

Functional Homework Activities

Daily home activities and routines that reinforce skills learned in the classroom

Learning Activity	Related Skills
Sorting laundry; putting groups of sorted clothes in the washer, dryer, dresser drawers, closets	Likenesses, differences, sorting, organization
Setting the table	Sequencing, organization
Planning meals	Sequencing, organization, problem solving
Scheduling special jobs on certain days (taking out garbage, emptying wastebaskets the night before)	Responsibility, organization, sequencing, association
Doing daily chores (making bed, putting dirty clothes in hamper)	Responsibility
Choosing TV shows from structured options	Decision-making
Retelling sequence of events and main ideas from selected TV shows	Sequencing, finding the main idea, attention span
Making a "TV Guide" of favorite programs	Decision-making, sequencing
Making a calendar of jobs, broken down into days, weeks, months; associate days with specific jobs, events	Sequencing, association, organization
Keeping a diary, journal or log	Language, writing, organization
Letter writing to pen pals, grandparents, relatives or friends	Language, writing, organization
Checking the newspaper for sales or bargains before planning meals or shopping trips	Decision-making, organization
Reading cartoons to younger siblings	Reading
Summarizing sports events (live, on TV, or in newspapers or magazines)	Sequencing, organization, comprehension
Examining maps and checking weather reports in other geographic areas where friends live or in connection with travel plans	Map reading, comprehension
Taking imaginary trips (organize transportation? clothing? cost? sights? weather? why go there?)	Organization, decision-making
Making a "travelogue" from newspapers, magazines, photographs	Organization, decision-making
Making a scrapbook related to a hobby or theme (sports; putting cartoon strip frames in sequence)	Decision-making, on-task behavior, organization, fine-motor coordination, attention span
Putting together a booklet of food groups (likes and dislikes, food for special meals or parties)	Organization, decision-making- fine-motor coordination
Playing card games, keeping score ("war", "21")	Attention span, math facts, following rules, decision-making
Playing board games (check reading level required and rule explanations)	Attention span, decision-making, reading comprehension

Going for walks or rides and looking for specific categories of objects, such as birds, flowers, house numbers	Memory, organization
Preparing a shopping list in order of store layout (based on earlier visit to make notes or drawings of general locations of merchandise)	Organization, sequencing, pulling together several facts to make a "whole"
Making a map or drawing of shopping mall, school or neighborhood	Organization, decision-making, fine-motor coordination, map skills
Keeping a file of cents-off coupons (alphabetize, figure out savings, keep money saved)	Sequencing, math facts, decision-making, reading
Keeping a file of refund forms (alphabetize, put in order of expiration date)	Sequencing, reading
Retrieving cents-off coupons while making a shopping list (real or assumed savings)	Decision-making
Reading newspaper articles, magazine articles, or books on clipping coupons and refunding	Reading comprehension
Comparing prices of similar or same articles in different stores while shopping	Organization, decision-making, math facts
Making a list of which stores carry certain items which are frequently purchased	Organization, handwriting
Obtaining a street map and plotting color-coded routes to school, shopping areas, and other places frequently visited	Map reading, fine-motor coordination
Planning a pretend shopping spree with a set amount of money to spend	Decision-making, math facts
Visiting library (help select books)	Responsibility, decision-making, reading
Marking calendar with special holidays, birthdays	Sequencing, handwriting

Taken from Beverly L. Dexter's article in Teaching Exceptional Children.