

Tips to Support Learning at Home

Language Arts Tips

- Go to the library with your child, and choose a variety of books to read together: fiction, non-fiction, biography, history, poetry, science, etc.
- Listen when child talks and show your child how to politely listen, watch, and take turns speaking.
- After a family outing, ask your child to write it up for your family diary.
- Encourage your child to write thank you notes or letters to family members and friends. Help her look up words in the dictionary for correct spelling.
- As you read with your child, show him that reading aloud should sound like talking. When your child has a difficult time reading a sentence, have her reread the sentence several times aloud to make the reading sound like talking. This gives her help learning new words. Let the child practice.
- Give a lot of encouragement any time your child reads.
- Post on the refrigerator the book titles your child has read.
- If possible, make an audio or videotape of your child reading or acting out a story. (Send these to grandparents)
- After your child has read a story or book, ask him questions about it: What was it about? Who were the main characters? What was the theme? What did you learn? Etc.
- Use comic strips to help with writing. Cut apart segments of a comic strip and ask your child to arrange them in order. Then ask her to fill in the words of the characters orally or in writing.
- To improve listening skills and imagination, read a new story aloud to your child and stop before the end. Ask how it will end. Then finish the story and discuss the real ending.
- Ask your child to pick 2 favorite animals. Have her create and write a story about them. Let the child read the story to you. Challenge her to write another story completely different about the two characters.
- Ask your child to read whenever you go – in the car, grocery store, park, shopping mall, etc.
- There are numerous games and puzzles that help a child increase vocabulary and fluency in speaking and writing. Building vocabulary builds confidence. Try crossword puzzles, word games, anagrams, and cryptograms designed for children. Check with your child's teacher for recommendations.
- Before you go on a trip have your child make a list of things to take and things to do. Have the child help you make shopping lists, to-do lists, family birthdays lists, etc.

Math Tips

- Ask your child what he's learning in school about math. Help him practice with you. If it's counting by twos, threes, or fours, have him say them to you. If it's shapes, have him point out those different shapes around the house and around the neighborhood.
- Have your child help you do the laundry math "game": measure the soap; time how long it takes to wash and how long it takes to dry; fold some clean clothes in half, some in thirds, and some in fourths.
- How much do things weigh around the house? Ask your child to estimate the weight of an apple, a frying pan, a wastebasket (empty /filled), etc. Then have him weigh them and compare the answers.
- Ask your child to fold the dinner napkins in halves, fourths, eighths or sixteenths.
- Ask your child to make up a food menu for a week. Have him estimate the cost of individual things, and the total cost. Then during your usual grocery-shopping trip, have him keep track of the costs of the items on his list. Afterwards discuss it with him: How much did it add up? Was it what he estimated? What was more expensive? Less expensive? Why?
- Any time you measure something (dry cat food, flour, milk, rice, etc.) have your child help. Talk about the various measurements: pint, one-cup, ½ cup, one teaspoon.
- Measure your child's foot. How many foot lengths is it from your front door to the back door? From the front door to the street? Estimate, then measure.
- Card games, bingo, board games, all help your child learn to manipulate and use numbers
- Give your child a "pretend" clothing budget. Then have her go through store ads and "buy" what she needs. Have her keep a running total. At the end, have her review her "purchases" Did she miss anything?

West Contra Costa Unified School District

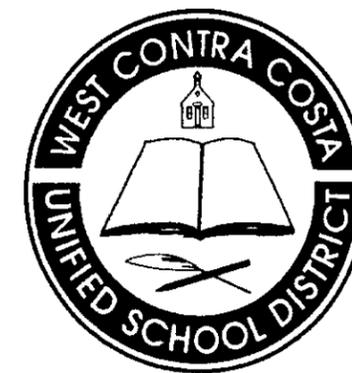
Essential "I Can" Student Standards

Third Grade

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This brochure is designed to introduce families, students and caregivers to the key standards in Reading Language Arts and Mathematics. The standards are written to be parent friendly. Tips are provided on the back of the brochure to help you support your child's learning at home. The school district recognizes that while our curriculum is consistent, our students develop at their own pace. Therefore, students are assessed several times throughout the school year to monitor progress in meeting the essential grade-level standards.

The school district is committed to working with families to assure student mastery of these important standards.



