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PRODIGIOUS LEARNING HOUSE SERIES — PART II

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# The Living Room Curriculum: What Atlanta Families Are Already Teaching

How to strengthen the learning that's already happening  
in every household — without adding burden.

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2025

# The Living Room Curriculum

## What Atlanta Families Are Already Teaching (and How We Strengthen It)

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*If we're honest, most learning doesn't happen during a lesson. It happens during life.*

It happens when a kid asks "why" in the grocery store. It happens when siblings negotiate a conflict. It happens when somebody's late and the whole house has to solve the morning puzzle. It happens when a caregiver says, "Let's figure it out together."

The issue is not that families don't care. The issue is that families are rarely given a clear, simple structure for turning everyday moments into skill-building moments. And when you're working, commuting, managing bills, and trying to keep peace at home, "structure" can feel like another demand. So we keep it simple.

## The Living Room Curriculum Has Five Skills

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No matter the grade level, most learning can be strengthened through five household skills:

- **Communication**
- **Literacy** (reading, writing, speaking)
- **Numeracy** (numbers, money, time, measurement)
- **Critical Thinking** (reasoning, comparing, problem-solving)
- **Identity and Confidence** (belonging, discipline, resilience)

These are not school subjects. These are life skills that make school easier and adulthood stronger.

## How It Looks in Real Life

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Here's what "Home as a Learning Institution" looks like without turning your home into a classroom.

## Communication

- "Tell me the story of your day in three parts."
- "What was the best moment? What was hard? What did you learn?"
- "Say it again, but with respect."

## Literacy

- Put subtitles on during family shows once a week and talk about new words.
- Read together for 10 minutes, even if it's short articles, menus, or lyrics you discuss.
- Let kids explain what they read instead of quizzing them.

## Numeracy

- "If we have \$40 for groceries, how do we plan?"
- "How long will it take us to get there? What time do we need to leave?"
- "Double this recipe, cut it in half."

## Critical Thinking

- "What's your evidence?"
- "What's another way to solve it?"
- "If you could redesign this, what would you change?"

## Identity and Confidence

- "I'm proud of how you kept going."
- "You can be frustrated and still be capable."
- "In this house, we finish what we start."

***This isn't extra work. This is better use of what's already happening.***

## The Biggest Myth We Need to Break

The myth is that only trained educators can support learning. Caregivers don't need a teaching degree to build a learning house. They need: permission, language, a few reliable routines, and tools that don't feel like paperwork. When we remove shame and replace it with support, families lean in.

## A Simple Structure for Atlanta Households: 15-5-1

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If you want a structure that fits real schedules, use this:

- **15 minutes a day:** a learning block (reading, math game, conversation prompts)
- **5 minutes a day:** a check-in ("What are you working on?" "What support do you need?")
- **1 moment a week:** family learning meeting (10-20 minutes)

***That's it. Consistency beats complexity.***

## The Goal: Households That Feel Capable

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We're not chasing perfection. We're building capability. A capable learning home:

- Has routines that work
- Celebrates progress
- Uses life as curriculum
- Connects to community resources
- Teaches kids "I can learn anything"

Atlanta families are already teaching. Let's strengthen the system around them so learning doesn't depend on luck or zip code.

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