

Powerful Partners Tip Sheets

Powerful Partners activities provide an opportunity for schools and guardians to work together to help students continue to develop their academic skills while they are away from school. These are suggested enrichment opportunities and are completely optional.

October 2023

Kindergarten

POWERFUL PARTNERS

October

Parents and Guardians,

You are powerful partners in education and learning does not have to end in the classroom. How can you help at home? Here are some engaging activities that will support learning at home and help your child become more successful in their studies.

READING

Build Phonetic Awareness

- Books from Dr. Seuss are fantastic read-alouds. Read a book like *Green Eggs and Ham* with your child. While reading, stop at the end of a line and encourage your child to fill in the rhyme. For example, you may say, "I will eat them in a box. I will eat them with a ...". Your child can fill in the rhyme, "fox!".

Increase Phonics Skills

- Using favorite toys, talk about what they are ("doll") and what letter and sound the word starts with ("Doll starts with d which makes the sound /d/."). Practice this throughout the day with food, furniture, clothes ... anything. (Add ending sounds once beginning sounds seem solid.)
- Play "I Spy" with letter sounds. "I spy something blue that starts with an /m/ sound."

MATH

Know number names and the count sequence

- Draw different shapes on a sheet of paper. Have your child count all of the circles, all of the squares, etc.
- Give your child a number of circles that you want them to draw between 1 and 5. Have them draw that many circles and count them out loud as they draw them.

Compare Numbers

- Take two stacks of objects and compare them. Which is greater than the other? Have your child count the objects to justify their answer.
- Take two stacks of objects and compare them. Which is less than the other? Have your child count the objects to justify their answer.

K

1st Grade

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READING

Increase Reading Fluency

- Echo Reading – As you and your child read a text, read one sentence then have them read the same sentence out loud. This form of repeated reading helps them see you model fluency then lets them practice it.
- Extensive reading – The best way to help your 1st grader to read fluently is to get them to read a lot! Provide lots of books of their choice at home and get them to enjoy reading so that they practice often.

Increase Reading Comprehension

- Keep it fun. Remember that reading together should spark curiosity, joy, and a desire to explore and learn. Conversations about books should be enjoyable, and not a set of quizzes and questions.
- Bring in the nonfiction. There are so many great nonfiction and informational books for every young kids (such as the popular DK Eyewitness series and National Geographic series). Try to include some of these during your next trip to the public library. Children love learning about the real world and are proud to share what they know!

MATH

Add and Subtract within 20

- Give your child an addition fact that equals 20 or less. Have them give you additional facts that equal the same amount. (Example: $5+5=10$, what else equals 10? Child: $7+3$, $8+2$, etc.)
- As you are traveling down the road, have your child practice subtraction facts. You can also do this by making up word problems. (Example: We have 5 miles to get to the store and we have driven 3 miles, how many miles do we have left to go?)

Understand Place Value

- Give your child different two digit numbers. Have them identify the ones place in each number. (Example: 52 (the 2 is in the ones place))
- Give your child different two digit numbers. Have them identify the tens place in each number, and tell you the VALUE of the number. (Example: 67 – the 6 is in the tens place and the VALUE is 60.)

1

2nd Grade

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READING

Increase Writing Skills

- Create a writing toolbox. Fill a box with drawing and writing materials. Find opportunities for your child to write, such as the shopping list, thank you notes, or birthday cards.

Increase Language Structure

- Create a book together. Fold pieces of paper in half and staple them to make a book. Ask your child to write sentences on each page and add his or her own illustrations.
- Tell family tales. Children love to hear stories about their family. Talk about a funny thing that happened when you were young.
- Do storytelling on the go. Take turns adding to a story the two of you make up while riding in a car or bus. Try making the story funny or spooky.

MATH

Represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction

- As you are traveling down the road, have your child practice subtraction facts. You can also do this by making up word problems. (Example: We have 5 miles to get to the store and we have driven 3 miles, how many miles do we have left to go?)
- As you are traveling down the road, have your child practice making up addition problems and solving them. (Example: I ate 3 pancakes for breakfast Monday and 2 pancakes for breakfast today, so together, I ate 5 pancakes in two days.)

