

## Shady Lane School Parent Newsletter December 2020

For questions and comments, contact Julie at  
[onlinelearning@shadylane.org](mailto:onlinelearning@shadylane.org)

### **\*\*Winter Break\*\***

Shady Lane will be closed Monday, December 21  
- Sunday, January 3.

See you in the new year –  
Monday, January 4, 2021

## Looking for Fun Family Activities?

Check out

<https://pittsburgh.kidsoutandabout.com/>

### Fun Activities for Indoor Days

- Use a blanket or sheet and two chairs to make a “tent.”
- Fill the kitchen sink (or a plastic tub) with water, and let your child play with measuring cups, plastic bottles, funnels, turkey basters, a whisk. Pour, fill, dump, predict what will hold more water, etc.
- Play “Shoe Store.” Gather 6 or more pairs of shoes of different colors and sizes. If possible, provide shoe boxes (not necessary). Can your child sort by size, color, style? Which shoes match? What does it feel like to wear shoes that don’t fit? Optional: provide play money, a ruler to measure feet, paper to write the receipt, and bags to complete the sale.
- Make a macaroni necklace with elbow macaroni and string or yarn. For younger children, try rigatoni.

## Learning with Flashlights

For a fun way to reinforce academic skills, use a flashlight! Hide index cards labeled with numbers. See if your child can locate and identify them - and then put them in order.

For more flashlight activities, visit this website:

<https://buggyandbuddy.com/flashlight-games-and-activities/#:~:text=%2025%2B%20Flashlight%20Games%20and%20Activities%20for%20Kids,perfect%20tool%20for%20conducting%20STEM%20or...%20More%20>

## Have You Signed Up to Support Shady Lane at Amazon Smile?

If you go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and choose Shady Lane School as your charity, a donation will be made to Shady Lane each time you shop - at no cost to you! Shady Lane has already received \$950 as a result of this program!

Sesame Street is excited to team up with CNN for a new town hall for children and families! Join us as we discuss how to celebrate the holidays safely and stay healthy during the winter months. Watch Saturday, December 19 on [@CNN](https://www.cnn.com).



## Black Boy Joy: 30 Picture Books Featuring Black Male Protagonists

<https://www.readbrightly.com/picture-books-featuring-black-male-protagonists/>

## Common Sense Media

Age-based reviews of books, movies,  
TV and apps

Helps parents to determine what is  
appropriate for their children.

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>

# Bite-Sized Science

by John H. Falk & Kristi S. Rosenberg  
Published by Chicago Review Press

## Cupboard Talk

Ages 3 to 7

### What You Will Do

Take items from the cupboard and shake them while your child has his eyes closed. He will try to guess what food you are shaking.



### Your Child

If your child is younger than five years old, select only two or three items and let him see the items before you shake them. If he does this well, try other items without showing them to him first.

### Fact

Containers are made of different materials. The materials will either absorb or reflect sound. When you shake a container, it may make a sound. The container and what is inside will determine what type of sound is produced. A tin can makes soup sound sloshy or makes rice sound piercing. A cardboard box with rice in it will not be as loud as the tin can with rice in it.

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### What You Need

- ★ Several items from the cupboard, such as a can of soup, a box of rice, or salt and pepper containers

1. Select several items from the cupboard that will make a sound. Place them on the counter for your child to see. No shaking the items!

2. Ask him to close his eyes. Shake one of the items close to his ear. Can he

guess which item you shook? If he's not sure, shake the item again.

3. Repeat step 2 until your child identifies all the items.

4. If he guesses them easily, select a few more items, but do not let him see them. Now, shake one of the items and ask him to guess what it is.

5. Let him select and shake some items for you to guess.

My three-year-old really loved this activity. She made me do it over and over again.  
—Mildred Pertz, Akron, Ohio

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## How Many Seeds?

Ages 4 to 8

### What You Will Do

While you are slicing fruits and vegetables for a snack or dinner, have your child predict how many seeds are in each piece.



### Your Child

If your child is just learning to count, help her count the number of seeds she finds in each piece. Using fruits and vegetables that have few seeds would be a good place to start for young counters.

### Fact

Prediction is at the heart of all science. We make predictions based on acquired knowledge and experiences. We use observation skills to test our predictions. As we test our predictions, we learn from them and are able to make predictions more accurately in the future.

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This book is filled with 15-minute science activities, and is available at Carnegie Library.



### What You Need

- ★ Cucumbers and peppers (or other fruits and vegetables containing seeds)
- ★ Knife

**Play It Safe!** Always exercise caution when using a knife around young children.

1. Make sure your child has clean hands before starting this activity.

2. Ask her to guess how many seeds will be in a slice of cucumber. Give her one slice at a time to count the number of seeds. Is there the same number of seeds in each slice?

3. Ask her to make a prediction of how many seeds are in a pepper. Cut the top off a pepper for her and scoop out the core and seeds. Now, have her count the seeds and compare the number with her prediction.



### An Extra Bite

Try planting the seeds! Take a little pot or a paper cup with a small hole in the bottom and fill it with soil. With your finger, poke a hole in the soil about a half inch

deep and put a couple of seeds in it. Refill the hole. Keep the pot or cup in a sunny place and water when the soil gets dry. It may take a week or two to see anything grow, so be patient and encourage your child to take care of her growing seeds.

The world's largest cucumber weighed 21 pounds and 4½ ounces and was grown by P. Glazebrook from Newark, England in 1996. The world's largest tomato weighed 7 pounds and 12 ounces and was grown by G. Graham from Edmond, Oklahoma, in 1986.

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## What Makes a Foot?

Ages 4 to 7

### What You Will Do

Your child will measure items using her hands or feet as the measuring tool.

### Your Child

If your child is younger than six, do steps 1 and 2 only. If your child appears interested, continue with step 3. Children in this age group may only be interested in steps 1 and 2 along with a short discussion about measuring. You could also talk about other types of measuring, such as measuring liquids.

### Fact

There are standard measurement tools that people use to communicate correctly. If we go to the lumberyard and ask for a six-foot piece of wood and use our feet to measure it with, we may not get a long enough piece of wood. The person at the lumberyard uses a standard measurement of 12 inches to cut wood. We need to use the same standard if we want to get the correct size piece of wood. Imagine the confusion if everyone measured with a different measuring tool!



### What You Need

- ★ Sofa
- ★ Tape measure

1. You and your child will use your feet first to take a measurement.

2. Put your foot against your child's foot. Ask her if she notices any differences or similarities between her foot and your foot.

3. Predict how many feet long the sofa is using her feet as the measurement tool. Ask her to measure the sofa with her feet by walking along the side of the sofa heel to toe. You may need to show her how to walk heel to toe.

4. Compare the prediction to the result. Now ask her to predict how many of your feet long the sofa is. If she has trouble with this, remind her of the differences and similarities between your feet. Compare the result with your child's prediction.

5. Now, measure the sofa with the tape measure. What measurement do you get in standard feet? Is the measurement the same as when you measured with your feet?

6. Repeat the activity measuring another object or using another measurement tool, such as your hands.

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