

# PARENT QUICK GUIDE

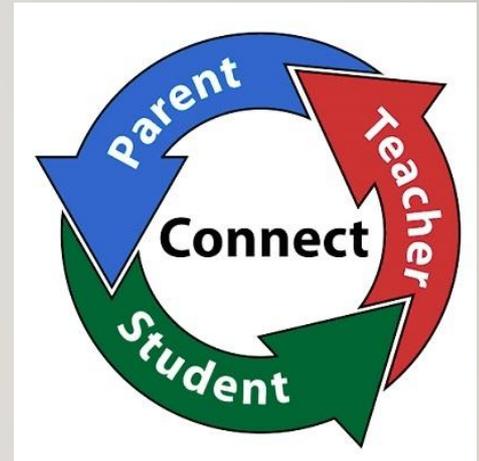
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## HOW TO SUPPORT STUDENT LEARNING AT HOME

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- Set up a daily family routine, including healthy eating and sleeping habits
- Provide a quiet space for schoolwork
- Check on assignments, homework and projects
- Talk each day with your child about his/her activities
- Limit and monitor TV watching, gaming, social media and computer time
- Express high expectations and standards for your child's learning
- Attend parent-teacher conferences and school events
- Participate in decisions that affect your child's education



## WAYS TO BUILD MATH SKILLS AT HOME

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- Have a positive attitude about math.
  - ❖ Help your child enjoy math by talking about it in a positive manner. Think out loud when you are using math skills so your child will hear your thinking process.
- Model how math is used in the real world.
  - ❖ Model the importance of math in the real world and encourage your child to help when you pay bills, estimate cost of groceries, etc.
- Play games that increase number sense.
  - ❖ Racko by Hasbro involves putting numbered cards in order from greatest to least. Yahtzee is perfect for working on multiplication facts and reinforcing addition skills. There are many fun card and dice games that utilize math skills.



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By the time students graduate from high school, they are expected to have learned how to write effectively for a variety of purposes. Parent, here are a few writing tips to support children in developing writing skills at home. These suggestions have been adapted from writing guides, NCTE, and Great Schools.

## WRITING TIPS FOR PARENTS



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- **Practice, practice, practice**

- Writing takes practice! Let your child see you write often and encourage him to write often, too. At-home writing might include e-mails, instant messaging, thank-you notes, scrapbook descriptions, diaries, and what's-for-dinner notes. **Please encourage your child to maintain a journal and write entries daily about topics of their choosing.**

- **Try writing for different audiences**

- Encourage your child to expand his range and abilities by writing for many different audiences. He could try a letter to the editor or to a legislator, a silly story for his younger sister, or a "top ten" list to cheer up a sick friend.

- **Make language fun**

- Have fun with language yourself and share that sense of play with your child. Point out new words and phrases you come across in the newspaper or on the radio; share favorite song lyrics; get creative in naming a new pet or in writing gift cards.

- **Offer your child many opportunities to read**

- Offer your child a wide variety of opportunities to read, both educational and entertaining, and pass on your own favorite authors, novels, and magazines to show him you're a reader, too. **Discuss those things you've both read.**

- **Encourage your child to examine different styles of (and reasons for) writing**

- Encourage your child to compare the styles of different authors, and to compare how a newspaper editorial may be different than a website or an instruction manual.

## WRITING TIPS FOR PARENTS



- **Encourage your child to pursue forms of writing that interest him**
- If your child has found a form of writing that he enjoys, encourage him to pursue it whether it's poetry, journal and letter writing, or writing on the internet. If your child is learning English, you may wish to encourage him to practice writing informally in his first language as a way to become familiar with basic writing skills.
- **Encourage your child to write about personal thoughts and interests**
- Encourage your child to use writing to think more deeply about things in his life questions, problems, difficult assignments, hobbies, and topics he wants to learn more about. **Writing regularly in a journal may provide a valuable outlet and space for him.**
- **Make sure your child has what he needs to write**
- Support your child by making sure he has adequate materials for writing (sufficient paper, pens, pencils, etc.), as well as a quiet place to work. If your child must write an assignment on a computer and you don't have a computer at home, check with the school to see if he can check – out a computer, or check computer availability at your public library. If English is a second language, make sure he has a good dual language dictionary in order to translate new vocabulary, and help him learn how to use it.
- **Take your child to the library**
- Help your child obtain the resources needed to complete any writing assignments by taking him to the library.
- **Communicate with your child's teacher**
- If your child is struggling with his writing, talk with his teachers to find out the specific problem and a strategy of support.

## PROMOTING READING AT HOME



- **Children should read daily.**
- Set aside a quiet time each day – at least 20 minutes, for reading.

- **Keep different kinds of reading materials at home**

To stimulate reading at home, keep reading materials throughout the house, including newspapers, magazines, and brochures. Keep some fun things on hand too, like word games, puzzles, or the kids' section of the newspaper. Information can also be digital as well. This will increase your child's access to books and printed material, providing more opportunities to practice reading.

- **Beat boredom with books**

- Help your child find books that she finds interesting! These might include non-fiction books, fun fact books, arts and crafts books, hands-on activity and project books, or cookbooks with kid-friendly recipes.

## PROMOTING READING AT HOME



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- **Read aloud every day**

Try to find time each day to read aloud to your children — even the older ones. Reading aloud benefits children and teens, particularly those who are struggling readers. Read aloud in different places, from the porch to the park. And don't be afraid to use silly voices and act out the story!

- **Encourage your child to learn new words**

Introduce your child to new words every day. Talk about what these words mean and how they are used.

- **Write away**

Keep writing materials handy such as pencils, paper, and crayons so that your child can practice writing. Encourage her to write letters or post cards to friends and relatives - particularly during the course of the COVID pandemic and summer months. to keep a journal, make a summer scrapbook, or to write stories and poems. Ask your child to help you when making shopping lists or copying a recipe.

- **Help your child select books at the right level**

A good way to decide whether your child is reading books at the right reading level is to have her read a from a page in the book that she has chosen (any page but the first page). If she is reading smoothly and understands what she is reading, the book is probably at a good level for her. If she makes five or more errors in a passage of about 50 words, the level may be too challenging. Librarians, media specialist can also help you choose books at the appropriate level for your children.