

How to Help Your 5th Grade Child Succeed in English Language Arts

In grade five, 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. Students will be expected to understand and clearly summarize what they have learned from readings, referring to specific evidence and details from the text.

Activities You Can Do at Home:

Step by Step

What would your child like to learn how to do? Perhaps she wants to learn how to play an instrument or bake cookies. Help her find a how-to article or book about this skill. You can look together online or at the library.

1. Ask her to read about this activity.
2. Based on the information from the article or book, have her make a list of 10 or fewer steps that will help develop the skill.
3. Follow the steps together.
4. Reflect together. What would you change the next time around?

Making Connections

Visit a museum or public park with your child. (You can find days when museums offer free admission at <http://www.nycgo.com/articles/free-nyc-museums>.) Ask your child to read the informational texts beside the exhibits or statues. Ask her questions to help her understand what she read. What did you learn about the exhibit or statue? How does it relate to what she is seeing? Where is it from? What would you like to learn more about?

Family History

Discuss your family stories and history. Encourage your child to ask relatives questions about their lives. Put the information together in an album or brainstorm different ways to tell family tales, such as poems or short stories.

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 5th Grade Child Succeed in Math

In grade five, students will build their understanding of the place value system by working with decimals up to the hundredths place. Students will also add, subtract, and multiply fractions, including fractions with unlike denominators. They will continue to expand their geometry and measurement skills, learning the concept of volume and measuring the volume of a solid figure.

Activities You Can Do at Home:

Plan Your Weekend

Imagine that your child has three hours this weekend with no plans. Help her plan her time by using fractions:

- Ask her to come up with two or three activities.
- Ask her to choose the proportion of time she wants to spend doing each activity. (See example below.)
- Ask her to figure out how many minutes she has for each activity, based on the fractions she created.

Once the table is complete, ask your child to review her plan. Does she want to spend that many minutes on each activity, or does she want to revise her initial ratio? Continue revising the chart until you both agree on the total minutes she will spend on each activity.

Activity	Fraction of Time	Minutes per activity
Reading	1/3	60 Minutes
Play Softball	2/3	120 minutes

Prepare a Feast

It's time to cook dinner. Your fifth grader can help! Ask him to create the recipe for something he enjoys eating. Using a pencil and paper, ask him to double the recipe or cut it in half.

Rice and Red Beans → Doubled

1 cup rice → 2 cup rice	1 ½ lb. sausage → 3 lb. sausage
16-oz of red kidney beans → 32-oz of red kidney beans	14 ½-oz of stewed tomatoes → 29-oz of stewed tomatoes
¼ tsp red pepper → ½ tsp red pepper	1/3 tsp paprika → 2/3 tsp paprika
1/8 tsp salt → ¼ tsp salt	

Pizza Party

Ask your child to help you plan a pizza party with a few friends. Ask her to figure out how many friends or family members to invite. Use fractions to help determine the right number of pizzas and toppings to order. For example, say you want to invite eight people, two want mushroom on their pizza, four want pepperoni and two want plain. Everybody wants 1 slice of pizza and each pizza has 8 slices. You need to order 2/8 mushroom + 4/8 pepperoni + 2/8 plain, which simplifies to 1/4 mushroom, 1/2 pepperoni, and 1/4 plain.

Tips for Supporting Your Child:

- ◆ Ask your child to tell convert parts of a dollar into decimals. For example, a dime is 1/10 of a dollar, which is also .10 of a dollar. A quarter is 1/4 of a dollar, which is .25 of a dollar.
- ◆ Use everyday objects to allow your child to explore the concept of fractions. For example, have your child divide a candy bar (or a healthy snack) between three people.

Additional Resources:

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

<http://powermylearning.org>

