

# How Families Can Help Students at Home

## *Kindergarten*

### English Language Arts & Literacy

■ Read with your child every day, Ask your child to explain his or her favorite parts of the story. Share your own ideas. To find more books for your child to read, visit [www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix\\_B.pdf](http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf).

■ Encourage your child to tell you about his or her day at school. Have your child describe the picture to you.

### Mathematics

■ Ask your child questions that require counting as many as 20 things. For example, ask, "How many books do you have about wild animals?"

■ Ask your child questions that require comparing numbers. "Who is wearing more bracelets, you or your sister?" (Your child might use matching or counting to find the answer.)

## *1st grade*

### English Language Arts & Literacy

■ Encourage your child to read to you books such as Little Bear by Else Holmelund Minarik. Help him or her sound out difficult words. To find more books for your child to read, visit [www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix\\_B.pdf](http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf).

■ Pick a "word of the day" each day starting with a different letter. Have your child write the word and look for other things beginning with the same letter.

### Mathematics

Look for "word problems" in real life. Some 1st grade examples might include:

■ If you open a new carton of a dozen eggs, and you use four eggs to cook dinner, close the carton and ask your child how many eggs are left.

■ Play the "I'm thinking of a number" game. For example, "I'm thinking of a number that makes 11 when added to 8. What is my number?"

## *2nd grade*

### English Language Arts & Literacy

■ Read at home every day and assist your child by reading every other paragraph. To find recommendations of books for your child to read, visit [www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix\\_B.pdf](http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf).

■ Have your child write a thank you note or letter to family members or friends.

### Mathematics

Look for "word problems" in real life. Some 2nd grade examples might include:

■ When saving for a purchase, compare the cost of the item to the amount of money you have; then ask your child to determine how much more money he or she needs to buy the item.

■ Play "draw the shape." For example, ask your child to draw a hexagon with one side longer than the others, or ask him or her to shade in a quarter of a rectangle.

### *3rd grade*

#### English Language Arts & Literacy

- Make reading for fun a part of your child's daily routine.
- Encourage your child to find a picture from a newspaper or magazine, cut it out, paste it on paper, and write a story about it.
- Start a family vocabulary box or jar. Have everyone write down new words they discover, add them to the box, and use the words in conversation.

#### Mathematics

Look for "word problems" in real life.

Some 3rd grade examples might include:

- Notice those everyday occasions when you find yourself using your times tables — such as to determine how many days there are in four weeks. Ask your child for the answer.
- Involve your child when you notice yourself using division to "work backward" in the times tables — such as determining how many candies each child will get if 36 candies are shared equally among nine children at a party.

### *4th grade*

#### English Language Arts & Literacy

- Urge your child to use logical arguments to defend his or her opinion. If your child wants a raise in allowance, ask him or her to research commonsense allowance systems and, based on that research, explain reasons why, supported by facts and details.
- Talk about the news together. Pick one story in the news, read it together, and discuss with your child what it means.

#### Mathematics

- Ask your child to compare numbers using phrases like "times as much." For example, if the family cat weighs 8 lbs. and the family dog weighs 56 lbs., how many times as much does the dog weigh?
- Ask your child to help you compare fractional amounts — for example, if one recipe calls for  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a cup of oil, but another recipe calls for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a cup of oil, which recipe calls for more oil? (In 5th grade, your child will learn ways to determine just how much more oil.)

### *5th grade*

#### English Language Arts & Literacy

- Invite your child to read his or her writing out loud to other family members. Ask questions about your child's word choices and ideas.
- Go to a play or musical with your child. Discuss how the actors bring the words to life.
- Discuss your family stories and history. Encourage your child to ask relatives questions about their lives. Put the information together in an album or brainstorm different ways to tell family tales, such as poems or short stories.

#### Mathematics

Look for "word problems" in real life. Some 5th grade examples might include:

- Doing arithmetic with decimals, for example when balancing a checkbook.
- Multiplying with fractions — for example, if you used about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -cup measure of vegetable stock, then how much stock did you use? About how much is left?

■ Using the length, width, and depth of a garden plot to determine how many bags of garden soil to buy.