

Parent Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Paul Revere Intermediate



» **Parents are their children's first and most important teachers.**



Many activities at home, no matter in what language, can be used to build literacy & math and reinforce concepts the children may be learning in school.

Reading and writing strengthen the connection and communication between parents and children. Activities including math can be fun and can stimulate thinking.



Hearing stories read in the home language gives children a chance to hear how written language sounds in a familiar context while allowing them to form strong bonds with their own culture.

When children see that parents use math for daily activities, they learn to appreciate both the subject and their parents' thinking skills. Talking about math requires specific language.

6 Principle Ideas

- Play = Learning 
- Learning brings the family together
- Speaking, Listening, Reading, Writing are Related
- Math is a part of many of our activities
- Home is the center for learning 
-  Praise fosters growth

What can you read? What can you write?

IDEAS to Foster Literacy

- At HOME
- In the CAR
- When you're OUT and ABOUT
- Using the TELEVISION



At HOME

- Create a book
- Write a story to go with a picture
- Write captions for family photos
- Read recipes
- Write or copy favorite recipes
- Write grocery lists
- Write a list of chores
- Make hand-made cards
- Create a “time capsule”
- Read at bed time



- Read at bed time
- Tell stories together
- Write a joint diary
- Take phone messages
- Leave notes for family members
- Write a list of things to do for when “there’s nothing to do”
- Read every day
- Older siblings read in English to younger siblings every day
- Put great work on the refrigerator
- Send a message in the lunchbox or book bag



- Send a message in the lunchbox or book bag
- Have a quiet time and a quiet place to do homework
- Ask about school
- Ask questions every day in Home Language
- Ask questions about books students are reading at school or for homework



- *Some things you should have at home:*

*books, a reading light in the room, paper,
pencils, crayons, glue, scissors . . .*



In The CAR

- Play a rhyming words game
- Have small books and books on tape in the car
- Take turns making up a story
- Create a travelogue of a trip:
 - ~ document impressions, conversations, descriptions, photo
- Play a spelling game:
 - ~ “I see a c-o-w”
 - ~ “I see a s-t-o-r-e”
- Go to the library and find out about the place you’re going to



- Read signs:
 - ~ road signs
 - ~ store signs



- Make alliterations
 - ~ For the young “M is for mommy, milk, more”
 - ~ For the older “Mommy moves the milk to measure the map”
- Play an alphabet game:
 - ~“I’m going to the store to buy apples, butter, cheese...”
 - ~name places in alphabetical order

When You're Out and About

- Read signs
 - ~ stores
 - ~ bathrooms
 - ~ gas stations
 - ~ movie theaters
 - ~ doctor's office
- Read a program or map
 - ~ museums
 - ~ shows
 - ~ the mall
- Read the menu at a restaurant



- Read ingredients at the grocery store
 - ~ labels on boxes
- Read magazines at the grocery store line
- Go to the library
 - ~ books for yourself
 - ~ books for your child
 - ~ books in English
 - ~ books in your Home Language
- Have something with which to write in your purse or bag



Use the TELEVISION

- Watch TV together
 - ~ talk about programs
 - ~ during commercial talk about “what’s going to happen next?”
- Write a summary of the program
- Write a TV program
 - ~ news
 - ~ trivia
 - ~ funny
 - ~ scary
- Say what’s happening in a sports program play-by-play
- Read through the TV guide and decide on a program
 - ~ be selective and don’t channel-surf



- Write a letter to a favorite TV personality
- Talk about the information in commercials

~how they try to get us to believe them



- Write a commercial
- Ask questions about the stories and characters
~ “what if . . . “

What can you do using math?

IDEAS to Foster Math

- At HOME
- In the CAR
- When you're OUT and ABOUT
- Using the TELEVISION



At HOME

- Measure ingredients for cooking
- Measure objects around the house
- Write a schedule for the week
- Use a calendar and look at weeks ahead
- Calculate the calories in a favorite recipe or favorite food
- Collect coupons to go with the grocery list & estimate savings
- Estimate how much of a product is needed for a project (will you need more than one package?)
- Estimate how much to purchase for a party
- Measure in the yard and around the house
- Refer to objects around the house in geometric terms



