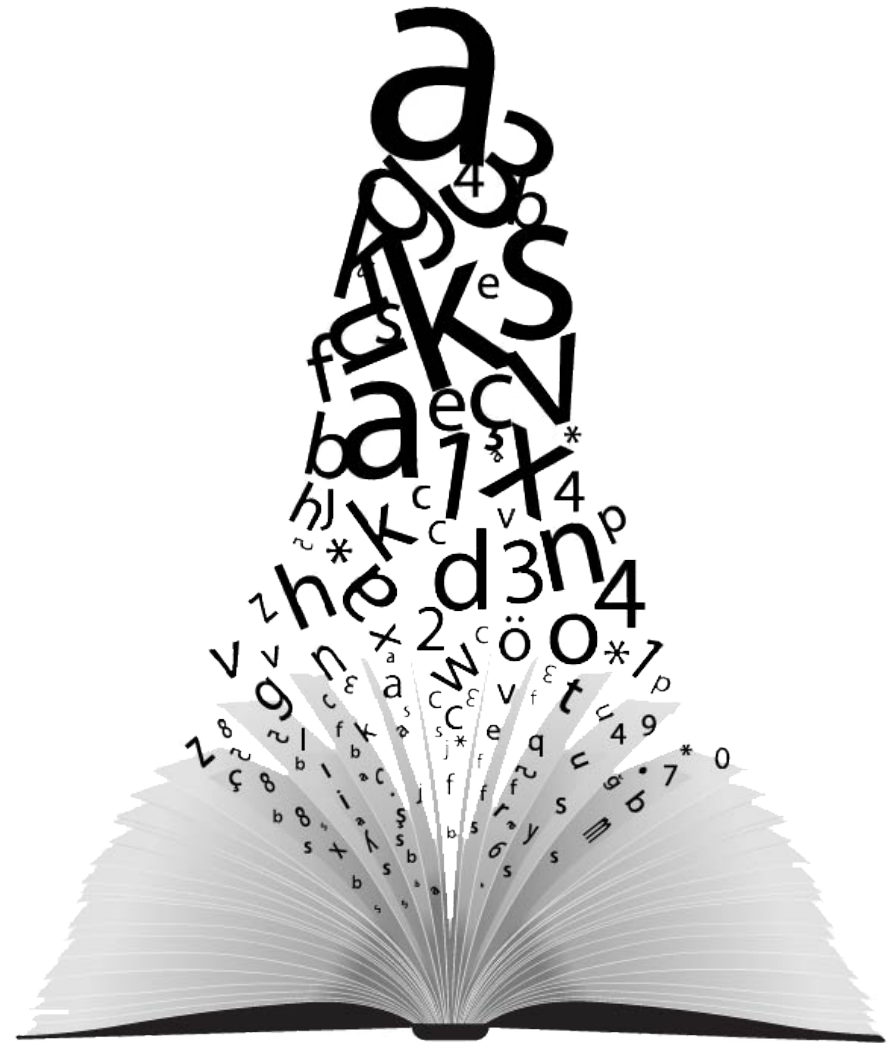


Math Tips

Tips for Parents

1. **Practice counting:** Practice counting by ones. Then proceed to practice “skip counting” (counting by twos, threes, fives, tens, etc.).
2. **Make it real:** Use real world items to represent amounts (coins, pasta, buttons, etc.)
3. **Practice reading, writing, and ordering numbers:** Find numbers in print (magazines, books, online, etc.). Read them aloud, compare them, and write them in order from least to greatest or greatest to least.
4. **Money:** For a younger child, practice identifying and counting money. As he/she grows older, let him/her pay for items or count out change. Play games that require the use of “play money”, and allow older children to play the role of banker.
5. **Practice basic math facts:** Practice basic math facts with flash cards and games. Knowing the basic facts allows children to focus more on problem solving than computation.
6. **Sort and classify objects:** Look for patterns in a variety of places (nature, art, fabrics, etc.). Understanding and identifying patterns helps with problem solving.
7. **Cook or bake together:** Help your child follow recipes. Cooking and baking require the measurement of ingredients, monitoring of temperature and time, and so on.
8. **Play Games:** Games are full of problem solving! They require the use of logic, strategy, probability, and chance.
9. **Identify geometric shapes:** Help your child find shapes in your environment. Try to recreate the shapes using paper or other household items.
10. **Technology and math:** Use technology for academic purposes. There are many apps available that focus on math.



“The only way to learn mathematics is to do mathematics.”

-Paul Halmos

St. Cloud Area
School District



Sponsored by Title I

Reading Tips

1. **Read, read, read:** Read aloud to your children early and often. Start reading to your children when they are infants, continue as they get older. You will not only build their vocabulary, you will also build a love of reading.
2. **Make reading a priority:** Spend some time reading every day. By reading yourself, you are showing your child you value reading. Include a bedtime story as part of your child's nightly routine. For older children, have them read to relax before bedtime.
3. **Play word games:** Say a word and have your child come up with rhyming words, practice synonyms and antonyms, and play games like SCRABBLE or BANANAGRAMS. Play the alphabet game in the car by finding a word that contains each letter of the alphabet in order using only street signs.
4. **Pick "good fit" books:** If a child is going to be reading a book independently, help him/her make sure it is not too difficult. Have your child read a page aloud. If more than five mistakes are made on a page, it is probably too difficult. That would be a good book to read together!
5. **Check for understanding:** Ask questions throughout the story to make sure your child understands it. Make sure to ask "why", so your child gets in the habit of explaining his/her thinking. Make predictions. As you continue to read, check to see if those predictions were correct.
6. **Talk about what you are reading:**
 - What do you like/dislike about the story? Why?
 - Who is your favorite character? Why?
 - If you were the author, how would you change the ending, handle a situation differently, reimagine a character, etc.?
7. **Retell the story:** After reading the story, have your child tell you what happened in the proper sequence.
8. **Work with words:** Help your child with strategies for identifying new or unfamiliar words.
 - Break the word into smaller chunks
 - Use picture clues
 - Ask what would make sense in the sentence
 - Use the words around it to decide what it could be (context clues)
 - Skip over the word and come back to it
 - Go back to the beginning of the sentence and reread for meaning
 - Practice sight words (words most commonly used in print-text)
9. **Technology and reading:** Use technology for academic purposes. There are many apps available that focus on literacy.
10. **Make it fun:** Take turns reading, act out stories, use expression, play with words...whatever makes it fun for you will likely make it fun for your child.

"As parents, the most important thing we can do is read to our children early and often. Reading is the path to success in school and life. When children learn to love books, they learn to love learning."

-Laura Bush

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader!"

-Margaret Fuller