



December 19, 2018

Dear Parents,

The holiday season is typically a whirlwind of excitement for children. The lights, the holiday food, and the hope for new toys (or books!!) make this time of year full of joy and anticipation. It's also the PERFECT time of year to sneak in some reading, writing, and math practice. Even with holiday excitement and a break from the classroom, you can still **extend learning beyond the classroom** for your child. Here are a handful of ways your child can practice critical skills during the winter holiday break. You may consider selecting only 1-2 from each section to do with your child during the break.

Tips for Helping Beginning Readers (Pre-K to 1st grade)

- Have your child practice pronouncing the **Regular Sight Words** in email.
- Load your home with books and reading materials that reflect the winter holiday.
- Point to the words as you read aloud to your child.
- Read short passages several times to your child until they can read it with you. Then, encourage them to read the passage to you.
- Encourage older children to read with younger children.
- Encourage your child to read (or pretend read) to you. Applaud your child's efforts to read and don't worry if your child does not read all of the words correctly.
- Point out print in the child's environment: on cereal boxes, food labels, toys, restaurants, and traffic signs.
- Let your child see you reading books, magazines, and newspapers.
- When watching television, have the caption feature turned-on so that your child can view the words while hearing them performed aloud.



Tips for Readers (Grades 1st to 5th)

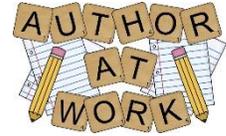
- Ensure your child has books to read over the holiday; he/she can check out books from his/her school or at the public library. Your child should choose books based on his/her interest.
- Talk to your child about what he or she is reading. Ask open-ended questions such as "What do you think about that story?" "What would you have done if you were that character?"
- Make reading and writing a regular part of your daily home activities.
- Let your child see you using reading and writing for real purposes.
- Encourage your child to select books that reflect his/her interest or the season.
- Read to (or with) your child regularly, even after your child is able to read some books independently.
- Listen to your child read and praise their efforts at reading.
- Use strategies to help your child with tricky words. For example, when your child comes to an unfamiliar word, you might say, "Skip it and read to the end of the sentence. Now try again – what makes sense and looks like the word that you see?" Also, have your child use a dictionary to look up unfamiliar words. There are plenty of free dictionary Apps for smart phones.





Daily Writing Activities

- Have your child write the dinner menu daily.
- Have your child write a daily dinner critique as an activity that will strengthen their writing skills.
- Have your son or daughter prepare the grocery list prior to going to the store. You can either have them go around the kitchen and write what they think you need or you can dictate the grocery list to them. This will strengthen their short term memory as well as urge them to write quickly.
- Letter writing is always a good idea. You can have your child write a letter to his or her grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins. Have them write about what they are learning in school or what they plan to do on their next vacation from school.



Tips for Building Early Learning Mathematics Skills

Develop counting and quantity discrimination

- Count fingers, toes, toys, and more
- Recognize numbers on objects like clocks or remote controls
- Decide how many slices of apple she wants.
- Sing number songs
- Read books about numbers

Develop spatial sense and measurement skills

- Help set the table
- Fill a water bottle
- Divide food into equal shares
- Compare things of different sizes – ‘big’, ‘small’ and ‘medium’
- Help with the shopping and use money to buy things.
- Talk about and look at the time (digital and analog)

Develop and use problem solving skills

- Help the child explain why one object is preferred more than another
- Help the child explain why something happens or should happen
- Help the child to write and explain a solution to a real life problem or the process for completing an everyday situation (it doesn't have to be a math problem. For example, the route to the store)

General fun with Math

- Play Sudoku
- Complete a logic puzzle
- Play ***First in Math*** or ***Prodigy***
- Cook together and discuss measurements
- Encourage lots of questions and assist with finding the answers to them.

Don't forget to visit the website below for other helpful resources that all students can explore to continue learning during the winter break.

https://www.clayton.k12.ga.us/news/school_closing_events_and_info/inclement_weather_instructional_assignments

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