Ways to Support Learning at Home - Grade 1

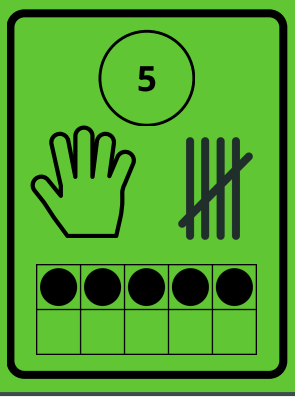
PRINCETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Learning doesn't stop at the classroom door.
These everyday activities are easy ways to support your child's growth at home—through reading, conversation, exploration, and play. Little moments make a big difference.

Literacy

- Read with and to your child every day, they can read to stuffed animals too!
- Encourage your child to retell stories and predict and extend story endings
- Ask your child to stretch out the sounds in words, **ex. tiger=/t//i//g//r/**
- Ask your child to identify and produce rhyming pairs, then write the words
- Ask your child to write down simple words (consonant vowel, consonant): **hat, bun, win**
- Ask your child to write down simple words (CCVC, or CVCC): **ship, that, chip, black, trip, rack**
- Write for many purposes: to-do lists, grocery lists, letters to family,
- Ask your child to cut out magazine pictures and write captions for them, or label each item
- Encourage stretching words out to hear all the sounds to be able to write them correctly

Math



Talk about numbers

- Play games with dice and cards
- Talk about different ways to make different combinations to make 10
- Encourage your child to explain his or her thinking
- Challenge your child with questions such as, "There were 8 oranges. You took one, I took one. How many are left?"

Look for patterns and sort

- Sort and count coins
- Sort toys by color, function, size,

Recognize shapes and measure

- Measure how long or how tall items are in your house ("How many paper clips long is the fork?")
- Estimate how many steps it would take to get from the bathroom to the kitchen, then measure the distance by using child-sized steps
- Identify household shapes like a shoebox (rectangular prism), a can of corn (cylinder), or basketball (sphere)

Science

- Start a rock collection using rocks around your home and from places you visit; sort and compare them
- Look for plants in wooded and freshwater locations
- Find out how many items in your house are powered by electricity and use a switch
- Talk about how young animals are different than their animal parents
- How are baby plants different than fully grown plants?
- Investigate how vibrations and sound work- what materials make the sound best?
- Discuss how plants and animals use their external parts to survive and grow.
- Play with sand and water to determine how to slow erosion
- How do humans impact the land? How can we protect it?

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Learning is a team effort.
When schools and families work together, children thrive. These suggested activities offer fun, meaningful ways to reinforce key skills at home—all while building routines, relationships, and confidence.

Social Studies



- Talk to your child about what it means to belong and contribute to a group
- Ask your child to interview an older person about life during his or her childhood
- Ask your child to make 2 lists; things they want and things they need
- Establish/discuss rules for your house and discuss why they are needed
- Participate in a family vote for some decision making
- Make a list of goods then make a list of services
- Create a map of a playground or room
- Discuss/compare how people used to live to today- show photos

Emotional Learning



- Teach your child to identify emotions.
- Practice calmly naming feelings
- Help your child identify what triggers their emotions, and teach them to manage those emotions by themselves.
- When we teach children that their emotions are valid, we help them view what they feel as normal and manageable.
- Modeling appropriate behavior is important so children know what to do with their big feelings.
- The best way to teach your child to react to anger appropriately is to show him/her. (pause, take a breath, step away, calmly respond)
- Helping children manage their emotions begins by validating those emotions and providing an environment in which they feel safe to express them.

Speaking



- Practice eye contact when speaking and listening to someone
- Show your child how to respond to a greeting and how to answer questions (turn-taking)
- Practice social and formal conversations with your child
- Practice waiting to speak
- Repeat to your child when needed to model complete sentences, grammar, and proper speech
- Explain what you are doing or where you are to share vocabulary and engage children in what you are doing
- Encourage and model speaking in complete sentences