

Help Your Child Learn at Home

Learning does not end in the classroom. Children need help and support at home to succeed in their studies. Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time *every day* when your child can concentrate on reading and writing, uninterrupted by friends, brothers or sisters, or other distractions.

You should also try and sit down with your child whenever he or she is working on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics. By taking these small steps, you will be helping your child become successful both in and outside the classroom.

| Grade Bands | Here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home: |
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| K-1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read with your child every day. Ask your child to explain his or her favorite parts of the story and share your own ideas. Help him or her sound out difficult words, then ask and answer questions about key details in the text. ▪ Encourage your child to tell you about his or her day at school. Keep paper, markers, or crayons around the house for your child to write letters or words or draw a picture about his or her day. Have your child describe the picture to you. ▪ Act out stories together from books, television, or your child's imagination. ▪ Play word games like <i>I Spy</i> with your child. Say the name of the object you are spying, sound by sound (e.g., <i>I spy a c-a-t</i>). Your child blends the three sounds and says cat. Make silly rhymes together. ▪ Pick a 'word of the day' each day starting with a different letter. Have your child write the word and look for other things beginning with the same letter. ▪ Visit the library with your child every week. Have your child sign up for a library card. |
| 2-3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make reading for fun a part of your child's daily routine. Set aside quiet time, with no phones, computers, or other distractions. You could assist your child by reading every other paragraph, as needed. Encourage your child to read to younger siblings, cousins, or other children you know. ▪ Have your child write a thank you note or letter to family members or friends. ▪ Encourage your child to find a picture from a newspaper or magazine, cut it out, paste it on paper, and write a story about it. ▪ Ask your librarian to suggest books about people or places that are important to your child or family that you can read together. Encourage your child to explain what he or she has just read. ▪ Start a family vocabulary box or jar. Have everyone write down new words they discover, add them to the box, and use the words in conversation. |
| 4-5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Urge your child to use logical arguments to defend his or her opinion. If your child wants a raise in allowance, ask him or her to research commonsense allowance systems and based on that research, explain reasons why, supported by facts and details. ▪ Invite your child to read his or her writing out loud to other family members. Ask questions about your child's word choices and ideas. ▪ Talk about the news together. Pick one story in the news, read it together, and discuss with your child what it means. ▪ Discuss your family stories and history. Encourage your child to ask relatives questions about their lives. Put the information together in an album or brainstorm different ways to tell family tales, such as poems or short stories. ▪ Keep books, magazines, and newspapers at home. Make sure your child sees you reading. ▪ Go to a play or musical with your child. Discuss the way the actors bring the words to life. |