Measure and estimate lengths in standard units.

- Show your child how to measure something with a known object. For example a fork. Then have them estimate how many "forks" long your kitchen table is.
- Have your child use their hand and estimate how many "hands" long objects are within your home.

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3rd Grade

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READING

Increase Reading Comprehension

- If you know your child has difficulties with reading comprehension, choose chapter books with shorter chapters (teachers may have good suggestions). These books can be a good introduction to longer stories without overwhelming a child.
- For books your child owns (not borrowed books from the library or school), teach children how to highlight key phrases or character reactions. Kids also could make notes in the margins about how they think a character might feel or even make predictions about what may happen in the next chapter. Encouraging kids to make notes or highlight may help them think about the book as they read.

MATH

Represent and solve problems using multiplication and division

- Have your child answer the following: "If you made \$2.00 every hour of work, how much money would you make for working 4 hours?"
- Have your child make up a problem for you like the one above to share with you. They must know the answer so that they can "check your work".

Multiply and divide within 100

- Have your child practice multiplication facts as you travel down the road. Make it a game and do one fact each time you see a McDonald's Restaurant, etc.
- Take post-it notes and put the answers to division facts around your home. Give your child a problem and have them go find the answer and bring it back to you. (Example: 100 divided by 10 – student would find the post-it with the number 10 and bring it to you) and you would give another fact.

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4th Grade

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READING

Increase Reading Fluency

- Instruct your child to read aloud for one minute. Use a stopwatch to time them and take notes on the words they mispronounce. Once the minute is over, go back and teach them the correct way to pronounce these words. Then, repeat this activity so your child can reread the same passage using the correct pronunciations.
- Let your child reread their favorite books. This may seem counterproductive, but rereading the same material can actually help your child become a stronger, more fluent reader.

Increase Reading Comprehension

- Connect the story to something that happened in your child's life. For instance, if a character is bullied, remind your child how they might feel if they were picked on at school. Helping your child make this connection will make it easier for them to analyze and extract meaning.
- Ask questions. Get your child thinking about the text on a deeper level by asking "why" questions. Examples of "why" questions include "Why did the character act this way?" or "Why did this event occur?"

MATH

Use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems.

- Take post-it notes and put the answers to multiplication and division facts around your home. Give your child a problem and have them go find the answer and bring it back to you. (Example: 100 divided by 10 – student would find the post-it with the number 10 and bring it to you) and you would give another fact.
- Give your child 4 problems (one of each type of problem: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). Have them solve the problems and explain to you how they solved each problem.

Place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers

- Give your child different two digit numbers. Have them identify the tens place in each number, and tell you the VALUE of the number. (Example: 67 – the 6 is in the tens place and the VALUE is 60.)
- Have your child write down the number 8,495. Have them identify the place value of each digit, and the value that it represents. (Example: The 4 is in the hundreds place and it represents 400.)

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5th Grade

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READING

Increase Vocabulary and Language Skills

- Play 20 questions—One player thinks of an object, letting the others know only whether it is animal, vegetable or mineral. Then the other players ask questions that can be answered only with yes or no. For instance, if the object is a car (mostly mineral), the players will ask, "Is it bigger than a laptop computer?" or "Can it move? The object: Guess the answer in fewer than 20 questions.

Increase Communication Skills and Non-Verbal Ques

- Play Charades—Players divide into two teams and each member writes a phrase on a slip of paper, folds it up and places it in their team's bowl. A player picks a paper from the opposing team's bowl and acts out individual words, syllables and other hints to depict the phrase.

MATH

Understand the place value system.

- Give your child different two digit numbers. Have them identify the tens place in each number, and tell you the VALUE of the number. (Example: 67 – the 6 is in the tens place and the VALUE is 60.)
- Have your child write down the number 8,495. Have them identify the place value of each digit, and the value that it represents. (Example: The 4 is in the hundreds place and it represents 400.)

Perform operations with multi-digit whole numbers and decimals to hundredths.

- Have your child practice multiplying 2 digit by 2 digit multiplication problems.
- Have your child add the following numbers: $1.87 + .35$ (Have them explain the steps to you, where they put their decimals and why.)