

Reading for Success

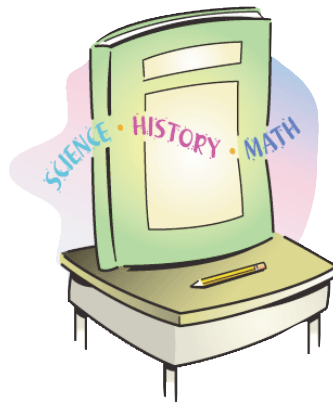
Read across the curriculum

The biggest factor in your child's academic success is reading. And reading in school requires a variety of reading skills to achieve success in every subject. Learning to read effectively across the curriculum involves such skills as knowing how to preview, skim, recall, find main ideas and identify details. You can help by promoting these skills at home.

Read books about math

Some people think of reading and math as opposites. Yet both are ways of communicating. To help your child connect reading and math, read books about math. Your librarian can help you find picture books, books about multiplication, statistics, algebra, geometry or probability. Your child can start with:

- *Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday* by Judith Viorst to learn how far a dollar can go.
- *The Doorbell Rang* by Pat Hutchins to learn about division in a story about sharing.
- *Shape Up!* by David Adler for an introduction to basic geometry.



Read for achievement

Being able to read for other subjects, such as science and social studies, is important to your child's overall academic success. Your child's reading objectives will be to:

- **Learn** new vocabulary words.
- **Identify** the sequence of events.
- **Find** the main idea.
- **Interpret** ideas presented.
- **Consider** cause and effect.
- **Understand** ideas in the reading using charts and graphs.
- **Draw** conclusions.

Practice reading objectives

As you read together, encourage your child to:

Use word–problem strategies

Word problems don't have to be tough. To help solve word problems, your child should:

- **Take time to read the problem carefully.** It's important to understand exactly what is being asked.
- **Look for key words** that show what operation (such as addition) is being used. For example, "What is the *total*?"
- **Work problems in steps.** Jot down symbols and numbers to use for each step.
- **Look at the cover,** pictures and headings to decide what the story might be about.
- **Use mental pictures** to "organize" and "see" the ideas in the story.
- **Make predictions** about the story.
- **Put events** from the story in sequence.
- **Summarize** the story.
- **Discuss and use** new vocabulary words.
- **Use drawings and diagrams** to illustrate the story.

