

October 2011

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT FUN CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						1 Have a vegetarian night! Create a meal consisting entirely of vegetables.	
2 Set a play date. Invite friends with children to join you in an activity.	3 Today is Bullying Prevention Day . Spread the message: "The End of Bullying Begins with Me!"	4 October is Energy Awareness Month . Think of ways to save energy in your home.	5 Inspect your home as a family & look for potential fire hazards. 	6 Have a movie night in honor of the first motion picture shown by Thomas Edison in 1889.	7 Volunteer your time at an animal shelter with your children after school. 	8 Are your children allergic to anything specific? Do they know about it? It's important they know about their allergies.	
9 Today kicks off Fire Prevention Week . Check your fire extinguisher & smoke alarms.	10 For Columbus Day visit a nearby marina or port & look at the different types of boats. 	11 In honor of National Pizza Month , have each member of the family create their own personal pizza!	12 When your children have a question, instead of telling them the answer, have them look it up.	13 Tell your children stories about what it was like when you were their age. 	14 Let your children pick out nuts, cereal & yogurt or chocolate chips at the grocery store to make homemade trail mix.	15 Start a family book club. Pick a book to read & talk about together. 	
16 It's Dictionary Day ! Invite your child to flip through the dictionary & find crazy words she has never heard!	17 Have a teenager? Get them to the library. It's Teen Read Week ! 	18 Have a question? Call the Parent Helpline at 1-800-FLA-LOVE. 	19 Make it a traditional family dinner night. Everyone sits at the table. No TV or cell phones allowed!	20 What are the rules when riding in the car? Discuss car safety with your child.	21 Celebrate National Dessert Month by baking something yummy with your child & eating it <i>before</i> dinner! 	22 Pop some popcorn, turn off the lights, & see who can tell the scariest story!	
23 Next weekend is Halloween . Work with your child to design a homemade costume.	24 Play <i>Monopoly</i> , <i>Life</i> , or <i>Pay Day</i> . Let your child be the banker & show off her math skills.	25 Kids' fashion is always changing. Help them customize a pair of jeans. 	26 Do you know how to do the Monster Mash? Teach it to your kids! 	27 Find a nearby roller rink, or go to the park & roller-skate or rollerblade. Remember to wear pads!	28 It's the Statue of Liberty's birthday ! Visit the library or look online to find out more about Lady Liberty.	29 It's Halloween weekend. Talk about safety issues with your child & set ground rules.	
30 Have a family dinner & tell everyone to wear a costume!	31 Happy Halloween! Bake pumpkin seeds & enjoy apple cider.					October is National Bullying Prevention Month The time to act against bullying is now! http://www.pacer.org/bullying/bpam/index.asp	

Family Fun Facts



Did you know?

- Children who eat dinner around the table with their families do better in school.
- Children who take family trips do better in school. Simple free trips to the park or library are as good as expensive trips away from home.
- Children who are read to frequently read earlier and better.
- Children who see their parents read regularly are likely to read more themselves.
- Spending 30 minutes a day with your child can help them to achieve better grades in school.
- Children love to spend time with their parents!

(Facts from Harvard Family Research Project, www.hfrp.org)

Visit the Florida PIRC at USF's updated website www.floridapirc.usf.edu for parents who want to learn more about helping their child succeed in school, and for educators who want to support children's learning and families' involvement in education. Check our website for:

- tip sheets with ideas to support learning,
- workshops for parents and educators,
- information on *Parents as Teachers*, a home visiting program,
- news on upcoming conferences.

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