

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

ELEMENTARY

- Choose a book and have a different family member read aloud one chapter each night or have a designated quiet time for family reading. Ask your child to imagine a different ending to the story.
- Discuss familiar stories through various viewpoints. For example, consider how The Three Little Pigs may be different from the Wolf's point of view.
- Help your child write, bind, and illustrate a book, photo album, or scrapbook. The books can include photos and personal narratives detailing family events and milestones.
- Build story time into your daily routine. Read to younger children every day and have older children read to you. If you do not feel comfortable reading, tell your children stories. Hearing about your family history and experiences will help your children develop an appreciation of language, storytelling, and the past.



Developing Your Child's Reading Skills

- We want our children to read so they can navigate and enjoy life. Do not get so caught up in teaching individual letters or words that you forget the bigger picture—meaning. Children instinctively look for meaning in the things they see and hear. To improve their ability to understand and interpret what they read, ask what, why, where, and how questions while reading stories. Encourage your child to ask you questions whenever they do not understand something.



Raising Ready Readers

MIDDLE & HIGH

- Encourage your child to be an active reader, which means that reading should be done with one hand on the book and the other holding a pen. Children can note details about characters in the book itself or in a separate notebook.
- Help develop critical listening skills by subscribing to a podcast or listen to a radio show. Travel over Winter Break provides the perfect opportunity for a shared listening experience! Follow up by discussing issues that might arise with a debate. It is important to encourage the use of at least three pieces of evidence to back up an argument.
- One way to encourage writing practice is to have family members leave notes for one another on a regular basis. Leaving a note in a lunch box, taping a note to the mirror in the hallway, or slipping a note under a pillow are great ways to reinforce the importance of written communication. Another way to encourage written communication is to send family letters or emails. Engaging in frequent email exchanges with relatives and friends supports writing skills and provides practice organizing thoughts and ideas.
- Make time for conversation at home around shared reading. Discuss current events, shared interests, and future aspirations for education and career. When students see that the adults in their lives also have informed opinions, goals, and interests, it encourages them to develop and express their own!



Parent Roadmaps - English Language Arts

- Encourage letter writing for developing a sense of voice, audience, and purpose. Letters to relatives, sports figures, celebrities, businesses, and organizations are some examples. Receiving responses will promote more letter writing!



Writing Tips to Encourage Student Writing

ELEMENTARY

- Work with your child on telling time. See if your child can tell you what time it is throughout the day or tell you how much time has passed between activities at home.
- Practice adding and subtracting using real-life examples.
 - When grocery shopping: “If I buy a bag of cashews that weighs 1.08 kg and a bag of almonds that weighs 3.67kg, what is the total weight of cashews and almonds?”
 - When finding distance: “We are going to run a Family Relay Race that is 22 kilometers. If mom runs 16 kilometers, how far do you have to run to complete the race?”
- Make it a point to show your children that we use math all the time. While driving, have your child count cars or signs. In the grocery store, ask your child to figure out the cost of multiple items. In the kitchen, ask how many eggs are left in the carton after using a few for a recipe. Asking your children to explain how they solved the problems will help develop math confidence and understanding.



Helping Your Child With Today's Math

- Mental Math is the perfect skill practice on the go. Even on short car rides, math can be practiced by posing questions to children on any topic that requires them to think about the answer in their head. The problem can be as simple as: “It is 10 miles from our house to the mall. We have already driven four miles. How much farther do we have left to drive?” You can also work on fluency skills such as counting and multiplication.

MIDDLE & HIGH

- A deck of playing cards can be used for fun games to practice mathematical concepts. Check out the resources below for other math games.



Starts at Eight



Education World

- Encourage your child to help when you:
 - balance your checkbook and pay bills
 - determine how much food to make for a party
 - estimate cost of groceries in your cart or calculate cost of lunch at a restaurant
 - determine number of miles driven in X hours or determine how many gallons of gas X dollars buys
- Math art with parabolic curves! A student’s ability to discover the connection between mathematics and art spawns a genuine interest in mathematical patterns and applications. Once the creation is complete, allow your child to color the figure and reflect on the connections between art design and math!



Activity: Math Art with Parabolic Curves

- Integers in the real world! Integers are defined as the set of whole numbers that include both positive numbers and their opposites. In real life, integers are used in athletics, finances, temperature, health, etc.



Activity: Integer Football



Activity: Integer Golf



Activity: Financial Literacy

ELEMENTARY

- Encourage observation! Bring out the binoculars, magnifying glass, or the spotting scope and you will be amazed at what your children will find. Show your own excitement to engage, observe, and hypothesize about the world around you and the whole family is having fun with science.
- So much can be done with ice! Put an ice cube on a plate and ask your child what he/she thinks will be seen when it is left out for a while. Discuss this and ask why he/she thinks this will happen. Would the same thing happen if the plate was in a different part of the room or outdoors? Use a camera to take photos of the ice cube every 20 minutes to document the change.
- Everyday experiences and discussions help children make connections with science. Make time to explore and learn alongside your child. This can be as simple as conducting an experiment to see whether items float or sink in the bathtub or as adventurous as taking a walk around the neighborhood looking for different birds or plants. The most important thing is to be curious, explore, and seek answers. Your child will follow your scientific lead.



Raising a Scientifically Literate Child

- Children can conduct their own experiments to learn about the world around them. They can study the states of matter by melting ice in the sun and shade. Before beginning, ask your child to predict what will happen to ice placed in the sun versus ice placed in the shade. Then test his or her idea, checking on the ice cubes over time. Ask your child to explain what happened. Was your child's prediction right?

