

## Let Your Child Teach You!\*

A great way to really learn something is to teach it to some else. Help your children develop understanding and skill by asking *them* to teach *you* something they know how to do or enjoy doing. They will learn to notice the order or steps in a process and to express their thoughts.

### Here are suggestions:

- 1) Think of an activity, skill, or interest your child has. It might be dribbling a ball • playing hop scotch • drawing a car, airplane, person, or house • jumping rope • doing a cartwheel or somersault • holding one's breath under water • finding pretty stones • memorizing times tables or math facts • signing language • playing rhythm games • or something else entirely! Choose something appropriate for your child's age.
- 2) More ideas are to ask your child to teach you how to play a card or board game • use new technology • write your name "graffiti" style • say something in another language • sing the words of a song • remember the names of all their friends.
- 3) Find a time and place where it's *easy* to have your child teach you. Look for a time when you can be spontaneous with this. When you see your children doing something they could teach you, say, "Teach me how to do that!" or "Show me the steps you take to make that." The whole activity may take only a minute or two, or it may be a longer project.
- 4) It might help your children think clearly if you ask questions like, "What do you do first when you draw a person?" "What comes next?" and "Why do you do it that way?"
- 5) Be very patient! Be *truly interested!* Listen carefully. Be encouraging. The idea is to have fun and let them have the experience of being the teacher, for a change.
- 6) Then either you or the children may want to write down what they taught you in the **Our Treasures** section of your **WAY TO GO!** FAMILY LEARNING JOURNAL™.



"Once I asked my granddaughter to teach me a song with a long Hawaiian word. She repeated it over and over slowly. She was tickled by my efforts to learn it and wondered why it was so hard for me. I could see she enjoyed being the teacher and knowing she could help me learn something new."

— *Grandma Anna*

\*Let Your Child Teach You! supports the English-Language Arts Content Standards related to communicating information, ideas, and sequence and to understanding directions.

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