

Learning at Home

TECHNOLOGY EDITION

DECEMBER 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.

Technology: Tool or Distraction?

The short answer is **both!** Technology has become part of our everyday lives in the 21st century, and our children have embraced the use of devices with the greatest of ease.

In Rainbow Schools, we support the use of technology as a learning tool in the classroom, and work to ensure that our students develop good digital citizenship through Internet safety discussions, cyberbullying awareness and “netiquette”.

All Rainbow students have access to the Google Apps for Education (GAPE) Suite, where they can collaborate on assignments with their peers from any device. Students can also submit assignments and receive feedback from their teachers anytime.

The Rainbow District School Board Parent Involvement Committee held their AGM in October. Parents/guardians and community members participated in a viewing of the documentary “Screenagers,” followed by a panel discussion with community experts about the healthy use of technology.

If your child seems to be spending extended periods of time on their devices accessing games and social media, and you are concerned about the impact on homework completion, overall academic achievement, and quality of family life, you may wish to explore the site <https://www.screenagersmovie.com/parenting-apps>

While the Rainbow District School Board does not endorse the purchase of any products, the site may be helpful in establishing family expectations around the use of technology in the home.

Technology + Math = Fun

Technology can be an engaging way for you and your child to practice math together.

The Internet has a variety of free computer games and math apps available for your child to practice their fluency with math facts, and work towards automatic recall.

- **Prodigy - prodigygame.com**
A game that aligns with the Ministry of Education’s mathematics curriculum for Grades 1 to 8.
- **TVO mPower - mpower.tvo.org**
Math games for children from Kindergarten to Grade 6.
- **Math Story Time - mathstorytime.ca**
Math learning through fictional digital picture books.
- **Ontario Association for Mathematics Education - mathies.ca/games.php**
Access various math games and activities for children.



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The following apps have plenty of math games and activities available for your child practice:

Math apps to practice early number sense concepts:

- Dot Cards (Math Geek Mama Educational Resources Inc.)
- Ten Frame Mania (Big Hatch Inc.)
- Ten Frame Fill (Classroom Focused Software)
- Tens! (Kwalee)

Math apps to help with number facts:

- Math Slide Addition & Subtraction Facts (Math Adventures)
- Math Slide Multiplication & Division Facts (Math Adventures)

Math app to help develop spatial reasoning skills:

- Rush Hour (Think Fun)
- Symmetry Exercise (Learning is Fun)

Digital Literacy Learning

Children love playing games online or using apps on a device. Playing these activities together can be a fun way to learn more about literacy.

- **Tumblebooks** is a website that has hundreds of audiobooks, including illustrations available for free with a Greater Sudbury Public Library card. There is an app available as well.
- **Storybots** on Youtube has a great alphabet playlist. Choose just a few letters to look at daily. Use the following link to access: bit.ly/2ORaD7I
- **Grover's Rhyme Time** is a game that has children searching rhyming pairs. Use the following link to access: bit.ly/2kF3wEy
- **The Amazing Spelling Fleas** is a game for older students that looks at various word skills. Use the following link to access: bit.ly/2mjAcDP

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.