

About the Developmental Studies Center

Our Mission

Developmental Studies Center (DSC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to children's academic, ethical, and social development. Since 1980, DSC has developed school-based and after-school programs that help children develop capacities to think deeply and critically so they will continue learning throughout their lives and strengthen their commitment to such values as kindness, helpfulness, personal responsibility, and respect for others.

DSC's Programs Develop Skills and Community

Programs for use in classrooms

Caring School Community™ • Grades K–6

The Caring School Community (CSC) program is a nationally recognized, research-based program that builds community—in the classroom, across grades, schoolwide, and with families.

Making Meaning® • Grades K–8

The Making Meaning program is a reading comprehension curriculum that teaches comprehension strategies through read-alouds, collaborative structures, and reflective partner work.

SIPPS® (Systematic Instruction in Phoneme Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Words) • Grades K–12

The SIPPS program teaches decoding systematically. It is designed specifically for intervention and covers single-syllable decoding, short vowels, simple consonants, complex vowels, consonant digraphs, polysyllabic strategies, and high-frequency sight words.

Being a Writer™ • Grades K–5

The Being a Writer program is a yearlong writing curriculum—the first program of its kind to bring together the latest research in teaching writing with support for students' social and ethical development. (Available August 2007)

Programs for out-of-school time

AfterSchool KidzLit® • Grades K–8

The AfterSchool KidzLit program is a literacy enrichment program consisting of terrific read-aloud books, and discussions and activities that help kids make connections between the stories, their own lives, and the world.

AfterSchool KidzMath™ • Grades K–6

The AfterSchool KidzMath program provides academic enrichment using cooperative math games and literature-based activities. Kids deepen their understanding and practice important math skills—and have fun.

Science Explorer • Grades K–6

Science Explorer is an inquiry-based, interactive program of experiments using ordinary materials that inspire students to explore scientific principles.

Math Explorer • Grades 6–8

Math Explorer invites children to fly planes, launch rockets, learn card tricks, and make cool stuff to take home—all while practicing the important math skills middle-school students need extra help with.

For more information, please visit www.devstu.org or contact us by phone at 800.666.7270.



**DEVELOPMENTAL
STUDIES CENTER™**

Nonprofit. Research Based. Mission Driven. Since 1980.

Family Folklore

Before Sending Home the Activity

This activity is designed to accompany material on family or cultural folklore—stories, rituals, and traditions that help define our histories, values, and identities within and across generations.

If any of your students have a hard time finding family members to do these Homeside Activities with them, or if they have broad definitions of the word “family,” encourage them to turn to adults other than immediate family members.

Before sending the activity home, ask the class for suggestions about making this Homeside Activity successful.

Follow-Up

Have students do partner interviews to find out about each other’s family folklore. Give students a chance to tell their partners’ stories to the whole class. (Emphasize that they need to check with their partners first, to make sure it’s okay to tell their stories.)

Family Folklore

Dear Student,

You are in charge of this Homeside Activity, which means you are in charge of finding an adult to do it with you, finding time you both have free to do it, explaining and “directing” the activity, making sure the adult signs it, and bringing it back to class. Please find about 20 minutes that you can spend on the activity with a parent or other adult—a neighbor, grandparent, older brother or sister, or family friend. If you’d like, get a bunch of people involved!

One of the most important reasons for doing this activity is that you and the adult will learn things from each other about what you think, feel, know, and want to know. In class we can then also learn from each other, when we share what we have learned at home. Just be sure to ask the adults for permission to pass along what they say—and don’t forget to thank them for contributing to our class’s learning!

Interview a parent or other family member about your family history. Ask the questions below. (The person you interview may not have stories to tell about all of these questions.) Then on the back of this page write a summary of one of the stories to share in class.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- Is there a family hero or “character” that you could tell me about?
- Do you have a story about how a family joke or saying got started?
- Can you tell me a story about a family courtship or wedding?
- What is your favorite story about when you were growing up?

HOMESIDE ACTIVITY



FAMILY FOLKLORE STORY

In the space below, write a summary of one of the stories from the interview.

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Comments

After you have completed this activity, each of you please sign your name and the date below. If you have any comments, please write them in the space provided.

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Signatures

Date

Please return this activity to school. Thank you.

Tradiciones familiares

Querido alumno o querida alumna,

Tú eres la persona encargada de realizar esta Actividad Familiar: te toca encontrar a una persona mayor que la pueda hacer contigo, hallar un tiempo que los dos tengan libre, llevar a cabo la actividad, obtener la firma y por último traer la actividad de vuelta a la escuela.

Necesitarás hallar unos 20 minutos que puedas dedicarle a la actividad junto con uno de tus padres o con otra persona mayor: pudiera ser un vecino o una vecina, uno de tus abuelitos, tu hermano o hermana mayor, o algún amigo o amiga de la familia. Si quieres, ¡puedes reunir a todo un grupo!

Una de las razones principales por la cual realizar esta actividad es que cada uno de ustedes aprenderá mucho acerca de la otra persona: ambos aprenderán qué piensa, qué siente, qué sabe y qué quiere saber cada cual. Más tarde en la clase, seguiremos aprendiendo unos de otros al compartir lo que hemos aprendido en casa. Sólo asegúrate de pedirles permiso a las personas mayores para compartir lo que te han contado, y ¡no te olvides de agradecerles por su contribución a nuestro aprendizaje!

Entrevista a uno de tus padres o a alguna otra persona mayor sobre la historia de tu familia. Pregúntale a la persona mayor una o varias de las siguientes preguntas (es posible que la persona mayor no tenga relatos que contar sobre cada pregunta, pero seguramente tendrá relatos sobre algunas de ellas). Luego escribe en el dorso de esta hoja un resumen de uno de los relatos que te gustaría compartir con la clase.

PREGUNTAS PARA LA ENTREVISTA:

- ¿Hay un relato sobre algún personaje de la familia que me pudieras contar?
- ¿Conoces un relato sobre cómo empezó un chiste familiar o un dicho familiar?
- ¿Me puedes contar un relato sobre un matrimonio familiar, o sobre cómo se conoció una pareja de la familia?
- ¿Cuál es tu relato favorito de cuando eras pequeño o de cuando eras pequeña?

ACTIVIDAD FAMILIAR



RELATO DE UNA TRADICIÓN O DE UN ACONTECIMIENTO FAMILIAR

Escribe aquí un resumen de uno de los relatos que te contaron en la entrevista.

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Comentarios

Después que hayan completado esta actividad, haga el favor cada uno de firmar y de escribir la fecha en el lugar indicado. Si quisieran hacer cualquier comentario, por favor escríbanlo aquí.

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Firmas

Fecha

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Por favor trae esta actividad devuelta a la escuela. Gracias.