

PATCH 'Ohana Network



PATCH - Supporting Hawaii's Child Care Needs

Supporting Your Child's Early Learning: Keeping it Simple, Affordable and Fun

Helping your child get the “heads up” on his/her education does not have to cost a pretty penny. In fact, it can be affordable.

Here are some low to no cost ways for you to support your child's learning without breaking the bank:

1. Read to your child for 10 – 15 minutes everyday. This simple and affordable activity expands your child's knowledge, increases vocabulary, and introduces the joy of reading by being read to. The more time you spend reading to your keiki, the more you increase his/her potential to learn and succeed in school. The best part is that all this learning takes place in the comfort of your arms and in your own home.
 2. Visit the public library with your child at least once a month. When people think of the public library they think about the wall-to-wall collections of books that can be borrowed. While this is true, libraries also have a wide assortment of CDs and DVDs available for check out. Since most libraries allow you to borrow materials for three weeks, make a date to borrow new items with your keiki when materials are due. This will not only make
- visiting the public library once a month easy, but it will make it one of the most affordable ways you can support your child's reading, writing and speaking development. For more information about the services the public libraries provide, to find the location closest to you, and to download a library card application for yourself and/or your child, visit <http://www.librarieshawaii.org>
3. Play a board or card game with your child to help develop his/her school readiness skills. When playing games children learn important social skills such as taking turns, sharing and verbal communication. It also provides an opportunity for children to learn, and master, other school readiness skills such as:
 - number and shape recognition
 - grouping similar items together
 - counting
 - letter recognition and reading
 - color recognition
 - eye-hand coordination



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In today's fast paced world, playing games is an easy, affordable and excellent way for children and adults to unwind and hang out together.

4. Do art and craft projects with your child. The creative process is an excellent way for children to develop problem solving skills. Art projects allow children to figure out how to put something together in a fun, creative, non-threatening way. For example, when you make a sock puppet with your child, you are not only making an entertaining toy, you are giving your child an opportunity to use his/her math skills (e.g. measuring out 12 inches of yarn), improve his/her fine motor skills (e.g. using scissors to cut felt to make clothes), hand-eye coordination (e.g. placing wiggle eyes on a dot of glue), and concentration. By doing arts and crafts with your child you help unlock your child's hidden potential to



be a problem solver and creative thinker.

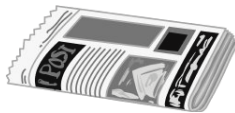
4. Play games with your child when in the car. Traffic is a natural part of

everyday life. Turn your commuting time into learning time by playing games in the

car with your keiki. Toddlers can look for airplanes while on the way to the grocery store. Preschool age children can look for, and count, certain types of vehicles (i.e. garbage trucks) while on the way to grandma's. Older children can look for, and read, number signs (i.e. 25, 45, 50, etc.) on the way to school. By playing car games with your children you make the commute an enjoyable experience that hides a learning experience.

These simple activities help you support your child's learning in an easy, affordable and fun way.

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DHS Child Care Subsidy News

DECREASE OF CHILD CARE SUBSIDY RATES

Effective February 1st, 2010, the Department of Human Services (DHS) is modifying the structure and decreasing the rates of child care subsidies. DHS has secured additional sources of funding to temporarily help families who experience a decrease in their subsidy

payment. Child care providers and affected families may call PATCH for the latest information and assistance. You can also go to our website, www.patchhawaii.org, or call your local PATCH office for details.