



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD AT HOME

Strategies for Literacy & Numeracy

ELEMENTARY EDITION



SUCCESS for Every Student

ELEMENTARY

LITERACY

READING

| Strategies | Activities |
|--|---|
| Read every day! | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Read the environment around you.■ Let your child hear and see you reading.■ Listen to your child read.■ Read anything in the environment: books, news titles, news articles, food boxes, street signs, store signs, advertisements, posters, grocery store signs etc.■ Read aloud to your child in the language you speak at home – or any other language – and talk about what you are reading (FI/ELL).■ If you don't know any French, (or any other language), have your child read to you in the new language |
| Point to words as you read | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Touch the words as you read so your child can see you read left-to-right, where words begin and end etc.■ Have a “word” scavenger hunt in your home |
| Ask questions about what you are reading | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Ask questions that make your child think and reflect:■ Examples of types of questions to ask: Tell me more about... What did you notice...? What are you wondering about...? How can you find out about...? Who was ...? Why did...? Where did...? What do you think will happen next? |
| Have your child EXPLAIN! | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Have them give reasons for their ideas (their reasons might come from something they have read, heard or from something they already know)■ Have them explain WHY they think something happened...or HOW they think something came to be, WHO they think did it etc.■ Play the “WHY? Game” – ask your child “Why?” 5 times in a row, no matter what their response is! |
| Build enthusiasm for reading! | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Read literature that is based on popular films (e.g., Cat in the Hat, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Percy Jackson Series, Hunger Games, Disney movies)■ Begin a family book club■ Read fiction/non-fiction materials connected to a family trip you are planning to take |
| Partnering with Your Teen Grades 7 - 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ This online document found in edugains.ca provides information for parents, guardians, caregivers, and other family members on ways to support the development of their teen's mathematical abilities. <p>math.thelearningexchange.ca/math-at-home/partnering-with-your-teen-in-math</p> <p>www.mathies.ca/files/Partnering%20with%20your%20teen.pdf</p> |

LITERACY

READING

Strategies

Read culturally relevant material (local to your area)

Activities

■ Play a variety of games that involve your child reading the instructions and/or game cards

1. Use first language material, or books with multiple languages available

Indigenous Cultures: Claire's Grandfather teaches about the origin of names, pride in who you are as an Indigenous person, Indigenous contributions to Canadian Society in both French and English.

www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1303145519542/1535476932510

2. Use cultural materials that students can connect to

Indigenous Cultures: have students connect to Traditions and multi-cultures (Sky Sisters: Culture and Traditions, Aurora Borealis)

skysisters.weebly.com

3. Share traditions and connections to your own culture

Indigenous Cultures:

■ Giving Thanks, by Jake Swamp connects/teaches about the Morning Address of the Haudenosaunee culture.

www.leeandlow.com/books/2397/teachers_guide

■ Hiawatha and The Peacemaker, Robbie Robertson - teaches students about forgiveness, how the 5 Nations come together, the Peacemaker's Journey and the beginning of the Great Law and the Tree of Peace.



LITERACY

WRITING

Strategies

Make writing engaging and meaningful

Keep supplies of paper, pens, pencils, markers and other writing tools within easy reach

Write with your child in the language you speak at home, (or any other language)

Talk about what YOU are writing

Talk about what THEY are writing

Activities

- When planning a family trip, have your child write lists or itineraries (e.g., what to pack, a day's agenda)
- While on a trip have your child keep a journal of the events
- Ask your child to write the captions about any photos (from a trip, birthday etc.)
- Write grocery lists or "to do" lists
- Send a Message - Frequently leave notes on pillows, desks, mirrors, etc. Have your child write you a note in return.
- Use a family chalkboard or message board each day for a short message.
- Make letter writing a habit for your child. Have your child write letters to family and friends.
- "Year in Review" Notebook - Keep an ongoing record of your family's life. Every family member can add to your family's story. Include important events that happen during the year. On New Year's Eve, sit down and read through your "Year in Review".
- For birthday presents or for other gifts, have your child write the card or note for the recipient.
- Postcards - Have your child write and mail postcards on family vacations or special outings.
- Make a Menu - Let your child design and write the menu for a family dinner.
- Use Writing Prompts or Sentence Starters: (e.g. "Pretend you are the first person to create a flying car. Tell what the car would look like and how it would work" or "One day I saw this strange object as I was waiting for the bus...")
- Keep supplies of paper, pencils, markers, and other writing tools within easy reach.



LITERACY

ORAL COMMUNICATION

| Strategies | Activities |
|--|---|
| <p>TALK! TALK! TALK!</p> <p>Encourage your child to answer questions and express opinions about the world and explain the reasons behind them.</p> <p>Encourage your child to pay attention to and think about similarities and differences between different languages</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Talk about your day, an upcoming event, an event that just occurred (e.g. their soccer game, the class trip)■ Have your child describe and explain: Who, What, Where, When, Why, How■ Encourage your child to perform skits or puppet shows. Set aside time for other family members to see the performance.■ Ask: "Tell me about what you are reading in French" (or any other language), (rather than "Can you translate this sentence for me?").■ Say words that they are learning over and over.■ Allow your child to hear words spoken by the important people in their lives: Mom, Dad, siblings, grandparents, teachers.■ Say words in meaningful contexts – during conversation at dinner, in the car, while playing and while reading.■ Rephrase and extend your child's words, ask a clarifying question (tell me more about the man you saw)■ Use complex vocabulary or sentence structure |
| <p>Tell stories orally</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Tell life stories, experiences and share your culture■ Reinforce listening skills, speak with intonation in your voice■ Use body language and facial expressions■ Show your child how to sort and organize their ideas |

