



Tips and Activities to Help Your Child Succeed In School



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Parent Resource Newsletter

Parents Are a Child's First and Most Important Teacher

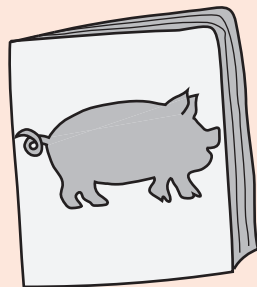
Math Through Children's Literature

The benefits of reading math literature with your child or encouraging him or her to read math literature include:

- Those who like math may become more interested in reading and vice versa.
- Even older students can suddenly become avid readers if you can find the type of books they would enjoy.
- You can make math and reading more fun.
- Math literature can make math more visual.

School libraries abound with math literature titles such as:

Pigs On a Blanket
Pigs Will Be Pigs
The Greedy Triangle
How Much Is a Million
Math Curse
Counting On Frank
A Remainder of One
The King's Checkerboard
One Hundred Hungry Ants



Check with your school librarian for a list of books dealing with math.

Language Skills

- Teach your child nursery rhymes or sing childhood songs.
- Create rhyming and riddle games to play with your child or find some in a book to use.
- Encourage your child to join in on stories with repetitive parts, such as "Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed", "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie".
- Cooking gives you a chance to use words such as blending, folding, stirring, kneading and children can also learn about measuring tools and doubling a recipe.



Read Alouds- At Any Age

- Read books using drama and excitement, use your child's name for the main character, or make paper bag puppets to act out the story.
- 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.
- Read a variety of materials- short stories, poems, magazine and newspaper articles, information books and the comic pages.
- Read slowly so your child can visualize a mental picture of what you are reading.
- Continue reading aloud to your child even after he or she can read. Even older children enjoy hearing a story that may be just above their reading level.
- Encourage other family members to read aloud to your child, such as brothers or sisters, aunts and uncles, or grandparents.

(Quotation from a principal)

“Education is a triangle with three legs: parent, child, school and if any of the legs fall the triangle falls as well.”

Easy At Home Games and Activities

It is a lot more fun to practice through a game, than to use flash cards or a sheet of facts to be memorized. Children can play with siblings, friends or their parents.

- **Maze games-**

Create simple maze games to practice skills for any grade level and curriculum



Older children can make these games by drawing a maze on a sheet of scrap paper. They move a bean or marker as they get a correct answer. Great for practicing vocabulary, math facts, spelling words, or any other skill they need to learn.

- **Cover all games-** Create simple cover all games using stickers where children will place a marker on the sticker as they get a correct answer. At the end the person who has the most stickers covered wins.
- **What letter does it start with?-** Give your child a word and ask what letter it starts or ends with, or ask him/her to give you words that start with the same sound as _____. They can look around the house to find the words.

Activities by Grade Levels

★ Grades Pre-K to 1 ★

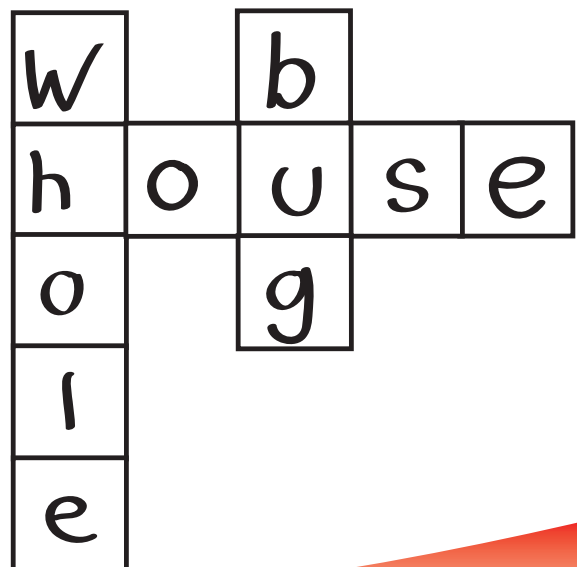
1. Tell nursery rhymes and fairytales with hand gestures or use props placed in a bag.
2. While reading hold the book so the child can see the words and pictures- children are very visual.
3. Choose rhyming books or books that follow a pattern- “Brown Bear, Brown Bear”
4. Encourage children to interact with the book by turning pages, repeat a line, or point out things on the page.

★ Grades 1-2 ★

1. When reading a story with your child talk about the characters, setting and plot, or what the story is about.
2. Make connections with the people, setting and what is happening in the book to the child’s own life.
3. Expose your child to magazines, advertisements, newspapers and different types of books whether fiction or non-fiction.
4. Use a white board in the house to write messages to different family members.

★ Grade 2-3 ★

1. “Why” or “How would you feel” questions are great for learning because the child is asked to use his or her own background knowledge to answer the question.
2. “What do you think will happen next?” is good to use while reading to your child. It gives the child a chance to stop and think about what he or she just heard and keeps their attention on the story.
3. Discuss with your child what he or she is reading, or what they did in writing at school. It is also good to talk to your child about what you have been reading even if it is in the newspaper, an article online, or in a magazine.
4. Word games of any kind are very beneficial in helping your child at home. –Children’s Scrabble, Boggle, simple crossword puzzles, or word search puzzles.



Activities for Older Students

1. Many of the activities we have mentioned already would also work for older students such as playing word games, encouraging students to write in a diary, write letters, make lists, etc. Also using a writing program or using the computer to write.
2. You can also take an interest in the books your student is reading and ask them what the story is about, ask about the character or the setting.
3. Help your student to find books that may interest him or her whether it is fiction or non-fiction. If he or she is interested in a certain career encourage him or her to read more about it.
4. Encourage your student to read magazines, the newspaper, or search online on a topic of interest to them. Read things together so you can discuss the topic.



★ Research shows that in schools where parents and teachers work together to improve learning, there are noticeable gains in student achievement. You can make a difference. ★

Books for Children Ages 2-4

Guess How Much I Love You
by Sam McBratney

Clifford the Big Red Dog
by Norman Bridwell

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin

Color Zoo by Lois Ehlert

Go, Dog, Go by Don Freeman

Corduroy by Don Freeman

Bedtime for Frances by Russell Hoban

Freight Train by Donald Crews

“Families have a major influence on their children’s achievement in school and through life.”- (Dept. of Education and Skills 2007)