

How I Can Support A Child's Reading Skills at Home



Help the child select books on topics they are interested in:

- If the selected book is above their Lexile® measure, read it together.
- If the selected book is below their Lexile measure, when finished help the child find what they want to read next about that topic or character(s).
- If the child finds the subject does not interest them, let them know it is okay to select a different book.



Let the child catch you reading too! And talk with the child about what you are reading.

Ask questions as they are reading:

- What's your favorite character?
 Favorite part?
- What's the scariest part? Funniest part?
- What are three new things you learned?

When reading is finished, ask the child:

- Do you like how this writer tells a story or how they explain the content — why?
- Can you retell the story? (Listen for a beginning, middle, and end.)
- What else do you want to learn about this topic?

A child will often want to read books below their Lexile measure. Encourage it!

- This is a great way to build knowledge with easier books so they can read more challenging books on the same topic in the future.
- Encourage the child to choose books on a variety of topics and Lexile measures from a variety of genres (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, etc.).
 - Fiction: realistic fiction, historical fiction, science fiction, fables, fantasy, fairy tales, short stories
 - Non-Fiction: biographies, informational
 - Poetry: rhymed verse, unrhymed verse, prose



How I Can Support A Child's Math Skills at Home

Help children foster a positive attitude about math:

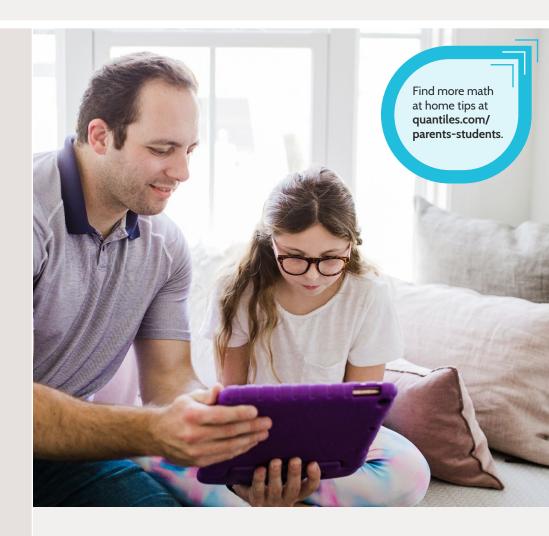
 Don't let on if math wasn't your favorite subject in school!

Ask if the child has mathematics homework that night, then discuss it when they have finished:

- Ask how they arrived at an answer.
- Having them explain their path to the answer helps deepen their understanding.

Ask the child to identify and discuss the math they find in their world:

- Measurement occurs in food preparation, woodworking, distance, and many other things. (For example: When cooking, talk about 1 cup measures and 1/2 cup measures and practice measuring.)
- Patterns of all kinds are everywhere: numbers, shapes, etc.
- Let the child estimate the weight of items in the produce section, then let them check their estimate using scales.
- Sort household items according to particular features.



Pose mental math problems during down time (riding in a vehicle, waiting at the doctor's office, before bed, etc.). Ask the child to:

- Count by different amounts: 3, 6, 7, 9, etc.
- Recite memorized math facts: 3 + 4, 12-7, 6 x 4, etc.
- Talk about time: How long until...? How long since...?
- For older children, ask them to describe a situation with an equation or expression, including identifying the known and unknown quantities.



When you notice the child is having difficulties, never hesitate to check in with the teacher!