

## **Suggested Activities for Elementary Students**

Here are some fun ideas to support your child's learning:

### **1. Try simple science experiments like the active volcano**

<http://chemistry.about.com/cs/howtos/ht/buildavolcano.htm>

It is a tried and true way to spark fun and creativity. The instructions are easy and great reading practice too.

### **2. Build reading and writing into everyday activities.**

Some ideas to pass along: (1) watching TV with the sound off and closed captioning on, (2) reading directions for how to play a new game, or (3) helping with meals by writing up a grocery list, finding things in the grocery store, and reading the recipe aloud for mom or dad during cooking time. More ideas at [PBS Parents](#) .

**3. Find a pen pal.** Consider helping your child find a pen pal to write to in another country, preferably in a country your child wants to learn more about. Check out pen pal programs such as [International Pen Friends](#). Remember that it is important to monitor pen pals friendships closely.

**4. Give your child a stamped, addressed postcard** so they can write to their Teacher about their summer adventures. Or recycle school notebooks and paper into journals or scrapbooks. Another way to engage writers is to encourage your children to spend some time researching and writing [community stories](#) — not only does it build research and writing skills, but helps kids develop a deeper sense of place.

**5. Record your own audiobooks.** Let your child read their favourite book while you record it. Save the recording on your computer, and let them listen to the

story when they crave down time. If you have several kids, assign each a character.

**6. Create your own book series for kids.** Start by brainstorming ideas for a character and setting. Then think about what will make your character special. Maybe he or she is an amateur detective or obsessed with baking cupcakes. Older kids can write their stories on the computer, and younger kids can dictate to a parent or an older sibling.

**7. Experiment with different art media.** Play with different types of paint, from watercolor to oil-based (wear a smock!). Make your own [paint](#). Check out pastels, coloured pencils, charcoal and other art supplies. Help your kids discover their favourite ways to express their creativity. Encourage them to make mixed media masterpieces.

**8. Have your child be an active citizen.** Kids who participate in community service activities gain not only new skills but also self-confidence and self-esteem. Help them zoom into action! Resources from [ZOOM](#) can help them get the most out of helping others this summer.

**9. Do laundry together.** Crazy but true, laundry is educational! Preschoolers can help you sort laundry by color; find matching socks and count towels and washcloths.

**10. Study a foreign language.** A whiteboard is an essential. Every morning, write a word of the day in a favourite language and use the word all day long. You can also play many of your DVD's in French. Kids who have previously viewed a movie will enjoy listening to it in French. Children can also access French lessons online at <http://bc-yk.cpf.ca/resources/for-students/online-french-lessons/>

**11. Active bodies. Active minds.** Our Community is leading in the “Healthy Abbotsford” initiative — <http://www.healthyabbotsford.ca/> with the goal of raising a healthier generation of children. [Let's Move Outside](#) has lots of ideas to help kids get the 60 minutes of active play they need everyday. [At Your Library](#) has suggestions for fun outdoor games — everything from the classics (remember

Capture the Flag?) to how to invent your own, plus a list of books that will inspire you to "let the games begin."

**12. Do jigsaw puzzles together.** It may seem old school, but jigsaw puzzles are a great activity for work downtime. We take puzzles on vacation and work on them in the afternoon when it's quiet time. The best puzzles have crisp, detailed pictures without swaths of solid colors.