

Learning Guide for Families

A summary of what children should know
and be able to do and ways for families
to increase learning at home.



About these learning guides:

This learning guide represents some of the most essential things your child should know and be able to do by the END of the school year in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. Learning goals help families and teachers know when students may need extra support and when they need to be challenged even more.

What can families do?

There is a lot you can do to support your child's learning and help prepare them for their future. Here are a few things that will help students learn:

1. Let your child know that education is important to you. Tell them education matters, that it's the foundation for success.
2. Make school a priority, get your child to school on time every day.
3. Work cooperatively with the school and demonstrate respect for teachers and staff.
4. Encourage independence, allow your children to make mistakes and accept responsibility for their choices.
5. Talk to your child about what is happening in school.
6. Talk to your child's teacher to make sure your child is making progress throughout the year.
7. Attend parent-teacher conferences and other school events whenever possible.
8. You have a right to know how your child is doing, don't hesitate to contact their teacher if you have questions.

Talking with your Child's Teacher

It's important to talk with your child's teacher and school regularly about your student's progress toward learning goals. Here are some questions or topics you may want to discuss:

- Review this learning guide and ask where your student is strong and where they need improvement.
- In addition to the learning goals in this guide, are there other goals your child is expected to master?
- Ask to see examples of your student's work and how they meet or do not meet learning goals.
- Ask how your child's progress is measured throughout the year.
- Ask if your child is on track to meet grade-level learning goals. If not, what supports will the school offer? What can you do at home?
- Ask if your child is at or above learning expectations. If so, what else does the school offer? What can I do at home?

Talking with your Child

“How was school today?”

“Fine.”

“What did you do?”

“Nothing”

Does this sound familiar? That’s okay, keep asking! Students whose parents talk with them about school do better in school. Here are some ways you can engage with your child and support their success:

- Make time to talk with your child about school every day.
- Ask your child to tell you one thing they learned today. What does your child think is most interesting? What seems hard?
- Review papers and projects your child brings home from school. Ask your child to tell you what learning it demonstrates.
- Praise your child for hard work and effort, not just “right answers”.
- Ask questions about what your child is thinking: How do you know that? What do you think? What do you notice? Why did you do it that way? Is there another way to find that answer?

Supporting Learning Away from School

Learning doesn’t have to stop when students leave school. Students spend more time out of school than in school. Here are some ways you can support learning outside of school:

- Read to your child, read with your child, and encourage family reading time—in the language you are most comfortable.
- Set up a quiet and comfortable place for your student to do homework or other learning activities.
- Try to establish a regular schedule for doing homework or other learning activities.
- Use this guide to focus on a few learning goals, try some of the suggestions for learning at home.



What your student should know and be able to do in English Language Arts (ELA)

Language

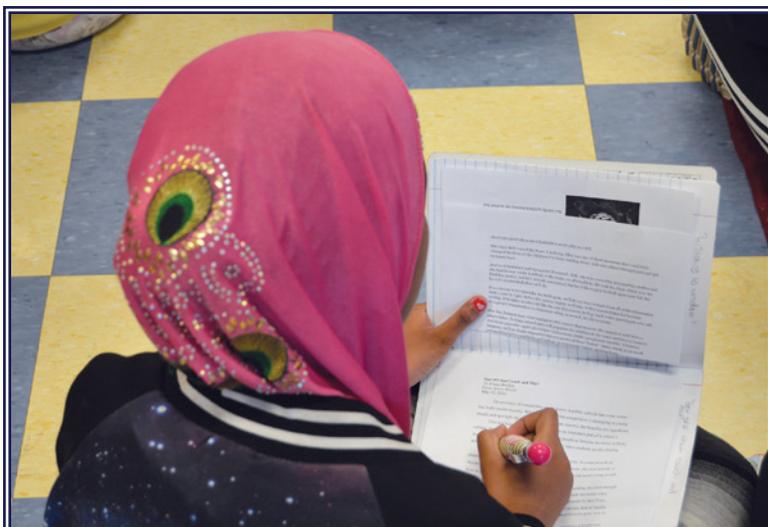
- Present an organized interpretation, such as a critique or review, of a book, movie or play.
- Give a speech presentation, showing changes in delivery (such as gestures, vocabulary and visuals) to best reach different audiences. *For example – change a science project presentation originally designed for parents to present to a 3rd grade class.*

Reading and Literature

- Interpret the mood and tone of a book. Use evidence from the book to support the interpretation.
- Identify the evidence used to support an opinion in a book, article, or other text.
- Identify and talk about the distinct features and purposes of different types of literature such as poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and short dramatic literature.

Writing

- Write brief research reports using clear focus and supporting details.
- Edit his/her own writing to make it more detailed and exact such as combining sentences or rearranging words to make it more clear or interesting.



What your student should know and be able to do in Math

- Study, understand, and be able to compare fractions, decimals, and percents using tools such as fraction strips, number lines, and grids.
- Develop ways to add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions, decimals, and percents.
- Use words, a data table, and a graph to represent changing data or relationships. Compare the three ways with one another.
- Use symbols to summarize the relationship between two variables. *For example: $x=2y$ is a quicker way to say that x is two times as much as y .*
- Discover and analyze the properties of polygons (two-dimensional shapes with three or more sides).
- Explore how the angle measures and the lengths of the edges in a polygon determine its shape and uses.
- Measure the area and perimeter of different geometric shapes.
- Collect, organize, display, analyze, and interpret data.
- Create line plots, bar graphs, coordinate graphs, and stem-and-leaf plots. Interpret patterns seen in these displays.
- Learn about probability using coins, number cubes (dice), and number spinners.





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