WORD WORK

| Strategies | Activities |
|---|--|
| <p>Learn about words through play</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Play TV, online and board games that allow your child to build words (e.g., matching and memory games, Scrabble, Wheel of Fortune, Boggle, etc.) |
| <p>Practice making words from letters</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Write words in shaving cream or pudding with your finger, create words on the fridge or a cookie sheet with magnetic letters |
| <p>Have visuals with words posted in first and second languages</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Days of the week, calendars, objects in the home/classroom |
| <p>Put words in a rhyme or rap or associate them with an action or a picture</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Create new rhymes and raps from new vocabulary you are learning■ Match words with pictures or actions |

NUMERACY

| Strategies | Activities |
|--|---|
| Estimate! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Guess various things! (amounts and sizes of objects/liquids, distance, how far, how big etc). |
| Make math part of your child's day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Point out the many times a day when you use math (sorting laundry, telling time, cooking, money, etc.) ■ Encourage your child to talk about their learning in math at school ■ Do puzzles together ■ Point out the variety of tools you use that are mathematical – rulers, measuring cups, calculator, etc. |
| Make math culturally relevant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Point out and talk about math in nature, (e.g. patterning in corn, flowers) ■ Explain the math in cultural practices like beading, wampum etc. |
| Be positive about math | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Praise your child's efforts and celebrate when they understand something for the first time ■ Encourage your child to be persistent with a problem. |
| Play games | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Play card games – Crazy Eights, Go Fish, Scopa, War, Uno ■ Play board games – Blokus, Yahtzee, Battleship, Connect 4, Mastermind ■ Online games |
| Get kids to build | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Play with LEGO, Magna-tiles, blocks, Straws and Connectors/Play-Doh |
| Engage your child in “real world” math | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bake/cook with your child ■ Have your child pay for small purchases with cash and count the change |
| Ask your child to give explanations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ask your child to share their thinking when solving problems or ask about the strategies they used ■ Have them explain HOW they worked through a problem ■ Prompt your child to think about other ways to solve problems, using different strategies |
| Create math problems where there are different ways to get a solution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sample Problem: Max wants to build a fenced-in area for his dog. He wants the perimeter to be no bigger than 32m squared. What are the possible dimensions his fenced-in area could be? ■ Children might: draw a picture with labels, build a small model, tell or explain their ideas for a solution |

NUMERACY

| Strategies | Activities |
|--|--|
| Include Measurement | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Ask your child to help you collect all the objects around your house that help you measure, (rulers, measuring cups, tape measures, thermometers, clocks, laundry soap scoops, and the container you use to measure dog food).■ Talk about how each is used to help us measure something.■ Sort the objects into things that measure liquids, things that measure length, and others.■ Ask your child to use something other than a ruler to measure: “How many stuffed animals long is our kitchen table? How many stuffed animals does it take to measure our hallway?”■ Shaped graham crackers, blocks, and dried pasta make other good nonstandard measurement units.■ Ask your child to use words such as taller, shorter, wide, small, large, lighter, heavier, hotter, colder, warm, and variations of the terms such as large, larger, largest, small, smaller, smallest.■ Use measurement vocabulary words such as thermometer, calendar, ruler, meter stick, clock, and scale. |
| Sharing Circles and Family Math Problem | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Create a mathematical problem for your family to solve, (perhaps a question about household budget).■ Have a family math talk, allow everyone to talk about their ideas and solutions, question one another about different possibilities for a solution |



LINKS TO FURTHER RESOURCES

| Resource | Links |
|---|--|
| Reading and Writing with Your Child K to 6 – A Guide for Parents | www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideLitEn.pdf |
| Doing Mathematics with Your Child K to 6 – A Guide for Parents | www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideNumEn.pdf |
| Inspiring Your Child to Learn and Love Math | www.ontariodirectors.ca/parent_engagement-math/en/index.htm |
| Online At-Home Math Support (K-12) | www.mathies.ca |
| ELL resources for parents in different languages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Parent resources in different languages from the Ministry of Education www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/multiLanguages.html ■ Reading, Writing and Math www.colorincolorado.org/learning-together-home www.colorincolorado.org/reading-tip-sheets-parents |
| Integrating Aboriginal Teaching and Values into the Classroom | www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/inspire/research/Toulouse.pdf |
| Teaching Resources and Strategies for Elementary and Secondary Classroom: Aboriginal Perspectives, A Guide to the Teacher's Toolkit. | www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/aboriginal/Guide_Toolkit2009.pdf |
| Ontario Directors of Education | www.ontariodirectors.ca/parent_engagement-math/en/index.htm |
| Homework Help | homeworkhelp.ilc.org |
| EQAO - Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics | www.eqao.com/en/assessments/grade-9-math/Pages/grade-9-math.aspx |
| IXL | ca.ixl.com |
| Partnering with Your Teen in Mathematics | www.edugains.ca/resourcesMath/CE/HomeSupportPartneringWithYourTeen.pdf |

LINKS TO FURTHER RESOURCES

| Resource | Links |
|--|--|
| PARENT TOOL KIT: What parents can do to help their child succeed in school | www.ontariodirectors.ca/parent_engagement.html |
| Adolescent Literacy - A Brief Guide for Parents | www.edugains.ca/resourcesLIT/SchoolLeader/BuildingRelationships/ParentGuide_2014.pdf |
| Supporting your Child's Success in French Immersion and Extended French, Kindergarten to Grade 8 – A Parent Guide | www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideFrench.pdf |
| EQAO - Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) | www.eqao.com/en/assessments/OSSLT/parents |
| Rewordify | www.rewordify.com |
| Resources for French as a Second Language Learners | www.idello.org/en www.cpf.ca/en |
| Resources for English as a Second Language Learners | www.uniteforliteracy.com ca.ixl.com |



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