

Learning at Home

FEBRUARY 2020

Please aim to work with your child 15 minutes per night, four times per week. These activities can be adjusted to fit your schedule and can be completed on nights that work best for your family. You can challenge or support your child by adjusting the tasks as needed.

Learning everywhere, together!

Being a parent means spending countless hours driving - to school, to dance practice and even friends' houses. Regardless of where you are going, there are many opportunities to provide your child with rich learning experiences in literacy and math. No matter what you are doing, these foundational skills are a part of our every day life.

Below are some fun learning activities that will keep children entertained on the road without the use of electronic devices. They also give you the chance to connect with your child, as they develop fundamental oral language skills.

Literacy on the Move

Whether you are taking a long distance road trip or simply driving across town, travelling with your child provides a great opportunity to engage in rich literacy learning.

- **Roadtrip Alphabet Pictionary**
Challenge your child to spot an item or object that begins with a letter of the alphabet. They can write the word or draw a picture. *Tip: Ask your child to find one object for each letter of the alphabet.*
- **Collaborative Stories**
This activity is great for developing oral language skills in children of all ages. One person begins a story with a few spoken sentences. Then the next person continues the story. Take turns until the story is complete.

- **I'm Thinking of an Animal**
This game focuses on oral language skills and vocabulary development. First, think of an animal. Challenge your child to ask you questions that require a "yes" or "no" response, until they are able to correctly guess the animal. *Tip: Try a different category each time you play.*
- **Print is Everywhere**
Challenge your child to read signs. Even young children can "read" popular restaurant, store and traffic signs. Show your child how to read bus schedules, maps and advertisements as you pass them.
- **Letter and Word Searches**
Collect flyers and pamphlets from stores or attractions that you visit. When you are back on the road, give your child a marker and have them search for various letters or words. Older students can find words that are new to them, and talk with you about what they might mean.

Math on the move

Travelling in the car, on the bus, or even preparing to board a plane at the airport can become an opportunity to explore the math all around us.

- **Road Sign Math**
Road signs come in many different shapes. How many different shapes can you find?

Have your child practice reading the numbers they see on road signs.

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Provide your child with a target number. By adding the numbers on the signs, see how close your child can get to the number you selected.

- **License Plate Math**

Have your child practice reading numbers on license plates. Younger children can practice with individual digits, while older children can group digits together for two and three-digit numbers.

Use the digits on a license plate to find the sum of the digits. Tell your child what your license plate numbers to calculate the sum. Ask them if the cars they see have a license plate sum greater or less than your vehicle's license plate sum.

- **Counting Cars**

Assign each passenger a colour to see how many vehicles of that colour each passenger can count in a predetermined time period. On a short trip, count until you get to your destination. On a longer trip, try 15 minutes.

- **Guess my Number**

This is a great game that can be easily adapted for various ability levels. Think of a number. Have your child ask you questions that will help them figure out your number. Questions may include:

- *Is the number odd or even?*
- *Is the number a prime number?*
- *Are one of these digits found in our address?*
- *Do you say this number when counting by 5s?*
Is it a multiple of 5?

- **Add Two**

Pick a start number and a stop number. The first player begins with the start number. The next player adds two to the start number, to determine the sum. The next player adds two to that number, to determine the new sum. Players continue to add two to the last number until the stop number is said or the sum goes over the stop number. This game can be adapted to add 5, 10 or 100 to the start number.



Online supports and useful links

French as a Second Language: www.fslhomeworktoolbox.ca
Cursive writing practice sheets: www.kidzone.ws/cursive
Keyboarding games: www.typinggames.zone

Dolch Word Lists

You can use these words to play games with your child. Don't worry too much about the exact grade level listed for each section. Look for words that are just starting to become challenging for your child.

Try making two sets of cards to play Memory or Go Fish. Working with ten to fifteen words at a time makes games more fun and the words easier to learn.
<https://sightwords.com/sight-words/dolch/#lists>

Les mots de haute fréquence - High Frequency Words

Access frequently used French words at the following link:
<http://www.rainbowschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/motsfr.pdf>

Visit rainbowschools.ca to access any of these links directly. Click on Parents. Click on Resources for Parents.