Process management

- 1. fork <u>Link 1</u>, <u>Link 2</u>
 - o pid t fork(void);
 - fork() creates a new process by duplicating the calling process. It returns a negative value when the function fails to create a child process. On successful duplication of a process, the PID of the child process is returned in the parent, and 0 is returned in the child process.

2. wait(NULL)

wait(NULL) will block the parent process until any of its children has finished.
 If the child terminates before the parent process reaches wait(NULL), then the child process turns to a zombie process until its parent waits on it and it is released from memory.

3. execlp

- o int execlp(const char *file, const char *arg, ...)
- The file argument is the path name of an executable file to be executed. arg is the string we want to appear as argv[0] in the executable. By convention, argv[0] is just the executable file name; normally, it's set to the same as the file. The ... are now the additional arguments to give to the executable.
- 4. fopen Link 1
 - FILE *fopen(const char *pathname, const char *mode)
 - The fopen() function opens the file whose name is the string pointed to by pathname and associates a stream with it.
- 5. fclose Link 1
 - o int fclose(FILE *stream)
 - The fclose() function flushes the stream pointed to by the stream (writing any buffered output data using fflush()) and closes the underlying file descriptor.
- 6. fgetc <u>Link 1</u>
 - o int fgetc(FILE *pointer)
 - o fgetc() is used to obtain input from a file, a single character at a time. This function returns the ASCII code of the character read by the function. pointer is a pointer to a FILE object that identifies the stream on which the operation is to be performed.

Problem 0

Write a C program that creates a child process to run the ls command and ensures that the parent process waits for the child to finish before exiting.

Solution

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <sys/wait.h>
#include <unistd.h>

int main(int argv, char *argc[]) {
    // Create a child process
    int child_pid = fork();
    if (child_pid == 0) {
        // In the child process, execute a bash command
        execlp("ls", "ls", NULL);
    } else {
        // Wait for the child process to terminate
        wait(NULL);
        printf("The child process has finished execution.\n");
    }
}
```