2. Peel the orange** and drop it in the water again. What does it do? (It sinks.)

What's going on? An orange peel is full of tiny air pockets that make the unpeeled fruit less dense than the water, so it floats. Without its peel, the fruit is more dense, so it sinks.

Preview nonfiction graphics

The photos, maps, graphs and illustrations in history, science and other nonfiction reading can give students a clearer understanding of the text. Before starting to read, have your child look at the graphics and:

- **Explain what each** image shows.
- **Think about why** the authors might have included it.

Then when reading, your child is likely to understand and remember more.

Helping Children Learn®

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