

Parenting Tip of the Month

September



Lower Elementary Teachers

Creating Structure and Rules

Consistent routines and rules help create order and structure your day. Things go more smoothly when you and your child know what to expect.

Keys to Creating Structure

1. Consistency, predictability, and follow-through are important for creating structure in the home. [Click here to learn more.](#)
2. Respond to your child's behavior the same way every time. When you are consistent, the behaviors you like will happen more often and problem behaviors are less likely to happen. [Click here to learn more.](#)
3. Routines and daily schedules help you and your child. You both know what to expect each day. Routines can also improve your child's behavior and your relationship with your child. [Click here to learn more.](#)
4. A family rule is a clear statement about behaviors that are never okay, such as hitting and running in the house. You can change your child's behavior when there are clear consequences for breaking the rule. [Click here to learn more.](#)
5. Keep things positive! Reward and praise your child for following routines and rules. This makes it more likely that your child will follow the routines and rules in the future. [Click here to learn more.](#)

If you want to read more about this parenting tip, please check the website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/parents/essentials/structure/index.html>

Material of the Month

September



Lower Elementary Teachers

Biome Readers for all continents

This includes all 7 sets of continent readers (including Antarctica) and a wooden biome reader box.



When a class is studying a continent and the people and animals that live there, these phonetic readers will allow every child, even those reading three-letter words with short vowels, an opportunity to read about what they are studying.

With a preparation of learning some basic sight words, the child reads the small booklet without pictures so that they can focus on decoding. Next, the child reads the same text again in the process of matching it to illustrations. Numbers on the back of the cards allow for self-checking. Newly revised masters for the booklets are included so that the final step involves the child reading the text

for a third time, showing more confidence and demonstrating her comprehension by illustrating her own copy to take home.



Biome puzzle maps encourage children to see the earth as a biosphere. Pieces are color-coded to represent the biomes of a continent and laser-cut in wood, so lost pieces are always replaceable. They include a double-sided wood veneer control chart. The puzzles shown here are our new version, now printed on wood, allowing the beautiful grain to show through.



The Everglades Habitat Mat provides students with many dynamic options for exploring a wetlands ecosystem. The wooden animals can be matched to the mat and labels help children learn the names of the animals and parts of the wetland biome. They can be used to make and symbolize sentences about the plants and animals. Word problems encourage the students to use and think about the application of math in ecology. Sequence cards motivate storytellers to act out the drama with characters of the included story. Fact File Cards provide information on all of the animals and provide guidance for working with the Food Chain Chart and energy transfer arrows. Wooden boxes for all of the cards are included along with a lidded wooden storage box with dividers and a tray for easy and tidy shelf storage.



The Coral Reef Habitat Mat offers an in depth study of an ecosystem, exploring the diversity and interdependence of the species living there. Young learners can match the wooden animals to the mat. Word problems give children a deeper understanding of ecology through math. Labels encourage children to make and symbolize sentences about the plants and animals living in the coral reef. Storytellers are encouraged to act out the drama with characters of the story outlined in the sequence cards. Fact File Cards provide information on all of the animals and guide the children in working with the Food Chain Chart and energy transfer arrows. Wooden boxes for all of the cards are included along with a lidded wooden storage box with dividers and a tray for easy and tidy shelf storage.