In The CAR

- Play a counting game
- Calculate the time it will take to get to your destination
- Add distances to get places
- Use the odometer to talk about distances
- Use the mile markers on highways
- Estimate the number of cars in an area
- Talk about the streets using geometry terms
- Estimate the amount of gas that will be purchased



When You're Out and About

- Count change; count the coins you will use in the parking meter
- Calculate or estimate amount paid at a restaurant or store
- Calculate how much time will be needed to get somewhere
- Estimate the number of cars in a parking lot
- Estimate the number of people at the mall or a store
- Talk about the amount of time that will pass for a movie or a game to be completed
- Use a map for distances
- Estimate / weigh produce at the store
- Play a pattern game
- Do mental math



Use the TELEVISION

- Look at TV schedules and talk about the times
- Estimate the amount of time commercials interrupt a program
- Calculate the number of minutes a program is on the air
- Plan the programs family members will watch and write them on a calendar
- Practice math facts during the commercials
- If a commercial advertises with a specified cost for an item, calculate the total if each member of the family were to purchase one



Other ideas

- Board games
- Websites
- Skip count
- Sign your child up for [junk mail](#). They can read it and the LOVE getting mail
- Create a “Three Jar Money” system. One jar is for SAVING, one for SHARING (charity) and one for SPENDING ON A GOAL. Older students can help with a set of family jars and percentages.
- **Set up a play store.** As your child pretends to buy and sell groceries, toys, and so forth, he learns about counting, arithmetic, problem solving, and simple money concepts.

- **Provide blocks and open-ended materials.** Standard wooden blocks and Legos encourage children to build structures, learn about and combine shapes, compare sizes, and count. Playing with less structured materials, such as clay, sand, and water help children develop the foundations of measurement concepts. Encourage your child to use blocks and toys to act out and *talk about* his play scenarios, such as "these three cars are on the road to grandma's house." You could ask your child how many vehicles there are in all if he has three cars on the road to grandma's house and two trucks on the highway to the factory. Children often compare their block buildings, too. Ask, "How do you know your building is taller than mine?" They also naturally create symmetric designs and buildings. They will notice this symmetry and do more of it, more intentionally, if you discuss it with them.
- **Use counting motions.** If your child is in motion, perhaps going up stairs, help her count the steps or ask her to climb a certain number. Encourage her to hop on one foot seven times and to play games such as hopscotch that provide opportunities to work with numbers and patterning. Count how many times you can bounce a ball or skip rope without stopping. Don't forget the *long jump*: "What's the farthest you can jump?" "How will you remember how far you jumped?"
- **Count everything.** How many apples are in the basket? How many trees do you see outside your window? Count out food items during snack and meal times. Invite your child to set out enough snacks or cups for each family member, as it helps him see real meaning in that number. Matching straws to cups and plates to people develops the concept of one-to-one correspondence. Count the number of windows in a building or chairs around your home — just about everything your child is interested in, he can count.

- **Pave new paths.** When your child plays in the sand, invite her to make roads for small cars. Then encourage her to talk about the paths she has made. These roads can be described geometrically (straight, curved, closed, and so on).
- **Encourage computer use.** Use computers wisely to "mathematize" situations. For some great math program recommendations, visit <http://www.childrenssoftware.com>
- **Collect, classify, and sort things.** Encourage your child to sort his collections — rocks, marbles, pennies, shells, gummy bears, or anything. How many different shapes of leaves can he find? Can he sort apples by their color — green, red, or a little of both?
- **Find shapes around you.** Look for shapes at home and outside (for example, street signs). Look for shapes inside of things, like windows and bricks in buildings, or triangles in bridges. Cut sandwiches into different shapes, and, before they eat them, invite children to arrange them to make as many shapes as they can.
- **Measure everything.** Collect empty jars of various sizes and shapes and let your child explore and compare how much they hold by pouring water from one jar to another. Use a growth chart to mark your child's height — mark your own, too. Count how many steps it takes to get from the bedroom to the bathroom.

- **Classify during clean up.** When it's time to put away toys, books, or art supplies, encourage your child to classify things. Put all the blocks that are the same shape in the same box. This is also a good time to use spatial vocabulary, such as "next to," "inside of," or "on top of."
- **Play games and solve puzzles.** Play games that involve counting, such as those with spinners, dice, or cards. Try "War" with a regular card deck, or play Uno. Puzzles, especially shape puzzles, build problem-solving skills, shape recognition, and spatial concepts.