For more information contact:
Educational Services Department
510-307-4500
September 2010

Area	READING LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS	
READING - Word Analysis, Fluency, and Vocabulary Development, Reading Comprehension	I can use word families to help me read unfamiliar words. Example: -ight: light, bright, might	1.1
	I can read words with many syllables.	1.2
	I can use antonyms (words that are opposites), synonyms (words with similar meanings), homophones (words that sound the same but are spelled differently and have different meanings), and homographs (words that have multiple meanings) to help me understand a word's meaning.	1.4
	I can show the specific meaning of words by connecting them to words that show relationship and detail. Example: The words dog/mammal/animal/living thing are related.	1.5
	I can read words in context, using what I know in the sentence or paragraph to help me understand the meaning.	1.6
	I can use prefixes and suffixes to figure out a word's meaning. Example: prefixes like un-,dis-, mis-, pre- suffixes like -er, -est, -ful	1.8
	I can ask and answer questions about my reading by making connections between what I read and what I already know.	2.2
	I can identify the main idea and supporting details in non-fiction texts.	2.5
	I can find important information in texts, including problems and solutions.	2.6
	WRITING - Writing Strategies, Written and Oral Conventions	I can write a paragraph with a topic sentence and supporting facts or details.
I can use reference materials to find information. Example: dictionary, encyclopedia, thesaurus, atlas		1.3
I can revise and improve my writing using drafts and rubrics.		1.4
I can use subjects and verbs correctly in my speaking and writing. Example: subject-verb agreement; he is... or they are...		1.4
I can use the proper punctuation for dates, city and state, and titles of books.		1.5
I can capitalize place names, holidays, periods in history, and special events.		1.7

Area	MATH STANDARDS	
NUMBER SENSE	I can count, read, and write whole numbers to 10,000.	1.1
	I can compare and order numbers to 10,000.	1.2
	I can identify place value for each digit to 10,000.	1.3
	I can use expanded notation to represent numbers. Example: $3,165 = 3,000 + 100 + 60 + 5$	1.5
	I can add and subtract whole numbers 0 through 10,000.	2.1
	I can multiply a multi-digit number by a 1-digit number. Example: $3,671 \times 3 =$	2.4
	I can divide a multi-digit number by a 1-digit number. Example: $135 \div 5 =$	2.5
	I understand the meaning of 0 (zero) and 1 in both multiplication and division.	2.6
	I can solve money word problems where I need to figure out how much one item costs, when I know the total amount paid and how many items were bought.	2.7
	I can compare fractions shown by drawings or concrete materials to show equivalency and to add and subtract simple fractions.	3.1
	I can add and subtract fractions with common denominators.	3.2
	I can solve money word problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division using decimals.	3.3
	I can explain the connection between whole numbers, fractions and decimals. Examples: 50 cents is $\frac{1}{2}$ of \$1.00 and 75 cents is $\frac{3}{4}$ of \$1.00	3.4
	ALGEBRA & FUNCTIONS	I can write math expressions and equations using symbols to show how numbers relate to each other. Example: $45 < 65$, or $\$5.00 = 500$ pennies
I can use the commutative and associative properties of multiplication. Example: If $5 \times 7 \times 3 = 105$, then $7 \times 3 \times 5 = ?$		1.5
I can solve problems involving a relationship between 2 things.		2.1
I can recognize and continue a pattern to solve a problem.		2.2
MEASUREMENT & GEOMETRY	I can estimate and accurately measure the length, liquid volume, and weight of objects. I can choose which measurement tools and units I need to use.	1.1
	I can use squares or cubes to figure out the area and volume of solid figures.	1.2
	I can find the perimeter of a polygon.	1.3
	I can calculate measurement answers in more than one way, changing inches to feet, centimeters to meters, minutes to hours, weeks to months, and so on.	1.4
	I can identify, describe, and classify polygons.	2.1
	I can name and describe different kinds of triangles.	2.2
	I can name and describe different kinds of quadrilaterals.	2.3
Statistics, Data Analysis, and Probability	I can tell whether something is certain, likely, unlikely, or improbable.	1.1
	I can record the possible outcomes for a simple repeated event.	1.2
	I can make a bar graph or line plot to show results of a probability experiment	1.3