

Learning at Home

MARCH 2020

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.

Media Literacy

Media literacy is the ability to understand messages being delivered through various types of media - films, songs, video games, advertisements, Internet and social media.

In today's increasingly digital world, it's important that children learn to be able to engage with different media critically, analytically, and responsibly. At home, parents can help their children develop media literacy skills by talking about it during everyday activities.

With young children, conversations can take place when watching commercials, looking at food and toy packaging, or seeing ads in games and on YouTube.

Talk to your older child about media literacy when they start using social media, conducting online research, seeing advertisements and graphics and listening to music.

Try asking your child:

- **Who created this?**
- **Why did they make it?** Was it to inform?
To change your mind or opinion?
What about to entertain or to encourage you to purchase a product or service?
- **Who is the message for?**
- **How does the message make you feel?**
Would everyone agree with you?
Would some disagree with you? If yes, why do you think?

- **What techniques were used to make this message believable?**

Does it use statistics?

Is it from a trusted source? If yes, how do you know?

Does it have quotes from an expert?

Is there any direct evidence to support their ideas?

- **What details might be left out?**

Why? Are both sides of an argument represented?

Do you need more information to understand the message?

SOURCE: Questions adapted from commonsensemedia.org

Math in the Kitchen

The kitchen is a great place to explore math concepts while having fun with your child. Talk to them about math while cooking, baking and preparing food.

Counting:

Younger children can hone their counting skills by selecting the appropriate number of plates, glasses and silverware when setting the table.

Capacity:

Explore filling different containers with water.

Fill a measuring cup with one cup of water.

Have your child pour a cup of water in each container.

Use a variety of container shapes i.e. tall, narrow, short, etc.

Ask your child to guess the level of the water before pouring.

Have them reflect on their observations afterwards.

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Sorting and Comparing:

Organize your pantry or have your child put away groceries. Have them sort food items by category i.e. cans, vegetables, fruits, etc. Have them compare the quantities for measures on the product labels. Ask them: What is measured in mL? What about g? What box has more cereal?

Measuring, Counting and Fractions:

Ask your child to count quantities when cooking. For example, have them count 10 cherry tomatoes for the salad and 10 pepperoni and olive slices for the pizza. Point out fractions while cooking, such as $\frac{1}{2}$ cup, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup and 1 cup. Cut sandwiches and cheese into fourths, thirds and halves. Have your child help you measure dry ingredients using a kitchen scale (if you have one).

Equivalent Fractions:

Ask your young child how many small cups it will take to fill a big cup. What about how many teaspoons it takes to equal a tablespoon? Older children can explore what happens when making a recipe and using one type of measuring cup. For example, when you need to add $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups of flour to a recipe but only have $\frac{1}{4}$ measuring cup. How many $\frac{1}{4}$ cups are in $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups?

Comparing Numbers:

While cooking or baking, take the opportunity to look at the nutritional ingredients on packages. Have a conversation comparing numbers such as the amount of fibre in one item as compared to another.

Remember:

*The kitchen is a great place to explore math.
Have fun and enjoy the time learning with your child.*



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.