

Kindergarten English Language Arts & Literacy

Read with your child for at least twenty minutes every day from books like *Are You My Mother* by P.D. Eastman or *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss. 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.

Encourage your child to tell you about his or her day at school. Keep paper, markers, or crayons around the house for your child to write letters or words or draw a picture about his or her day. Have your child describe the picture to you.

Play word games like *I Spy*, sing songs like *Itsy Bitsy Spider*, and make silly rhymes together.

Kindergarten Mathematics

Look for “word problems” in real life. The ideas below are some kindergarten examples.

Play “Write the next number.” You write a number, and your child writes the next number.

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 with you for at least twenty minutes a day. 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.

Act out stories together from books, television, or your child’s imagination.

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.

Visit the library with your child every week. Have your child sign up for a library card.

1st Grade Mathematics

Look for “word problems” in real life. The ideas below are some first grade examples.

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.

While putting away toys into bins, count the number of toys in two bins and ask your child how many more are in one bin compared to the other.

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 for at least twenty minutes and assist your child by reading every other paragraph. Encourage your child to read to younger siblings, cousins, or other children you know. To find recommendations of books for your child to read, visit www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf.

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

Ask your librarian to suggest books about people or places that are important to your child or family that you can read together. Encourage your child to explain what he or she has just read.

2nd Grade Mathematics

Look for “word problems” in real life. The ideas below are some 2nd grade examples.

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.

When measuring your child’s height, ask how many inches he or she has grown since the very first measurement.

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. Set aside quiet time, with no phones, computers, or other distractions, when your child can read for pleasure from books such as *Amos & Boris* by William Steig or *The Fire Cat* by Esther Averill for at least 20 minutes. To find more books for your child to read, visit www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf.

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.

3rd Grade Mathematics

Look for “word problems” in real life. The ideas below are some 3rd grade examples.

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, or determining how many six-inch lengths can be cut from a string 18 inches long.

4th Grade English Language Arts & Literacy

Make reading for fun a part of your child’s routine for at least 20 minutes per day. Set aside quiet time, with no phones, computers, or other distractions, when your child can read for pleasure. To find books for your child to read, visit www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf.

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.

Keep books, magazines, and newspapers at home. Make sure your child sees you reading.

4th Grade Mathematics

Look for “word problems” in real life. The ideas below are some 4th grade examples.

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

Make reading for fun a part of your child’s routine for at least 20 minutes per day. Set aside quiet time, with no phones, computers, or other distractions, when your child can read for pleasure. To find books for your child to read, visit www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf.

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.

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.

Go to a play or musical with your child. Discuss the way the actors bring the words to life.

5th Grade Mathematics

Look for “word problems” in real life. The ideas below are some 5th grade examples.

Do arithmetic with decimals, for example when balancing a checkbook.

Multiply 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?

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

6th Grade English Language Arts & Literacy

Listen with your child to a television reporter, politician, or other speaker. Ask your child to tell you the speaker’s main points. Was the speaker trying to convince the audience of something? How?

Visit a library or book store together and ask the librarian or bookseller to recommend young adult books, such as *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor. To find more books for your child to read, visit www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf. Make reading for fun a part of your child’s routine for at least 20 minutes per day. Set aside quiet time, with no phones, computers, or other distractions, when your child can read for pleasure.

Invite your child to participate in an adult gathering, such as a meal with friends, to practice listening skills and making conversation.

Encourage your child to learn at the library or on the Internet what life in your community was like 100 years ago. Have your child write a story, poem, or play about that time.

6th Grade Mathematics

Look for “word problems” in real life. The ideas below are some 6th grade examples.

Determine the average speed of a family trip, based on the distance traveled and the time taken; or estimating the time that a trip will take, given the distance and an estimate of the average speed. (Examples can also come from the news — for example, a swimmer crossing the English Channel or a space probe traveling to another planet.)

Find the surface area of the walls and ceiling in a room to determine the cost of painting the room.

7th Grade English Language Arts & Literacy

Visit a local art museum together. Take time to closely observe the details of the paintings or other art objects and talk about what you see there.

Have your child help plan a family outing, using the Internet or library to research a place he or she is interested in.

Ask your child who his or her favorite authors are. Why does your child like their books? What ideas does the author write about? Who are his or her favorite characters? Why? To find recommendations of

books for your child to read, visit www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf. Make reading for fun a part of your child's routine for at least 20 minutes per day. Set aside quiet time, with no phones, computers, or other distractions, when your child can read for pleasure.

7th Grade Mathematics

Look for "word problems" in real life. The ideas below are some 7th grade examples.

Figure the amount of a 15% tip or determining what percentage of weekly income goes to pay taxes.

Use a scale diagram in a manual or a newspaper article to determine lengths, areas, distances, or other measures.

For a long-term project, help your child choose a stock and follow its value on the stock market using the newspaper or the Internet. Have your child calculate the stock's percent increase or decrease each month.

8th Grade English Language Arts & Literacy

Make time in everyone's busy schedule for family discussions about things going on around the world. Weekends can be a chance for everyone to catch up.

Visit the campus of a local college with your teen. Begin talking about college early. What does he or she expect from college? What high school courses will your child need to pass to prepare for college?

Make sure to keep books and magazines around the house that your child will enjoy reading and learning from. For a list of book recommendations, visit www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf. Make reading for fun a part of your child's routine for at least 20 minutes per day. Set aside quiet time, with no phones, computers, or other distractions, when your child can read for pleasure.

8th Grade Mathematics

Ask your child to share with you any work he or she is doing in math class that strikes him or her as interesting.

Some possibilities might include:

Solving interesting problems involving cylinders and spheres, such as figuring out how much water fits inside a garden hose, or how many earths would fit inside the sun.

Analyzing data with a scatterplot, for example to decide whether exercise and obesity are related.

Solving "just for fun" algebra puzzles, such as: "I'm thinking of two numbers. The difference between the numbers is 40. Twice the smaller number is 20 more than the larger number. What are my numbers?"