



TITLE 1A EDUCATIONAL INSIGHTS

Lisbon Community School

Literacy & Math at Home

When it's freezing outside and the snow keeps coming, that's a perfect time to curl up with a good book or to play a math game! Your child's literacy and math skills will be enhanced by living in a home where these activities occur on a regular basis.

Finding time for these activities can be tough with after-school programs, clubs, organized sports, t.v., video games, and the need for some "down time." We get it!

The good news is that just reading together or playing math games-even for a few minutes each day-can help your child to learn basic math and reading skills more quickly. This will also help to establish a life-long habit of reading.

Reading aloud, with children participating actively, helps children learn new words, learn more about the world, learn about written language, and see the connection between

words that are spoken and words that are written. (*A Child Becomes a Reader*, Armbruster, Lehr, & Osborn, 2006). Your local library is a wonderful and free resource where you can find books to read to and with your child.

Research shows that when children establish a solid understanding of math skills early in life, they fare much better later on. "More than 20 years of research suggests that fundamental math skills are the building blocks for future success" (Research Foundation Mathematics, 2010). You can help your child to learn these fundamental math skills by playing games and making real-life connections to math at home. Online math games are fun and wonderful tools for learning, but you can also use recipes, measurement, counting money, and many other real-life math activities to show your children just how often we use math for real-life purposes.

Literacy Corner

Students have been working hard on their winter assessments. These assessments should be completed within the next few weeks. This data will be used to inform classroom instruction, to monitor student progress, and to determine placement for Title 1A services. Our first graders have been working hard on developing new strategies for reading and understanding texts. They are also building stamina as the texts they read become lengthier and more challenging. In writing they are increasing the number of high-frequency words they can write in addition to learning how to break apart the sounds in words in order to write unknown words.

Our older students are working on strategies for decoding unknown words, such as breaking apart multi-syllabic words, and on comprehension strategies to promote deeper understanding. They are also continuing to build stamina for reading and writing lengthier texts and learning to write grade-level appropriate high-frequency words with automaticity.

We look forward to providing continuing support to our students. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. Lacasse, or Ms. Maguire, your literacy support team.

Reading aloud to children has been called the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for success in literacy.

National Institutes of Literacy

Math Corner

All Math families should have received a Seesaw invitation. This is an online communication tool to inform families of what your student is working on. This website/app allows students to post pictures and videos of their math work.

It is private and secure and only viewable amongst the family and the teacher. Private messages can also be sent back and forth through Seesaw. If you need help or another invitation to Seesaw, please contact the Title 1 Math team.

All grades have also been working on learning a variety of strategies for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. If you would like to learn more about the strategies that your child is learning in school, please contact the Title 1 Math team. They are more than willing to demonstrate these various strategies as some of them are very different from the way you might have been taught in school.

We have also been working on screening new students who might benefit from Title 1 Math support so our group is growing. Please be sure to return any paperwork that has been sent home for signatures.

Resources for Literacy and Math

Practice at Home

Here are some ideas that we have compiled for you to keep your child busy learning over the winter months at home:

- Count out money together at the store or “play store” at home using small items around your house for merchandise.
- Build things using Legos, boxes, cans or whatever you have on hand
- Play a guessing game in which you and your child take turns describing a shape, a number, etc. while the other one guesses (Here's an example: I'm the number of days in a week and the sum of $5 + 2$. What number am I?)
- Read a book and then have a conversation with each person taking the role of one of the characters in the book (For example, after reading one of the Junie B. Jones books your child can pretend to be Junie's parent and you can be Junie. What would the "parent" say to Junie and what would Junie's response be?)
- Turn a book into a play either in writing or orally; make costumes from items you have around the house
- Draw a map of your house and use words that describe how to get from one room to the other (For example, take three steps forward and turn left.)
- Make flashcards (with math facts or sight words) and take turns quizzing each other
- Cook with your child to learn about measuring, fractions, and multiplication (doubling a recipe is a great math opportunity).
- Use string, dry macaroni, pennies or other items to create shapes.
- Talk about what students learn from books. What new information did they encounter? What connections did they make? What questions do they still have?



Past issues of *Educational Insights* are available on LCS's Title 1A website:

<http://lcstitle1.weebly.com>

Online Resources

Here are some online resources for you and your child:

- <http://www.storynory.com>—Find free audio stories.
- <http://connected.mcgraw-hill.com>—Here your child can practice math facts and games using their Everyday Math login.
- http://www.vocabulary.co.il/vocabulary_flash_cards/ — Find interactive literacy games for students to play.
- <http://eduscapes.com/tap/topic93.html>—Links to online books for children of all ages including some books written by children for children.
- <http://www.gamequarium.com/math.html>—Features math games and videos on a variety of topics.
- http://internet4classrooms.com/math_elem.html—Printable math games, resources, and more for students and parents.



Educational Insights is a publication of the Lisbon Community School Title 1A Program. Title 1 A is a federally-funded program to improve learning opportunities for educationally disadvantaged children enrolled in selected public and non-public schools and institutions. Title 1A programs administered by Lisbon Community School focus on providing eligible students with extra help in building thinking and problem-solving skills and applying these skills in reading and mathematics.

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