

Learning at Home

OCTOBER 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.

Parents/guardians can make an incredible difference in their child's learning by engaging in learning activities with them.

Monthly editions of **Learning at Home** will offer fun ideas and resources to help you support your child's learning in literacy and mathematics.

Although many of these activities, ideas and resources can be used by children on their own, the goal is to include parents/guardians in learning time with their children.

A Space to Learn

Creating a positive environment to work together can make learning at home more effective and enjoyable. Here are a few tips to keep in mind:

- Include daily activities in your routine to make learning at home a priority *e.g. math games after dinner or reading together before bed.*
- A quiet, well-lit, comfortable space that is free from distractions can increase focus and maximize learning potential.
- Ensure your child's learning area is spacious enough to accommodate books and resources.
- Take breaks during learning sessions to help your child maintain their focus on the task at hand.

Remember: Completing learning tasks together can be a great way to bond with your child. *Enjoy it!*

Literacy at Home

Reading with your child as often as possible is an effective tool for parents/guardians to improve overall student achievement. Set aside a designated time each day when you can give your full attention to reading with your child.

If you and your child are more comfortable reading and speaking in a language other than English, please use it. Reading and talking to your child in the language of your home is always beneficial. Skills learned in your home language will only help children as they learn more English.

Helpful Reading Tips

- Choose a variety of reading materials to read *i.e. books, magazines, newspapers and flyers.*
- Depending on your child's interest level, try to vary the length of reading time spent reading *e.g. young children may prefer shorter sessions rather than one long session.*
- As children get older and begin to read on their own, "I Read, You Read" is a fun way to explore books together. Take turns reading pages to one another.
- Keep reading to your child even when they are able to read on their own. It is helpful for children to hear "seasoned readers" read smoothly. This will help children develop their own reading fluency. Books above your child's own reading level can increase their interest and maintain a long-term love of reading.
- Be word detectives together. Make note of and discuss interesting, new or challenging words. Talking about different words and their meaning can help your child develop a stronger vocabulary.

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Why are math skills so important?

Without even thinking about it, we all use mathematical concepts in our everyday activities. We make correct change when shopping, estimate how many cans of paint are needed to paint a room, measure ingredients when cooking or baking, and calculate the tip on a restaurant bill.

Fundamental math skills are foundational to other aspects of the math curriculum, including determining area, volume and rates. Fundamental math skills are those used when determining how much tile is needed for a new floor, or when seeking an economical way to purchase music online.

Example: Is it a better deal to buy 25 songs for \$7.99 or 50 songs for \$10.45?

Excerpt from <https://math.thelearningexchange.ca/math-at-home/>

How can you help?

Math is everywhere. Help your child make connections between what they are learning in school and everyday experiences at home and in the community. This can include shopping, cooking or managing money.



Helpful Math Tips

- Talk about math in a positive way.
- Encourage persistence.
- Play family math games together.
- Connect math with activities in your daily life.
- Encourage your child to talk about their math thinking.
- Talk with your child's teacher about any difficulties they may be experiencing. Children greatly benefit when teachers and parents/guardians work together.

Adapted from information provided by the Ontario Ministry of Education

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.