

# How to Help Your 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Child Succeed in English Language Arts

*In grade six, students will read a range of challenging books, articles, and texts, and will be expected to demonstrate their understanding of the material by answering questions and contributing to class discussions. In writing, students will continue to work on their use of language, sentence structure, and organization of ideas.*

## Activities You Can Do at Home:

### Communities Then & Now

Encourage your child to learn from an elder in your community, or research at the library or on the Internet what life in your community was like 100 years ago. Have your child write a story, poem, or play about that time. What would be most difficult for your child about living in 1914?

### Path to Success

Who is your child's favorite famous person? Ask him to use facts to explain why this is his favorite famous person. Then ask him to search for articles on the Internet or at the library to explore how this person became famous. How did this person get to where he or she is today? What led to their success?

### Improving Your Community

Ask your 6<sup>th</sup> grader what kind of business your neighborhood needs. Perhaps you need a drugstore that is closer to home or a deli where you can buy a quick lunch. For this example, let's say your child wants a local farmer's market. Ask her to explain why your neighborhood needs one. How will it benefit the community? Ask neighbors and friends if they agree or not, and why?

## 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/>



# How to Help Your 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Child Succeed in Math

*In grade six, your child will learn the concept of rates and ratios and use these tools to solve word problems. Students will work on quickly and accurately dividing multi-digit whole numbers and adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing multi-digit decimals.*

## Activities You Can Do at Home:

### On Time

Determine the average speed of your commute to school. Plan out how far you travel, and time yourselves from the time you leave until you reach school for a few days. For example, maybe you travel 1 mile and it takes 20 minutes one day, 22 minutes the next, and 24 the last day. Given your observations, what's the average speed? In the example, it takes you an average of 22 minutes  $((20 + 22 + 23)/3 = 22 \text{ minutes})$ . Your average speed is 22 minutes per mile.

### Best Value

At the supermarket, find an item you regularly purchase, such as eggs. Ask your child to look at different brands and sizes (6 pack, 12 pack or 18 pack cartons). Then ask him to determine which brand and size has the best value. If you look at several different brands and sizes of eggs, how much does each egg cost per carton? Which brand and size carton has the lowest cost per egg?

### Cooking Enough

Have your child determine the amount of ingredients needed when cooking. For example, if a recipe calls for 8 cups of rice to serve 4 people, how many cups of rice do you need to serve 6 people? How many would you need to serve 8?

1.  $8:4 = x:6$

2.  $4x=48$

3.  $48/4= x$

4.  $x= 12 \text{ cups of rice to serve 6 people}$

## Tips for Supporting Your Child:

- ◆ When you're waiting to check out at the grocery store, ask your child to estimate how much the entire cart will cost. Make a game of estimating cost every time you check out, and keep track of times when your child is close. What helped them estimate well?
- ◆ 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)

## Additional Resources:

<http://www.commoncoreworks.org/site/default.aspx?PageID=239>

<http://powermylearning.org>

