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Dec 28, 2020

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Strengthen family bonds with this unusual improv night. Write each person’s name on a separate slip of paper, and mix them up in a bowl. Take turns drawing a slip and acting out a “commercial” advertising the person’s strengths, like generosity or musical talent.

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Dec 29, 2020

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Making “arrays”—arrangements of objects in even rows and columns—helps your child visualize multiplication. For 7 × 5 = 35, he can make 7 rows of 5 beans. Counting by 5s, he’ll see that 7 × 5 = 35. How could he rearrange the beans to show 5 × 7?

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Dec 30, 2020

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Mealtime conversations build your child’s communication skills. Try this idea: Go around the table, and take turns saying a sentence about your day that includes a number (in order). The first person uses 1 (“I ran 1 mile”), the next uses 2 (“I took 2 quizzes today”), and so on.

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Dec 31, 2020

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This New Year’s Eve, encourage each family member to make a list of 10 new things to try this year. Examples might include an unfamiliar vegetable, a book by a new author, or a different style of dance. Post the lists in a visible spot, and check off each one you try.

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Jan 01, 2021

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Encourage your child to make everyday predictions. For example, what will happen next in the movie? What will the dog do when he hears her making lunch? She’ll exercise the same critical thinking skills she uses to understand the things that she reads.

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Jan 02, 2021

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Can your child find two household objects that he estimates will measure 1 foot when he lays them end to end? He can look at a ruler to visualize 1 foot, then gather items and measure to check. Now have him repeat the activity with three objects that equal 1 foot.

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Jan 03, 2021

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Ask your child to put on her thinking cap to help you cut down on the amount of plastic you use in your home. She might suggest wrapping sandwiches in aluminum foil instead of bags or use paper grocery bags to line wastebaskets.