

# Ashley's Angel Gram

## Ready Set...Hunt



### Summer scavenger hunts

It's a beautiful day and you want to get outside...Try planning a scavenger hunt. With a little bit of advance planning you can design an exquisite afternoon of family challenge and fun.

Start by dividing your gang into two teams. Each team receives a clue collection bag containing a Polaroid instant camera, film, hunt instructions, a challenge sheet, and various supplies.

Decide how long each team has to complete the hunt, and you're off.

Each team manages its own hunt, deciding in what order to complete the challenges and how to logistically handle the game. The goal is to complete as many challenges as possible in the time allotted.

The success of the game will depend largely on the challenges you devise... so plan wisely! The difficulty of your challenges will depend on the age of your players and the environment of the hunt.

For example, challenges in town can range from taking a photograph of one of your teammates posing with a police officer, to collecting 5 custom matchbooks from local restaurants. If you're planning a hunt in a more rural setting, consider nature challenges like taking a photograph of a particular kind of tree, digging up a mushroom and bringing it back in your bag, or building a miniature teepee out of twigs in the woods and taking a picture of your whole team posing next to it.

When time is up, everyone convenes at a designated place to tally up the results. Make sure you're on time. Photos serve as evidence of what you've done. Teams should be penalized for tardiness, awarded points for tasks completed, and given a bonus for an inspired or funny account of their adventure. Remember, not every challenge needs to earn its team the same number of points. Some can be weighted for difficulty, courage, or creativity.

Scavenger hunts can be designed as a party activity as well. And if the weather's bad, try including indoor challenges instead of ones that can only be completed outside. Cooking challenges, song-writing challenges, clean-up challenges -- anything is fair game. If you have an Internet connection, try a Web scavenger hunt where collecting facts or images is the point of the game. Whatever and wherever you are, the scavenger hunt can provide hours of fun and real collaboration between you and your younger teammates.

And don't forget, it's the thrill of the hunt, not who's won and lost that counts the most. After the game, make a date for a rematch and go out for pizza to celebrate.

July 11

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## Teaching Independent learning

Below are a few simple ways that you teach your child to develop independent learning and thinking.

**Allowing them free hand:** You may wish to allow your child to spend some time in your absence. This simple trick will help your child to learn that he or she can do work even in your absence. In addition, this method helps your child gain immense confidence in his or her innate abilities.

**Allow them to read and memorize quietly to themselves:** This technique will allow your child to comprehend and master the core of the subject. Increased comprehension is an extended version of independent learning and this skill is very important for professional success.

**Allow your child to read and listen to stories by themselves:** Experts believe that listening to thematic stories can help children develop logical and predictive skills. When you allow your child to recite stories and anecdotes, you are encouraging him or her to develop analytical and evaluation skills as well.

**Allow them to develop their own ideas and expressions:** When you help your child to think and act on his or her own ideas, the first immediate benefit is the acquisition of focus and concentration. These two noble characters are very critical for reaching professional success.

Once you introduce various learning activities, your next goal should focus at enabling your children to take responsibility for their own learning and actions.

## July Book Suggestions

