Ways to Support Learning at Home - Grade 5

PRINCETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

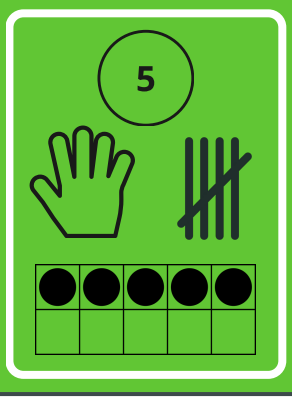
Learning doesn't stop at the classroom door.
These everyday activities are easy ways to support your child's growth at home—through reading, conversation, exploration, and play. Little moments make a big difference.

Literacy



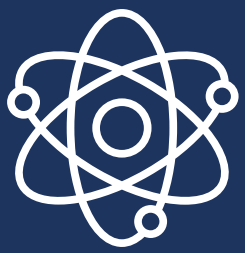
- Read with your child each night
- Encourage your child to read to younger siblings and family members
- Discuss new vocabulary and the meaning of prefixes, suffixes, and root words. Ex. hydro=water, bio=life, anti=against, tri=three, ist=a person
- Encourage children to reread material to better understand what he or she is reading.
- Ask your child to quote accurately from the text to explain what the text says
- Determine themes of stories, dramas or poems from text details including how characters respond to challenges
- Ask students to determine two or more main ideas and explain how they are supported by key details

Math



- Practice basic +, -, x, division facts at home- automaticity matters!
- Discuss fractions of items, pie, pizza, dollars, 9x13 or 8x8 cakes, and bars
- Have your child help with recipe adjustments
- Ask your child to calculate discounts and the total purchase price while shopping
- Encourage your child to explore patterns in store displays, bus schedules, and timelines
- Look for graphs, tables, and charts in magazines and newspapers or electronically, then discuss the data
- Using advertisements, have your child find the best deal and discuss other comparisons with money
- Solve real-life multiplication and division problems with your child and ask them to share how they can do it.

Science



- Google "Rube Goldberg Machine". Invent one together
- Layer different density liquids in a clear jar (honey, water, oil). Drop small objects and observe. Discuss: Why do some materials float?
- Build ramps using cardboard. Roll marbles from different heights Measure: Distance traveled & Speed (using a timer). Discuss.
- Clean dirty water as much as possible. Materials could include sand & gravel in water, coffee filters, cloth. Process: Plan, Test, Improve, Explain results.
- Build towers using toothpicks and marshmallows (or spaghetti noodles and marshmallows). Shake gently to simulate earthquakes. Improve: Redesign after testing
- Track weather for 2–3 weeks. Compare patterns over time. Compare to historical averages using a weather website

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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 a globe together and talk about continents, countries, states, and bodies of water
- Plan a family outing to Fort Snelling or the Mill City Museum
- Find maps that show populations, crops, rainfall, weather trends, or geographic places; talk to your child about how population settlements were affected by these variables
- Explain the concept of profit and describe how this motivates entrepreneurs
- Apply decision-making processes to identify alternative choices that could have been made throughout history
- Explain a historical event from multiple perspectives
- Calculate profit as the differnece before revenue and cost
- Discuss the basic principles of democracy & the three branches of gov.

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 both social and formal conversations with your child
- Encourage them to ask and answer questions to gain clarity in discussions
- Model and reinforce speaking in complete sentences
- Practice making eye contact when speaking and listening
- 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
- Have your child read and follow step-by-step directions—like when preparing a recipe
- Invite your child to talk through a decision that will impact their life and why it matters