

Tips to Support Learning at Home

Language Arts Tips

- The next time your child writes a report or an essay, have him read it aloud to you. If he stumbles a lot, it may mean he must do more editing to smooth it out. Once it's smooth, ask him to read it aloud to you like he was conversing.
- Introduce your child to and encourage her to use a variety of reference materials: atlases, world almanacs, books, dictionaries, thesauruses, and encyclopedias.
- Ask your child to read to you a favorite part of a book he's just read. Discuss why it appeals to him.
- Talk with your child about daily events. Use the newspaper for items of interest. Ask her how it affects her. Listen closely.
- Talk with your child about her past. Have her tell you about her life up to now. Use family photos to help jog memories. Tell her about your past. Encourage her to ask you questions.
- Ask your child his plans for the future - next week, month, or year. Listen closely without judging.
- Every so often, use a "hard" word when talking with your child. Look it up and discuss its meaning.
- Have your child keep a list of new words she's learned. Ask her to listen for new words as people talk. Have her find new words in books, newspapers, magazines. Discuss the meaning of the words and have her add them to the list. Ask her to name other words like this.
- Ask your child to try to use his new word in his writing and speaking at home.
- Take every opportunity to show your child the various kinds of writing: to entertain, convince, teach, sell, explain, express emotions, take notes. Ask your child to compare the ideas of different authors. Is one more interested in history than the other? Children's issues? Geography?

Math Tips

- Help your child learn time management using math. Have him estimate how long it takes to do tasks. Use a clock to time each one. See what part of a job can be done ahead. Discuss how the use or misuse of time by the child affects the family. Have him make a monthly calendar for himself to include morning activities, school, homework, after school, evening, and weekend plans.
- Bring math concepts into your conversations as often as possible: cost of a gallon of gasoline, two for the price of one sales, miles driven, loaves of bread eaten in a month, loads of laundry in a month and the amount of soap used, etc.
- Discuss the math concepts behind the news: the prime rate of interest, the Dow-Jones average, rising population figures, numbers of barrels of crude oil in a recent oil spill.
- Give your child the challenge of finding the best price for jeans (or shoes or cars...). But is it really cheaper if you have to drive 25 more miles to the store? Have him look at it from all angles.
- Is your child interested in sports? Have her follow the sports statistics in the newspaper of her favorite player or team. Ask her to explain the figures to you. What do they mean? How do they compute them? How can a player improve his stats? What are percentages?
- Use the newspaper weather section to check temperatures around the nation and the world. Ask him to keep a graph of the temperatures in various areas of the world, especially Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Discuss your child's findings with him.
- Point out the need for math skills on trips. At the gas station, ask her how much gas you needed and the cost per gallon. Refer to speed limit signs, "Miles to go" signs. Ask her to read the speedometer and odometer. Ask her to estimate distances between stops; then check the odometer for accuracy. At the end, ask her to calculate how much the gas cost (using car's miles per gallon, cost of gallon of gas and miles driven). How could you have driven less and saved money? What would you have saved?
- At the supermarket, ask your child to keep an on-going cost list. How much are we up to now? How much do we have left to spend?

West Contra Costa Unified School District

Essential "I Can" Student Standards

Fifth 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:
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Area	READING LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS	
READING-Word Analysis, Fluency, and Vocabulary Development	I understand and can explain common synonyms (<i>words with similar meanings</i>), antonyms (<i>words that are opposites</i>), and homographs (<i>words that have multiple meanings</i>).	1.3
	I can name some Greek and Latin word roots and can use them to help me read and understand new or complex words.	1.4
	I can explain figurative language that I find in my reading. <i>Examples: similes, metaphors</i>	1.5
	I can analyze text that is organized in sequential or chronological order.	2.2
	I can determine the main idea or concept in a text and find evidence that supports it.	2.3
	I can draw inferences, conclusions, or generalizations about what I read and support them with evidence from the text and my own prior knowledge.	2.4
	WRITING—Strategies, Written and Oral Conventions	I can write a multi-paragraph narrative with a well-developed plot, a setting, and an ending.
I can write a multiple-paragraph report with a central topic, clear sequence or chronological order, good transitions, supporting details, facts, and explanations.		1.2
I can edit and revise my writing to improve focus and clarify meaning. <i>Examples: add, delete, combine, rearrange words/sentences</i>		1.6
I can identify and use prepositional phrases, appositives, independent and dependent clauses; and I can use transitions and conjunctions to connect ideas.		1.1
I can identify and correctly use modifiers, pronouns, and commonly misused verbs. <i>Examples: lie/lay, sit/set, rise/raise</i>		1.2
I can use a colon to separate hours and minutes and to introduce a list. I can use quotation marks around the exact words of a speaker and for titles of poems, songs, and short stories.		1.3
I can use correct capitalization in my writing.		1.4
I can spell word roots, suffixes, prefixes, contractions, and syllables correctly.		1.5
Area	MATH STANDARDS	
NUMBER SENSE	I can estimate and round large (to millions) and small (to thousandths) numbers.	1.1
	I can explain what percent means, calculate the percent of a whole number, and find decimal and percent equivalents for common fractions. <i>Examples: A test had 48 problems. Joe got 42 correct. 1. What percent were correct? 2. What percent were wrong? 3. If Victoria got 93.75% correct, how many problems did she get correct?</i>	1.2

NUMBER SENSE	I can name the prime factors of all numbers through 50 and am able to write their prime factorizations using exponents. <i>Example: $24 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 3 = 2^3 \times 3$</i>	1.4	
	I can recognize and write decimals, fractions, mixed numbers and positive and negative integers on a number line. <i>Example: Arrange in order from smallest to largest:</i> $\frac{9}{4}$, 25%, 0.3, $2\frac{1}{2}$, 0.295	1.5	
	I can add, subtract, multiply, and divide with decimals. <i>Example: Find the average of 6.81, 7, 5.2 and round to the nearest whole number.</i>	2.1a	
	I can add and subtract with negative integers. <i>Example: $(-15) - 128 = \underline{\quad}$ $11 + (-23) = \underline{\quad}$</i>	2.1b	
	I can solve division problems using whole numbers, positive decimals, and multi-digit divisors. <i>Example: Find the quotient: $6 \div 0.25 = \underline{\quad}$</i>	2.2	
	I can add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers. I can write the answer in the simplest form. <i>Examples: $\frac{12}{16} + 3\frac{1}{8} = 3\frac{14}{16} = 3\frac{7}{8}$</i>	2.3	
	MEASUREMENT AND GEOMETRY	I can construct a cube and rectangular box from a 2-dimensional pattern or net and use the pattern or net to compute the surface area.	1.2
		I can understand what volume means, and can find the volume of rectangular solids using appropriate units and notation, like cm^3 and yd^3 .	1.3
I can tell the difference between 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional objects, and can measure them with appropriate units for perimeter, area, and volume.		1.4	
I can measure, identify and draw angles, perpendicular and parallel lines, rectangles and triangles by using appropriate tools. <i>Examples: straightedge, ruler, compass, protractor...</i>		2.1	
I can use facts about sums of angles (the sum of the angles of any triangle = 180° , the sum of the angles of any quadrilateral = 360°) to solve problems. <i>Example: Find the third angle of a triangle if you know that one angle is 60° and the second angle is 20°.</i>		2.2	
STATISTICS, DATA ANALYSIS & PROB.	I can calculate and compare the mean, median and mode of a set of data.	1.1	
	I can use fractions and percentages to compare sets of data.	1.3	
	I can identify ordered pairs of data from a graph and interpret the meaning of the data.	1.4	
	I know how to write ordered pairs (x,y) correctly.	1.5	