LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

– Terry O’Neal, MAED

It comes as no surprise that the majority of learning happens outside of the classroom. Even before birth we use sensory to learn about the world around us and how to function in the environment. Home and familiar areas are valuable spaces that provide learners with the knowledge and fundamentals to aid in growth and development.

Learning occurs in all places, from within the four walls of one’s home, to the beautiful canvas and refreshing scent of the great outdoors. It is here that children have life training, allowing them to acclimate to their surroundings and matriculate in their world.

For that reason, it’s advantageous for parents to use every opportunity to help their children grow academically and socially. Parents can support learning by using shopping trips to count grocery store items, counting cars in a parking lot, feeling and discussing textures of clothing, or reading books at a local library. With a parent beside a child, every environment is a playground for growth.

As society continues to evolve, so does the expectations for what children should know and be able to do when they start in a classroom; therefore, parenting evolves to support and help children learn. How parents help children learn through normal everyday experiences has a profound effect on how children learn in the classroom. It is for that reason, the parent is the child’s first teacher, and the catalyst for preparing children for life challenges of tomorrow.

EDUCATIONAL TOY IN FOCUS

– Deonna Cox, Ed. D., Peacox Learning

Pound-A-Peg

Boom! Bam! Pound! What child doesn’t enjoy toys that they can hit? Pound-A-Peg is a fun toy with bright colors. Children can count the pegs, name the colors of the pegs, and of course, use the mallet to boom, bam, and pound the pegs. Learning can go to a higher level by adding and subtracting pegs. Children can also repeat a color pattern that you make with the pegs. No matter the skill, hitting a toy is always fun! Boom! Bam! Pound!