Ways to Support Learning at Home - Grade 3

PRINCETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

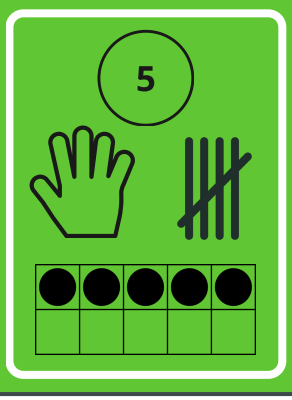
Learning doesn't stop at the classroom door.
These everyday activities are easy ways to support your child's growth at home—through reading, conversation, exploration, and play. Little moments make a big difference.

Literacy



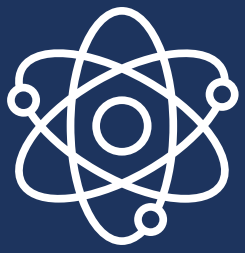
- Read with your child every night
- Encourage your child to read aloud to younger siblings
- Listen to your child read aloud to improve reading rate, ask questions about what they read (How do you know? Cite text evidence.)
- Encourage stretching out multisyllable words to hear all the parts to be able to spell them correctly. (prefixes, syllables, and suffixes)
- Talk about new vocabulary and how to make sense of the words. Talk about prefixes, suffixes, and roots and what they mean. Ex. hydro=water, bio=life, anti=against, tri=three, ist=a person who practices
- Identify themes within a story and between 2 stories
- Determine the central message of a story and support it with key details
- Create authentic writing situations: thank-you notes, invitations, text messages

Math



- Have your child figure out how many minutes it took to eat dinner, walk to a friend's house, get to the school bus stop, etc.
- Have your child find graphs in the newspaper or magazines and circle the title and labels, then ask your child follow-up questions ("What is this graph about?" "What can you learn by looking at this graph?")
- Practice basic addition and subtraction facts at home with flashcards
- Give your child a number less than 100 and then ask, "How many more to make 100?"
- Practice multiplication facts- with flashcards- how is multiplication like adding?
- Ask your child to count combinations of coins more than a dollar.
- Make change from $5
- Encourage your child to explain how they solve math problems

Science



- Start a family seed collection: locate the seeds in fruit, wash them carefully, and record each one in a journal
- Take a neighborhood field trip and look for local plants, then talk about which plants are natural to the environment and which plants were brought in for gardens and decoration
- Find an insect and have your child compare it to another insect or small mammal or repitle
- Create different sounds with household items.
- Ask your child to share what he or she has learned about joints, skeletons, and muscles.

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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



- Look at maps and locate your communities, state, and country
- Identify landforms and patterns in the population due to those landforms
- Describe how individual rights and democracy shape life in the United States
- Describe services provided by the government and how we pay for them
- Name the three branches of government;explain what each branch does and why we need them
- Compare and contrast the daily lives of different people living in ancient times
- Describe the role of consumers and producers in an economy
- Locate a birth certificate and talk about what it tells us about the past
- Discuss different perspectives on a topic

Emotional Learning



- Help your child name and manage emotions by talking calmly about feelings and what triggers them
- Validate emotions so your child knows their feelings are normal and manageable
- Model healthy responses to emotions—kids learn by watching adults
- Create a safe space where your child feels comfortable expressing themselves

Skills to Reinforce:

- Identifying Feelings (e.g., “I feel frustrated because...”)
- Empathy and Respect (e.g., recognizing how others feel)
- Emotion Management (e.g., deep breathing, self-talk, counting)
- Problem-Solving Steps (e.g., Stop → Think → Plan → Try)

Speaking



- Practice social and formal conversations with your child
- Encourage your child to ask and answer questions to gain clarity in discussions
- Model and reinforce speaking in complete sentences
- Practice eye contact when speaking and listening to the speaker
- Take turns during conversations to build respectful communication habits
- Support your child in expressing ideas and sharing personal experiences.
- Work together to exchange ideas, make decisions, and solve problems
- Set goals and create simple timelines to complete tasks together
- Invite your child to read and follow directions for cooking items
- Have your child read and follow step-by-step directions—like when preparing a recipe