

Learning at Home

NOVEMBER 2019

Please aim to work with your child 15 minutes per night, four times per week. These activities can be adjusted to fit your schedule and can be completed on nights that work best for your family. You can challenge or support your child by adjusting the tasks as needed.

When children are interested and engaged in learning activities, they are more motivated to learn master new skills. Being thoughtful about how learning tasks are presented to children can help them enjoy and get excited about learning!

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How to make reading enjoyable

We want students to see reading as interesting and worthwhile. To help instill a long-lasting love for reading, start at a young age. To help at home, you can:

- **Make reading social.** Set aside a special time for reading each day with your child. To try something new, have your child read with a sibling, a grandparent, or friend. They might even enjoy reading to a favourite stuffed animal as you sit together.
- **Read recipes** or craft instructions together. Follow each step to create something special together.
- **Be silly!** When reading exciting or scary parts of a book to your child, be dramatic. Use different voices for what the characters say. Encourage your child to try it out as well.
- **Play word games as you read.** Have fun taking turns reading mystery words. Give your child clues about the word until they discover the word. For example, you might say, "The word I am thinking about starts with P!" Other clues could be around rhyming, definitions, word endings, or types of words i.e. nouns, verbs, etc.

Free fun at your local library

Get a free library card at the Greater Sudbury Public Library. Visit as a family and explore the many ways you can help your child have fun with reading.

- **Let your child choose** what they want to read with you. Children engage more with books when the topics interest them. It's okay to re-read the same books over and over again. Encourage your child to join in for the parts they know, and take turns reading pages.
- **Help your child select books** that are not too difficult. Reading becomes less enjoyable if your child is struggling. Choose text they can read with ease to help foster a long-lasting love of reading.
- **All reading is good.** Let your child explore the genres and types of reading material that interest them including graphic novels, comic books, catalogues, and even magazines.
- **Listen to audiobooks.** The Greater Sudbury Public Library has audiobooks available to download online with your library card. **Voooks.com** also provides free access to animated storybooks.



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We can all learn math

An important positive message to share with children:

"We now know that the messages we give students can change their performance dramatically, and that students need to know that the adults in their lives believe in them. Researchers are learning that students' ideas about their ability and potential are extremely important, much more than previously understood. As well as the messages we give students about their potential, brain research is now showing that messages students pick up from their parents about math and their parents' relationships with math can also change students' math learning and achievement."

Source: <https://www.youcubed.org/resources/parents-beliefs-math-change-childrens-achievement/>

YouCubed is created by Stanford University Professor Jo Boaler and her research team, with a mission to "inspire, educate and empower teachers of mathematics, transforming the latest research on math learning into accessible and practical forms."

How to talk positively about math

Parents and teachers can provide support by using positive language for math, including:

- "You can do this. I believe in you."
- "Learning math is like learning to ride a bike - it takes practice."
- "Math involves hard work and effort. You are capable."
- "It's okay to make mistakes because that is how we learn."
- "Let's start with what you do understand. Then we will move on to what you are having trouble understanding."
- "Let's try to figure this out together."

When building positive attitudes in math, children feel successful, engaged and are more likely to persevere with challenging tasks.

Games and building a positive mindset

Playing math games can be a great way to build a positive attitude about math at home. The following are examples of great games where math skills are used, but children do not feel like they are in math class.

Uno: sorting by colour or number

Monopoly: recognizing quantity, counting forward, practice making purchases and change, counting money

Snakes and Ladders: recognizing quantity, counting forward

Cribbage: addition, skip counting, ways to make 15, score keeping

Blokus: spatial reasoning skills, transformations (flip, slide, turn)

Online supports and useful links

French as a Second Language: www.fslhomeworktoolbox.ca

Cursive writing practice sheets: www.kidzone.ws/cursive

Keyboarding games: www.typinggames.zone

Dolch Word Lists

You can use these words to play games with your child. Don't worry too much about the exact grade level listed for each section. Look for words that are just starting to become challenging for your child.

Try making two sets of cards to play Memory or Go Fish. Working with ten to fifteen words at a time makes games more fun and the words easier to learn. <https://sightwords.com/sight-words/dolch/#lists>

Les mots de haute fréquence - High Frequency Words

Access frequently used French words at the following link:

<http://www.rainbowschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/motsfr.pdf>

Visit rainbowschools.ca to access any of these links directly. Click on Parents. Click on Resources for Parents.