

# Activities that Support 5th & 6th Grade Learning

## How Parents Can Help...

### Reading

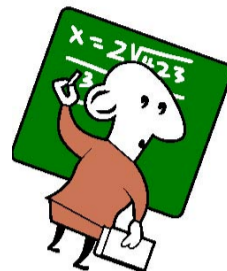
- ❖ Encourage your child to read for 20 minutes daily.
- ❖ Allow him/her to select appropriate reading materials for independent reading. Discuss the literature's plot, author's point of view and characters to promote understanding. Enjoy reading with your child.
- ❖ Share reading experiences which involve cooking, board games, and other activities, which require reading instructions.
- ❖ Visit the library regularly, and if possible, participate in summer reading programs.

### Writing

- ❖ Encourage journal/diary writing, letter writing, and pen pals.
- ❖ Provide a writing center with materials: pens, pencils, paper, rulers, crayons, markers, erasers, dictionary and thesaurus.
- ❖ Assist your child in mastering the grade level spelling list.

### Listening & Speaking

- ❖ Encourage family interaction and teach good listening skills.
- ❖ Model appropriate language and vocabulary.
- ❖ Encourage your child to share his/her school day.
- ❖ Give your child a chance to express him/herself daily in the family setting, such as during meal times.



### Mathematics

- ❖ Assist in learning basic math facts including addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
- ❖ Practice with money and making change. Give your child more responsibility for money (for example: an allowance for personal needs).
- ❖ Look at practical applications of percentages and decimals (for example: 20% off sale and how to calculate the sale price).
- ❖ Measurement using standard measurement, rulers and yardsticks.
- ❖ Participate in cooking and baking that involves measuring cups and teaspoons.
- ❖ Find the areas and perimeter of space to be carpeted or fenced. Allow your child to build airplane models, woodworking or sewing.
- ❖ Practice mental computation with your child.

### Science/History

- ❖ Identify producers (plants) and consumers (animals).
- ❖ Discuss how humans affect the environment.
- ❖ Go to the desert and mountains to observe how organisms have adapted to fit their environment.
- ❖ Discuss the importance of water on Earth.
- ❖ Watch the news for science and technology updates. Enjoy Bill Nye the Science Guy.
- ❖ View the stars and constellations.
- ❖ Read children's science magazines and books.
- ❖ Visit zoos and/or museums.
- ❖ Consider a science kit as a gift. Conduct simple science experiments with your child.

### History/Social Science

- ❖ Look at maps to identify the states and capitals.
- ❖ Let your child assist in planning the family vacation using a map.
- ❖ Discuss the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.
- ❖ Celebrate "This Day in U.S. History."
- ❖ Discuss the rights and responsibilities of being a U.S. Citizen (i.e. voting, Bill of Rights, etc.)
- ❖ Discuss respect of others and their beliefs.
- ❖ Take your child with you to vote on Election Day.
- ❖ Participate in local government or attend a city council/school board meeting.
- ❖ Encourage community service projects.
- ❖ Share stories about your family and ancestors.
- ❖ Provide your child with library books, maps, an atlas and globe.



### Study Skills

- ❖ Encourage your child to have a positive attitude about learning.
- ❖ Show that you value the educational process by sending your child to school on time, prepared and ready to learn daily. Should you have questions about the educational process, discuss your concerns with the teacher/principal. Good communication between home and school will reinforce your child's learning.
- ❖ Provide a quiet study area well equipped with writing tools and resource materials, such as a dictionary and thesaurus. Set rules of conduct during study time, minimizing interruptions.
- ❖ Teach organizational skills by sharing with your child how to plan and schedule study time, organize and complete assignments in a systematic, orderly way, and subdivide long term assignments into manageable parts. At a set time, check for completed assignments.

### Parent/Child Interaction

- ❖ Spend quality time with your child one on one, letting him/her choose the activity and the subject of the conversation.
- ❖ Enjoy listening and talking with your child.
- ❖ Vacations, recreational activities, and family work projects provide a good opportunity to teach the importance of developing good work ethics.
- ❖ Let your child know what is expected of him/her and give encouragement in achievement, compliment quickly and criticize slowly.
- ❖ Provide opportunities to learn how to be independent and responsible.
- ❖ Children should be given the opportunity to make decisions and choices for themselves. Part of teaching responsibility to children includes teaching them to accept the results of their choices.
- ❖ When a child chooses to break a rule, help him/her accept the responsibility of a negative consequence. Be consistent and follow through.
- ❖ **Make learning a priority in your home!**