

How to Help Your 4th Grade Child Succeed in English Language Arts

In grade four, students will continue to build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will read more challenging literature, articles, and other sources of information and continue to grow their vocabulary. They will also be expected to clearly explain in detail what they have read by referring to details or information from the text.

Activities You Can Do at Home:

New to NYC!

Ask your child to pretend he has never been to New York City and is arriving for the first time. Ask him to decide which New York City landmark (for example, the Brooklyn Bridge) would be most important or interesting for a newcomer to visit. At the library, help him find a book, article, or website about this landmark. After reading the book or article, return to your original question: Why would a newcomer want to visit this place?

Watch & Think Ahead

Help your child draw conclusions and make predictions. The next time you are out and about, find people you and your child can observe together. For example, maybe you can find people looking for directions in the subway station. Ask your child questions that allow her draw conclusions about what is happening and make predictions about what will happen. Why do you think these people are here? What do you think will happen next? Have these people been waiting for the train for a long time? How can you tell?

Newsflash

Talk about the news together. Pick one story in the news, read it together, and discuss with your child what it means. Then have your child pretend to be the broadcaster and deliver the story to an audience. Make it exciting by videotaping with your phone (if possible).

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 to practice reading for understanding. 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://merriam-webster.com/game>



How to Help Your 4th Grade Child Succeed in Math

In grade four, your child will use addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to solve word problems, including problems involving measurement of volume, mass, and time. Students will continue to build their understanding of fractions—creating equal fractions, comparing the size of fractions, adding and subtracting fractions, and multiplying fractions by whole numbers.

Activities You Can Do at Home:

Times as Much

Help your child get more familiar with math phrases, such as "times as much." Ask your child to compare two numbers using phrases like "times as much." For example, if a slice of pizza costs \$2 and a whole pizza costs \$20, how many times as much does the pizza cost? (The \$20 pizza costs 10 times as much as the \$2 slice of pizza.)

Paper Fractions

Ask your child to create and describe equal fractions. For example, have students take a sheet of paper, fold the paper in half, and then unfold and shade $\frac{1}{2}$. Then have students take the same sheet of paper and fold the paper in a half again. Unfold the paper and have students discuss the number of parts that are now shaded. Encourage your child to talk about ways to show that $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{4}$. (Students may continue this process creating other equal fractions.)

Food & Fractions

Dinner is a great time to talk about fractions. Pick a dinner dish that you could split into equal portions, such as a pot of mashed potatoes or a plate of broccoli. Ask your child to help you divide each dish so that everyone gets an equal share.

For example:

We have one whole pot of mashed potatoes, and four family members. What fraction of the whole pot does each family member get? (Answer: $\frac{1}{4}$)

Tips for Supporting Your Child:

- ◆ Ask your child to tell you what fractions of a dollar different amounts of change represent. For example, a dime is $\frac{1}{10}$ of a dollar. Help him learn to do these conversions automatically.
- ◆ Use everyday objects to allow your child to explore the concept of fractions. Ask your child to cook with you and follow a recipe together. For example, use measuring cups so your child can see how many times you have to refill a $\frac{1}{4}$ cup to equal a $\frac{1}{2}$ cup.

Additional Resources:

<http://commoncoreworks.org/site>

<http://powermylearning.org>

