



Tips and Activities to Help Your Child Succeed In School



November 2010

Parent Resource Newsletter

Parents Are a Child's First and Most Important Teacher

Tips for Developing Reading Skills in the Primary Grades

- Read to your child regularly, even after they have learned to read- you can explain things and talk about vocabulary
- Point to words as you read them. Your child will make a connection between the words he or she hears and the words on the page.
- Model reading books and magazines
- Encourage your child to write often in a journal
- Play word games with your children



**“Education is not filling a pail,
but the lighting of a fire”
by William Butler Yeats**

Tips for Developing Reading Skills in Older Students

- Encourage older students to keep a journal
- Have them make lists which is also great for organization
- Ask questions about what your older student is reading whether it is for fun or for school
- Ask older children to read aloud to younger siblings
- Encourage older students to read magazines or the newspaper. You might even cut out an article so the reading doesn't seem overwhelming for a student who doesn't particularly enjoy reading. Even reading the comic pages are better than no reading at all.



Games for Learning Math

1. Use playing cards in math games- Turn over a card, double it, add 2. For addition, turn over 2 cards and add them and that's how many points you get. For multiplication, turn over 2 cards and multiply the numbers. Each child will keep a running total of points. You might want to have a calculator for them to check their answers.
2. Have your child estimate all kinds of things, like how long will it take to _____? How many _____ will fit in this container? Then have them actually measure it. How close were they?
3. Bingo is a great game for children to identify numbers, but addition or multiplication bingo makes learning the facts more fun.
4. Practice basic facts with board games to make repetitive practice more fun. Games such as Life can be used with a set of addition, subtraction or multiplication flash cards. Students cannot move unless they answer the question correctly.
5. Buy age appropriate math computer games for your child.
6. Encourage your child to work with numbers using a calculator.

“A child educated only at school is an uneducated child.” by George Santayana

No TV Watching Night

Plan a “No TV Watching Night” where instead of watching TV, the family could play a game, have a read aloud, or everyone reads a book silently. Other things the family could do instead of watching TV include:

- Baking together
- Volunteering to help another family in some way
- Visiting with a family friend, grandparents, etc.
- Visit a planetarium- many of them are free on certain nights
- Have a “Craft Night”

Research shows that children who watch too much TV and video entertainment develop gross motor skills more slowly.



Storytelling to Improve Literacy Skills

Storytelling can impact communication skills, which is important for reading and writing.

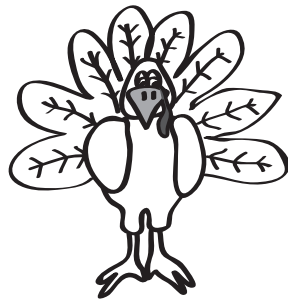
- improves listening skills
- imagination
- visualization
- comprehension

You can tell young students a fairytale from memory and for students of any age you can tell them things that happened in your life. Grandparents are a great resource for storytelling about how things were when they were young. I remember when we didn't have a computer, a TV or cell phones. That might surprise some young people.

Thanksgiving Thank You Notes

It is a good time to have our kids write thank you notes to show we appreciate what people have done for us, such as:

- parents
- grandparents
- sisters or brothers
- teachers
- neighbors
- Scout leaders
- coaches



Reading Matters In Science

At some point your child will be reading to learn in science. Most of the reading we do is for information. Here are some things you can do with your child before they read a book about a science topic.

- Discuss the topic- you don't have to know everything
- Ask your child- "Why is it important to learn more about weather, rocks, or plants?"



- Come up with your own questions on the topic
- Read aloud books on the topic that might be above your child's reading level
- Use the Internet, if possible, to learn more about the topic
- Watch science related TV shows with your child and talk about it

Activities in your community invite young people to learn more about science.

- Zoos
- Aquariums
- Planetariums
- Museums- Air and Space Museums, Children's Museum, Presidential Museums, History Museums
- Farms
- Parks

Children's Magazines

- "Kidsworld" www.kidsworld-online.com
- "Wild" www.cwf-fcf.org
- "National Geographic Kids" nationalgeographic.com/ngkids
- "Owl" www.owlkids.com
- "Eye On Science" www.eyeonscience.org
- "Sports Illustrated for Kids" www.sikids.com
- "Time For Kids" www.timeforkids.com
- "Brand New Planet" brandnewplanet.com

Some free websites include:

www.whatmagnet.com, www.vervegirl.com, and www.fuelpowered.com



Good Books for Ages 7-8

Bonaparte by Marsha Wilson Chall

Farmer Brown Shears His Sheep by Teri Sloat

How to Catch an Elephant by Amy Schwartz

The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash by Trinka Hakes Noble

Amelia's Road by Linda Jacobs Altman

Boost Learning with Proven Parenting Strategies

Children aren't born with a set of instructions to help us raise a good person who respects others, and becomes a successful adult. Here are some tips to help you:

- Teach your children why certain values are important.
- Children will learn from your words and your actions. Be a good role model.
- Give hugs and pats on the back for a good job.
- Make time for family togetherness and sharing.
- Let your child know that he or she is loved and respected.
- You can't make everything right. Teach your child to overcome adversity.
- Help your child develop a strong work ethic by giving regular chores and encouraging them to work for what they want.

Good Books for Ages 9-10

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl

Dear Mr. Henshaw by Beverly Cleary

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

Stuart Little by E. B. White