

The Tarrant Parent

A Newsletter for Tarrant City Schools

Learning + Service = Success

Preparing Children's Brains for Work of the Future

Adapted from an article by Raychelle Cassada Lohmann published in Psychology Today

In the future, many manufacturing jobs will be automated and whole industries will be disrupted. It's already happening! Automation will impact jobs in every sector including medical, legal, customer service, transportation, etc. Previously, college degrees and professional schools were a path to higher earning potential. That will not be the case for all future graduates. Here are some tips that can help your child develop skills that will be in demand in the future.

Encourage Free Play Time, Entrepreneurism, and Creativity to develop skills in critical reasoning, problem-solving, lateral-thinking, and applied creativity. In the future, job security will depend on the ability to adapt and be flexible, creative, and resourceful. *Having entrepreneurial skills will be essential.* Help your child develop these skills by starting a business. It could be as simple a lemonade stand, or way bigger than that. *Encourage out of the box thinking...with actual boxes.* Save your cardboard boxes for kids to build with or to use for creative crafts materials. Teach your children how to learn. Answer questions with questions to stimulate critical reasoning, develop ideas, and eliminate hypotheses.

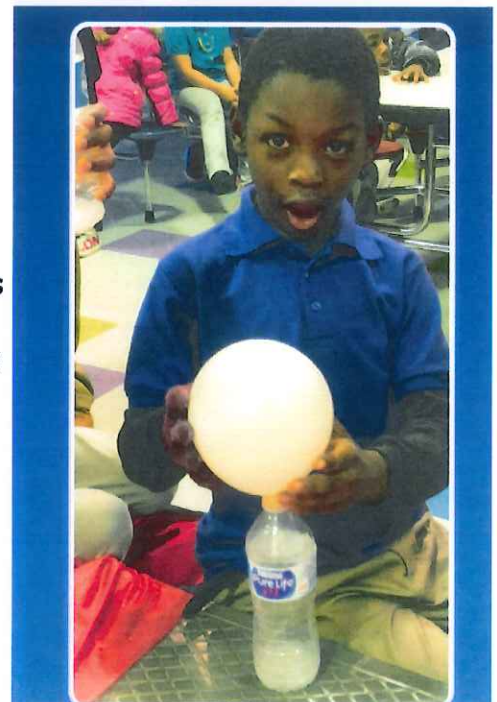
Play Team Sports to develop teamwork skills, discipline, focus, self-mastery, and a sense of community. Physical activity may improve children's brain function. Playing team sports helps a child learn the value of practice, discipline, grit, resiliency, and hard work. Team sports teach children how to take constructive criticism and respect authority. Physical fitness promotes emotional and mental well-being, and playing a youth sport can help them carry a healthy lifestyle into adulthood.

Play Board Games to develop social-emotional intelligence, good sportsmanship, and strategic thinking. Having strong social and communication skills will be important in the future.



Save the Date:

12/14/2018	Early Dismissal Last Day of School Before Break
12/17/2018- 1/4/2019	Winter Break No School
1/17/2019	Early Dismissal Report Cards and Conferences
1/21/2019	MLK Jr. Day No School



Preparing Children's Brains for Work of the Future continued...

Children learn to compete, take turns, play by the rules, and master their emotions whether they win or lose. Games like chess help develop strategic thinking, Monopoly develops math and reading, and Scrabble helps with spelling, math and vocabulary.

Minimize all forms of electronics, read printed books instead to develop proactive life-long learning, curiosity, and self-directed exploration. When using digital devices, kids are passive recipients of information. Reading books allows them to stimulate their mind on their own with topics of their choosing.

Parents and schools are preparing kids for jobs that haven't even been created yet. The ability to collaborate with others, effectively communicate, and learn new things quickly are going to be determining factors in future success. *Bonus: the above mentioned activities are FUN and low or no cost.*

Resource Corner

Sharing resources that will benefit students, families, and the community.

This month's features:

Digital Compass app. From Common Sense Media - FREE. A "choose-your-own adventure" game for iPad and iPhone. Allows kids to experience and maneuver digital life while increasing digital literacy and citizenship.

Curbi app for iOS- FREE for first two devices. Apple and Android compatible. Curb device usage. Block inappropriate material from your child's device. Track your child's device usage by app, site, activity through reports accessed from your phone.

Bedtime Math app- FREE. English and Spanish. Makes math fun and easy like reading before bed. Has three levels of difficulty for 3 year olds to big kids. Try the "Math Problem of the Day" today!

6 Tips for Keeping Kids Safe on Social Media from www.mashable.com

Educate yourself about social media. Learn about each of the social networks your child is using. Different platforms pose different risks. (ex. Snapchat, Tumblr, Vine)

Establish an age limit. If you do not allow them to use social media now, let them know at what age you will allow it. This may help keep them from creating "secret profiles." Most networks require users to be 13 or older.

Talk to your kids about the dangers and consequences of social media. Remind them and yourself that everything they post (photos, contact information, location) is easily accessible to others. This can make them vulnerable to cyberbullying, predators, and peer pressure.

Keep the computer or device in a common area of your home. This will help you keep an eye on what sites they are viewing and what they post. It may also deter them from inappropriate behavior because they know you may look at any minute.

Set guidelines or rules. For example, set limits on how much time your child can spend on social media during the week. Don't make rules too rigid so that they are empowered to make good decisions without having to hide from you.

Check your child's privacy settings regularly. Check each social network. Social networks are constantly changing and updating their sites and apps, so you want to make sure that your child's profile is as secure as it can be.