

Study Guide

FOR MOMS

We all want, and need, our children to be independent learners; but they won't get there unless we put in the time modeling, coaching, and laying strong foundations for independent study.

These ideas will help you nurture study skills while assessing learning!

THINK: **DISCUSS**

Most kids aren't ready for the last two question types until 4th or 5th grade (chronological or developmental age). Remember they'll still need modeling and coaching when a new kind of discussion is introduced.

- Begin with Who, What, Where questions
- Over time, work up to Why and How questions

THINK: **PLAY**

Kids tend to enjoy games like Go-Fish until they're 12-13 years old! They can make their own card sets for terms/definitions, people/importance, events/places.

- Go-Fish for Content Subjects
 - If holding a term/name card: "Do you have the definition for volcano?" or "Do you have information about Caesar?"
 - If holding a definition card: "Do you have a conical object that spews lava?" or "Do you have the person who conquered Gaul?"

RETRIEVE: **RECITE**

We love the ready-to-go recitations from Memoria Press, but you can definitely make your own list! Recitation can include facts, definitions, concepts, characters, events, dates, and more. Just be sure to work on a reasonable amount at one time!

RETRIEVE: **SHOW**

There are many independent ways to use flashcards, but they're also a fantastic teaching tool.

Oral Drill: say the term and have them say the definition

Three-Period Lesson

This is especially helpful for kids who get overwhelmed by large amounts of cards!

- Place three cards on the table, definition side up.
- Point to each one as you say the related term. Repeat if necessary.
- Ask your child to point to the card that defines _____. Repeat for each term.
- Point to a definition and ask your child to give you the term. If he's able to answer, repeat with the next card. If not, go back to the card or stage he was successful with and repeat that. Then stop the activity for the day.

If they're successful with all three cards, you can start again with three more. But I don't recommend doing more than three rounds at a time.

RETRIEVE: **Dictate**

Facts to Know

Vocabulary

Timeline dates

RETRIEVE: **LISTEN**

Oral summaries are a great way to practice retrieving information! Just be sure to return to the text with your child to find any important points that may have been missed. Otherwise, it will reinforce inaccurate/incomplete memory.

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FOR BIG KIDS

To remember something, we need to think about it often, think about it in different ways, and practice pulling it from our memory (retrieving).

Here are activities you can do to make remembering easier!

THINK: BUILD

- Use LEGO or Playmobil to build characters and scenes from your recent lessons.
- You can label your characters with sticky notes, re-enact famous events, or share your creations with your family!

THINK: DRAW

- Fold a small stack of paper in half
- Put staples on the fold: one at the top, one in the middle, and one at the bottom
- Decide on a theme for your book

Literature and History Ideas: *heroes, kings, generals, characters, inventors, and explorers*

Science & Math Ideas: *geometric figures, fraction families, unit conversions, phases of the moon, lifecycles, weather, groups of insects or other animals*



- Use one page for each person or thing you're learning about. Don't forget to label them!

THINK: TRACK

- Decide what you want to know. Some ideas:

*How are two people, events, or things alike? How are they different?
How often does something happen?*

- Ask your parent/teacher to show you how to make a tracking or comparison chart; share the finished product with your family!

THINK: **DOT**

- Ask your parent/teacher to help you come up with a color code
- Using the colors they approved, put a small dot in the corner of each flashcard. Some ideas:

Heroes in blue

Rulers in purple

Battle dates in red

Discovery dates in green

THINK: **LOOK**

- Write a name or idea at the top of your page
- Put these down the side of your page: Who? Where? What? Importance?
- Using your school book, find a sentence or phrase to answer each question
- Write down each answer as you find it

RETRIEVE: **TELL**

- Choose a person, event, place, or idea you are learning about
 - Tell a family member about it, or
 - Write a paragraph about it, or
 - Do the LOOK activity from memory
- Read about it again to make sure you remembered all the important points!

RETRIEVE: **CHALLENGE**

Don't do all of these at once! Pick one each time you work with your flashcards.

- Read the fronts/backs in a flashcard set; THEN read *only* the fronts and try to say the backs from memory
- Read the *backs* in a flashcard set and try to remember the *fronts*
- Make one set of cards for the fronts and one set for the backs; use them to play Memory
- Read the front of each card and copy the *back* onto a piece of paper; the next day, fill in the answers from memory