

Parent Tips



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LITERACY TIPS

READING ALOUD

Reading aloud to children has been called the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for success in reading.

1. When reading, stop to talk about the meaning. Help your child make connections to what is happening in the book and what has happened in his or her life or other books you've read together. Ask questions and discuss the information in nonfiction books or the characters and events in a fiction book. Encourage your child to ask questions. Ask your child to explain what the book was about in his or her own words.
2. Before the end of a story stop and ask your child to predict what might happen next, or what the ending will be.
3. Talk about new words or ideas that come up when reading together. Use new words in a sentence to help your child better understand the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary. Then ask your child to make up a sentence with the new vocabulary.
4. Read magazines and the newspaper together. Get your child interested in what is happening in other parts of the world.

Adapted from: A Child Becomes a Reader (2003)

MATH TIPS

Link Mathematics with Daily Life

Everyday, people face situations that involve mathematics, such as deciding whether one has enough money to purchase a list of items at the store, reading a map to find out where one is, building a budget, deciding on the shortest route to a destination, developing a schedule, or determining the price of an item on sale. Help your child realize that mathematics is a significant part of everyday life. Suggestions for discussing mathematics with your elementary child during everyday activities are listed at the end of this section.

Make Mathematics Fun

Play board games, solve puzzles, and ponder brainteasers with your child. Your child will enjoy these kinds of activities while enhancing his/her mathematical thinking. Point out the mathematics involved, and have your child discuss the strategies he/she used.