



Learning Express

Caregiver Connection

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We are excited to offer the Prairie Public Learning Express! Prairie Public is dedicated to providing quality educational resources across our region, free of charge.

The resource bins in the Learning Express were created by local educators to help childcare providers, teachers, and librarians meet Early Learning Standards. The activities and discussion questions are intended to:

- Allow children to learn through play
- Encourage children to ask more questions and build language skills
- Practice and develop essential life skills like managing emotions, waiting patiently, having self-awareness and empathy, and working cooperatively

What you can do to support these goals at home:

1. **Provide** your child with opportunities to play independently, with adult caregivers, and with other children.
2. **Ask** your child open-ended questions that encourage more than yes or no answers.
 - *What are you building/creating?*
 - *Can you tell me a story about what you're playing?*
 - *Why did you choose those colors/shapes?*
 - *What happens next in your game?*
 - *How would you change this if you could?*
 - *What do you like most about this toy/game?*
 - *What do you think would happen if...?*
 - *How does this work?*
 - *Who are the characters in your story, and what are they doing?*
 - *What is your favorite part of this activity?*
 - *How did you come up with this idea?*
 - *Can you show me how you did that?*
 - *What are you pretending right now?*
 - *How does this make you feel?*
 - *What would you do if you were in this situation for real?*
3. **Model** the kinds of behaviors you would like your child to develop. For example, make sure your child sees you using strategies to calm down or deal with disappointment, waiting patiently in a line, and sharing with others.
4. **Praise** your child for their efforts in order to build self-confidence, persistence, and resiliency.
 - *I like how you approached this problem.*
 - *Keep trying!*
 - *What's another way you could do this?*
 - *I am proud of you!*

Happy Playing—and Learning!