

How to Help Your 7th Grade Child Succeed in English Language Arts

In grade seven, students will continue to develop the ability to cite relevant evidence when interpreting or analyzing a text or supporting their points in speaking and writing. Your child will also build academic vocabulary as he or she reads more complex texts, including stories, plays, historical novels, poems, and informational books and articles.

Activities You Can Do at Home:

In the News

Watch the news with your seventh grader. Find an issue that sparks his interest. Then help him find an article that provides information about both sides of the issue in a local newspaper or on the Internet. After reading the article(s), ask your child to argue which side he thinks is right. Take the other side and debate each other.

Our Communities

The next time you are walking in your neighborhood with your child, ask him these questions: What is the best thing about our neighborhood? Why? What is something that can be improved in our neighborhood? Why?

Plan a Movie Night

Ask your child to plan a movie for night for your whole family (based on a book you've read together, if possible). Ask your child to research timing, locations, and cost. Research where the movie is playing or where to rent, how much it will cost for everyone to see the movie, and pick a time to watch together as family.

Tips for Supporting Your Child:

- ◆ Help your child to keep a journal. Encourage your child to write about things that happen at home and school, or things the child wants to remember.
- ◆ Start a family reading club. You can pick up free materials everywhere - pamphlets, brochures, and fliers to discuss together.

Additional Resources:

<http://www.engageny.org/parent-guides-to-the-common-core-standards>

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/game>



How to Help Your 7th Grade Child Succeed in Math

In grade seven, students will further develop their understanding of rates and ratios, using tables, graphs, and equations to solve real-world problems involving proportional relationships. Students will also work on quickly and accurately solving multi-step problems involving positive and negative rational numbers.

Activities You Can Do at Home:

Weathervane

Help your child keep track of the weather to determine if it's getting colder or warmer. Have your child graph the daily temperature and calculate percent increase or decrease in temperature each day and month. For example, if it was 25° yesterday and 20° today, that's a 20 percent decrease.

Percent decrease = (Older-Newer)/Older

Steps:

1. $25 - 20 = 5$

2. $5 / 25 = 0.20$

3. $0.20 = 20\%$ decrease

On Sale

Take out a recent receipt for a clothing sale purchase. Give your child the original price and the sale price and ask him to calculate the percent discount.

How Old Are You?

Have your child determine her age in minutes, days and months. Tell her the exact minute she was born and ask her to calculate her total age in minutes, then in days, and finally in months. Ask her to then do the same for everyone else in your family.

Tips for Supporting Your Child:

- ◆ Ask your child to calculate the unit cost of items purchased from the store. For example, if 3 pounds of flour cost \$4.50, how much does flour cost per pound? (\$1.50 per pound)
- ◆ Ask your child to help you calculate the tip after a meal. How much would 15% be? What about 18%? 20%?

Additional Resources:

<http://www.commoncoreworks.org/site>

<http://powermylearning.org>

