



Who Knew?, New News!



January 2015
Volume 2, Issue 5

January Newsletter

Ready, Set, Read! Improving Comprehension from *Parents in the Know*

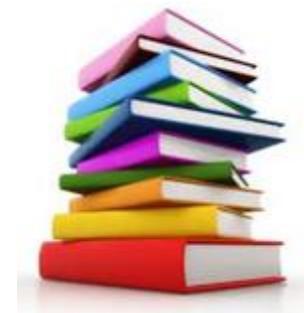
Comprehension is understanding what was read. If a child can read words but does not understand what is being read, it is really just word calling. The reading has no meaning to the child. So, it is important that you check your child's comprehension as he reads.

One thing you can do is teach your child to question himself while reading. For example:

- Who are the main characters?
- What is the problem?
- What is going on?

Also, encourage your child to predict what he thinks is going to happen next. When you are reading with your child you can model making predictions with your child and checking if you are correct. Good readers are always predicting and revising their predictions based on what is read.

Good readers are able to summarize and retell what was read. So, ask your child to tell you about what he reads each day.



Helping with Spelling

You don't need to be a great speller to help your child become one. There are many fun things you can do at home to help your child.

- Play word games such as Scrabble and Boggle
- Encourage your child to read daily
- Help your child "sound words out"
- Review what your child is learning in phonics at home
- Practice your child's spelling words
- Give your child a special notebook to write stories in and give your child a "special" pen to edit her work whenever she wants. This will provide you an opportunity to discuss words that she gets wrong.

Citizenship Assembly

The citizenship assembly will be Friday, January 29th at 12:45p.m. The students will continue to work on respect for the month of January. Third grade will be presenting at the assembly this month.

Doing Mathematics with Your Child

ERIC Digest

by Martin D. Hartog and Patricia A. Brosnan

Taken from *math.com*

Parents have the wonderful opportunity and responsibility for nurturing children. This nurturing process takes place in several areas of development: physical, emotional, and intellectual. While parents can usually find time to read a story to their children, thereby instilling a love for literature, they are often at a loss as to how to instill a love and appreciation for mathematics.

Like reading, mathematics is a subject that is indeed necessary for functioning adequately in society. More than that, mathematics is a subject that should be more enjoyable than it sometimes is. The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) has identified the appreciation and enjoyment of mathematics as one of the national goals for mathematics education. This goal, coupled with the task of nurturing children's confidence in their ability to apply their mathematical knowledge to solve real-life problems, is a challenge facing every parent today.

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Activities in the Home

There are methods by which parents can easily become involved in their children's mathematics education. Several resources provide parents with games and activities that engage children in mathematical thinking and problem solving and, at the same time, build their self-confidence and appreciation for mathematics. An example of this type of resource is the book *Helping Your Child Learn Math*. Published by the U.S. Department of Education, the book contains 26 activities for children aged 5 to 13. The activities illustrate the mathematics that children can experience at home, at the grocery store, and while traveling. Some meaningful activities on a long car trip can alleviate the boredom that so often results in children fighting with each other or asking repeatedly, "Are we there yet?"

Parents' attitudes toward mathematics have an impact on children's attitudes. Children whose parents show an interest in and enthusiasm for mathematics around the home will be more likely to develop that enthusiasm themselves. *You Can Help Your Young Child Learn Mathematics* helps parents communicate the importance of mathematics to their children and become more involved in their children's mathematical education. This book discusses ways that parents can help their children develop good study habits, and it presents activities through which families can make mathematics a part of their daily lives as they travel, cook, garden, and play games.

Reading to children is a treasured activity in many homes. What better way to integrate mathematics into the lives of children than to read them stories that bring mathematical ideas to life? Children's books related to mathematics can be separated into four categories: counting books, number books, storybooks, and concept books. A bibliography of 159 children's books that make a significant connection with mathematics, compiled by Stavroula K. Gailey and published in the January 1993 issue of the *Arithmetic Teacher*, provides many excellent suggestions for mathematical children's literature to read at home.

Working with Your Child's Classroom Teacher

Besides the mathematics learning that takes place at the parent's initiative, there are many opportunities for parents and teachers to work cooperatively in enriching children's experience with mathematics. These situations are likely to be the most profitable for two reasons. First, children generally want to please both their parents and their teachers. If they see that mathematics is important to both their parents and their teacher, they will consider it important for themselves too. Second, extending mathematical concepts from the classroom to home will establish the idea that mathematics is not just a school subject, but an everyday subject that makes life more interesting and understandable.

Parents who want to become more involved in their child's mathematical education, but who are hesitant to take the initiative on their own, may want to look to the teacher for guidance. Teachers can provide assistance in:

1. setting up a system of home study;
2. helping parents understand the sequencing of mathematical skill development;
3. suggesting materials and activities that are entertaining and suitable for their child's level and which can be done in a reasonable amount of time;
4. providing clear guidelines on how to use materials;
5. giving feedback on the successes and failures of home activities; and
6. knowing when to stop working with a child on an activity so that a good working relationship is maintained.

In working with teachers, parents should not forget the opportunities that homework assignments offer. Studies have shown that parents' participation in students' homework can increase achievement. Moreover, the effect of that involvement will be maximized if parents and teachers work together toward common goals. It is important for parents to understand the system the teacher is using to assign and evaluate homework, as well as the methods being used to teach mathematical concepts. Helping children with homework can be counterproductive if parents are working at cross purposes with the classroom teacher.

Citizenship Assembly Character Traits

February—Caring, Kindergarten

March—Honesty, 4th Grade

April—All Traits, 6th Grade

Labels Information

Every time a class turns in a thousand labels they earn a free recess. At the end of the year, the class that has turned in the most labels will receive a prize. Here are the results as of December 16:

Kindergarten—980

1st Grade—1,241

2nd Grade—711

3rd Grade—686

4th Grade—1749

5th Grade—436

6th Grade—252

Upcoming Events

January 4th—School resumes

January 6th—Report Cards sent home

January 18th—No School, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 29th—Citizenship Assembly

Reminders to Parents

- All lunch money is due at the beginning of the week.
- If lunches exceed the \$10 limit, an alternate lunch will be served.

Cold Weather

Please send coats, hats, gloves, and scarves with your child every day to school. Your child will be playing outside unless the wind chill factor is 24 degrees or below.

