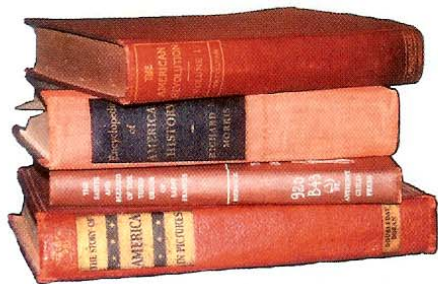


Family Discussion Tools:



Back to School

by: Dave Piltz

It's amazing but summer is over and school has started in all its glory. It can be exciting or a stressful time, but regardless of your perspective, a likely concern is Will my child learn? Learning is a nebulous term, bantered back and forth at parent-teacher meetings, school-board meetings, classrooms, and even the dining room table. Today we rely on interactive teaching tools and the Internet to support learning. One of those tools is Interpra™ cards – a means for teachers, tutors, mentors, childcare professionals, and family members to talk and learn from each other. Interpra™ cards are set of pictures that spark the creativity in all of us - whether we are detail oriented or more abstract. They provide an avenue for families to talk about their day, what happened, and what they learned. How do you use them? Simply, lay the cards out on the dinner table face up before dinner begins. During dinner, make a suggestion like those listed below, and enjoy sharing your answers.

- Find a picture that describes the most interesting thing you learned today.
- Find a picture card that describes what you learned in math today (or another subject).
- Select a card that describes the best thing that happened to you today.
- Find a picture that describes something that frustrated you today.
- Choose a picture card that describes what you are going to learn about tomorrow in one of your classes.

You can also use the cards to begin tough discussions with your teenagers. Have a set handy and lay them out. Sit down with your daughter or son and suggest:

- Find a picture that describes what makes school difficult (or easy) for you.
- Find a picture that describes what it's like to have a first date.

Another application is for planning.

- Find a picture card that describes the type of career or vocation you'd like.
- Select a picture that says what you'd like to do on vacation this summer.

No matter the place or time, this learning tool provides a safe, fun way to open a dialog between generations and to learn more about each other. Try it at a party with your friends – to learn more about each other and share a lot of laughter.

Don't have a set of Interpra™ cards? No problem, create your own by cutting out pictures from magazines and newspapers or buy a set at www.thelearningkey.com



INTERPRA™ CARDS