

# Real Experiences are Learning Experiences

Everyone benefits when children and youth have an opportunity to experience hands-on learning. Hands-on or experiential learning includes many activities like reading to someone, fixing a broken item, or playing a game. Allowing children to take the lead, ask questions, and problem-solve together ensures that learning experiences will have long term positive impact.



## Experiential learning is easy! Simply follow these two steps:

### 1. Focus on projects that matter to everyday life.

- Clean, sort and organize a room.
- Make a healthy meal on a budget.
- Plant a seed in a jar to start a container garden.

### 2. Ask reflective questions.

- What did you notice?
- Why did that happen?
- In what ways was this task or project difficult?
- In what ways was this task or project easy?
- What would you do differently next time?
- What has been the best part of this activity for you?

## Try these experiential learning opportunities!

### Make a Clock

Use a paper plate, construction paper, a metal fastener, and crayons or markers to make a clock. Use it to practice telling time.

### Organize Games Online

Set up a bingo or trivia night to complete virtually. Plan what game you will play, make sure everyone has the materials that they need, and then lead the fun!

### Make a Mandala

This is a fun and creative way for you to practice measurement and apply your knowledge of different geometrical concepts. Show your own creativity with design and reduce stress while doing so. Get directions here: [How to Draw a Mandala](#).

### Sunrise and Sunset

Look up the times of the sunrise and sunset in the newspaper or online. Use these times to calculate the “length of day.”

### Build a Bird House

As birds begin migrating back to New Brunswick, many will be looking for a house in which to settle down for the summer. Why not build one for them? Check out this video: [Build a Bird House for Under \\$5 in Under 5 Minutes](#) or go to [29 Free DIY Birdhouse Plans](#) for printable plans.

### Dice Probability

Learn about probability concepts by rolling dice. To make this activity more fun and challenging, consider adding more dice and then determining how the number of dies affect certain outcomes. Make and check your predictions!

### Create a Photo Book

Ask someone you know for photos and the story or history that goes with the photo. You could also do this for community organizations or clubs. While preparing a photo book, you will gain skills in digital technology, writing, reading, and communication.

### Get to Know your Neighbourhood

Take a walk to learn about the natural ecosystem around where you live. Draw a map of your walking route. Expand your map each time you take a different route. Build memory skills by attempting to remember the order of house colors along your road or specific land features like tall trees or big potholes.

### Grow a Garden and Start a Compost

Gardening can be simple and can start in just a small container or even an egg shell. Check out: [7 Fun Container Garden Projects Kids Will Love](#). If you decide to grow a garden, the next step might be to begin composting. [Better Homes and Gardens](#) has excellent step-by-step directions for composting. [Starting a school compost bin](#) might also be something to consider once you get back to your classroom.

## References

Infographic: [Experiential Learning for Children \(Including Activities & Examples\)](#)

[The Ultimate Guide to Experiential Learning Activities for Math](#)