MIDDLE & HIGH

- Give children an outlet to explore science outside of school. It can be incredibly beneficial for children to practice science outside of the school day. It is helpful for children to have the chance to explore their passions, such as in a community science club, environmental competition, or by conducting independent research.
- Make an effort to expose your child to different options for a career in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math). If you are in a STEAM field yourself, take your child to work with you on a No School day. If you have friends or family in a STEAM field, ask them to talk to your child about what their jobs are like, or even set up a job shadow if your child has a strong interest.
- Investigate real-life geodes (a rock containing a cavity lined with crystals) with your child. This experiment investigates concepts such as solutions, crystallization, and geodes. What's more, your result may be quite beautiful!



Activity: Make Some Egg Shell Geodes

- Have you seen "elephant toothpaste" formed at a District STEAM Conference? You may not have any elephants grazing at home, but you can still make elephant toothpaste of your own! (Consider doing this activity outside.) This activity will demonstrate decomposition reactions, catalysts, and the difference between exothermic and endothermic reactions.



Activity: Fantastic Foamy Fountain

ELEMENTARY

- Create a timeline with your child that highlights your child's personal life with their major milestones along with historic events. At your local library, look up the front pages of periodicals of the day, month, and year when your child was born. Read the articles together and share how life was the same and different during that time period. What surprised your child about the world on his/her birthdate? What connections do the articles make to life today?
- Choose a historical fiction novel. Read it together each day and discuss the main points. Your local librarian can provide recommendations based on grade level.
- Use a train or bus map to trace the route to a summer destination such as a pool, the beach, or a family summer outing. What information does the map provide? How does it help you travel?
- Holidays are a great way to have children make connections between their learning at school and their lives at home. Ask your child why certain days are holidays and why they are important. Pretend that your family gets to create a new holiday. What would you celebrate? What would you name it? What would the new tradition be? Most importantly, decide what is on the menu for your new holiday!
- Maps are an important part of social studies. As your children get ready for summer, ask them to create maps of places they know (house, school, or neighborhood) and for imaginary places like their dream house or dream school. You may need to create a model first so your children will understand how a real place can be represented in a 2-D model.



Activity: Cartography for Kids

MIDDLE & HIGH

- Discuss an upcoming election and why we vote. If your vote falls on the losing side, it is an opportunity to show how democracy continues, even if your favorite candidate did not prevail.
- Teaching history with political cartoons is a visual way to have students grasp historical events and open a dialogue between parents and children. Children can relate political cartoons from the present day to situations from the past, and perhaps draw their own cartoons.
- Government is more than just the Presidency or U. S. Congress! We have local government in Collier County, and the decisions made by our local governments have a real impact on your day-to-day life. Discuss a local or national issue from the newspaper or attend a local government meeting with your child.
- As we near graduation season, there will be many commencement speech videos in the news. Pick a few to watch with your child and focus on character education themes like responsibility, perseverance, citizenship, and integrity. It is also a great way to spark conversation about your teen's future goals and what they might want to do after high school.



Inspirational Speech: Admiral McRaven

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

ELEMENTARY

- Children often struggle to identify their own emotions. While watching TV, turn off the sound and try to guess how characters are feeling. Talk about how body language and facial expressions can be clues.
- Children often do not understand the decision-making process and struggle to incorporate others' perspectives into their own thinking. To help them learn, talk about a decision you are currently making. For example, you could focus on things like what you are planning to buy at the grocery store. Talk through your plans for making dinner, what ingredients you think you will need and why you will choose those items. This gives an opportunity for your child to see the decision-making process in action and understand that even simple decisions like what brand of tomato sauce to buy have reasoning behind them.

MIDDLE & HIGH

- Teach your child how to make connections with others. Whether through clubs, work, or family networks, connecting with others provides needed social supports to help them through difficult times and disappointments. Help your child by helping others through volunteering. Children can feel empowered by helping others and this builds empathy and fosters connections with others.
- Children learn to make better choices by practicing. Making choices and mistakes are a necessary part of learning. Allowing children to navigate challenging situations on their own can help them build frameworks for arriving at more successful outcomes. Some strategies to help improve the quality of choices they make include asking themselves:
 - Why is this decision necessary? What are my options?
 - What are the likely consequences of each option?
 - How important are each of the consequences?
 - Which choice seems best in light of the consequences?

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

ELEMENTARY

- Practice Positivity. Make a game out of saying things in new ways with your child. You can take turns saying something negative and then try to talk about the same thing in a positive way: "I don't like loud noises" can become "I like quiet sounds." This skill helps children describe things and people in different ways and understand others' perspectives.
- When going somewhere, talk to your child about what they think will happen when you arrive. Who will they see? What will they do? What will they do after that? Make it a conversation by continuing to ask them what will happen next. This back and forth conversation will help develop language and communication skills.

MIDDLE & HIGH

- Families need time to bond, but busy schedules can make that difficult. Pick a day on the calendar and stick to it for family group activities. Have a different family member choose the activity each time. By having everyone pick a group activity to do, you are not only acknowledging your differences, but celebrating them. Participating in these activities may even bring about some similarities or common interests that were previously unknown!
- Never waste a car ride or a simple task like folding laundry together with your teen. Simply being in the same room can create the opportunity for interaction. If you are cooking dinner and your child is doing something nearby, there is an opening. Of course, if one of you is focused on a computer or phone, the interaction is likely to be more limited. Find ways to be near each other where you are both potentially available, without it seeming like a demand.