

## Things You Can Do to Help Your Child Be Successful in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade!

1. Read to or with them every day. Let your child see YOU reading!
2. Have your child read for 20 minutes or more each day.
3. Go over your child's weekly homework BEFORE it is turned in to school. Together, check the work for accuracy, neatness and completion (papers are often 2 sided). Help your child correct mistakes and better understand difficult concepts.
4. Have them practice math addition and subtraction facts, committing them to memory. Gradually move on to multiplication and beginning division. (Flash cards may be helpful.)
5. Have your child write in a journal or diary. They can choose to write about their activities, family, pets, trips, feelings, or special events. They can also write creative stories, or factual information. Invite your child to write shopping lists and messages.
6. Encourage your child to write letters to family members and friends. Receiving and reading letters is also fun, so develop a pen pal relationship with your child and a family member or friend. (In class this year we will be learning proper letter form.)
7. Help your child to tell time (on a traditional clock).
8. Practice counting money together. Always begin counting with the coins of the greatest value.
9. Invite your child to measure ingredients with your child as you cook or bake. Discuss and explore measurement term (fractions) as you use measuring spoons and cups.
10. Work with your child on our spelling lists every week!

**"Why can't I skip my twenty minutes of reading tonight?"  
Let's figure it out...mathematically!**

**Student A reads 20 minutes, five nights of every week.  
Student B reads only 4 minutes a night... or not at all.**

**Step 1: Multiply minutes a night x 5 nights a week.**

**Student A reads 20 min. x 5 nights ( $20 \times 5 = 100$  min./week)**

**Student B reads 4 min. x 5 nights ( $4 \times 5 = 20$  min./week)**

**Step 2: Multiply minutes a week x 4 weeks each month.**

**Student A reads 400 minutes per month.**

**Student B reads 80 minutes per month.**

**Step 3: Multiply minutes a month x 9 months in a school year.**

**Student A reads 3600 minutes in a school year.**

**Student B reads 720 minutes in a school year.**

**Student A practices reading the equivalent of 10 whole school days a year.  
Student B practices reading the equivalent of 2 whole school days a year.**

**By the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, if students A and B maintain these same reading habits...**

**Student A will have read an equivalent of 60 whole school days**

**Student B will have read an equivalent of only 12 whole school days.**

**One would expect the gap of information retained will have widened considerably, and so, undoubtedly will school performance. How do you think student B will feel about him/herself as a student?**

**Some questions to ponder...**

**Which student would you expect to be a better reader?**

**Which student would you expect to know more?**

**Which student would you expect to write better?**

**Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?**

**Which student would you expect to be more successful in school and in life?**

# Ways a Parent Can Help with **READING**

1

**Let your child see you reading!**

Have magazines and books in your home.

2

Help your child find appropriate word & reading games on the computer.

Keep a dictionary on hand. Help your child look up new words they read or hear.

3

**Read mysteries with your child and try to figure out the clues together.**

4

**Movie version coming out?**

Read the book together first, then talk about which you each liked better.

5

**Set aside a time and place for your child to read -**

like a comfy chair and a reading light in a quiet place

6

**Visit your public library regularly.**

Look for and read together the books that were your favorites when you were a kid.

7

**Encourage your child to write -**

letters, thank you notes, emails, journals, lists, stories about their own trips, events, and daily life

8

**Ask your child questions about what he or she is reading, such as:**

- What is the story about?
- Who are the important characters in the story?
- Where does the story take place?
- Why do you think the character made that choice?
- Why did that happen?
- How did you know about...?
- Would you recommend this book to your friends?

9

**Ask your child to draw a comic strip about what happens in the story.**

Provide word searches, crossword and other word games and puzzles, or help your child make his/her own



**Share with your child about what you're reading... and encourage your child to do the same**

# Ways a Parent Can Help with **SPELLING**

**1** Have your child write spelling words:

- On paper with pencils, pens, markers or paint
- With chalk on a sidewalk or patio
- With dry erase markers on a mirror
- Type on the computer
- With his/her fingers in a plate of pudding
- With fingers in shaving cream on a counter

**2** Have your child spell the words out loud while you are in the car or in line at a store

**3** Spell words using blocks, Scrabble tiles, or flash cards

(Make your own with index cards - one card for each letter. Consider using different colored cards for vowels)

**4** If the list of words to learn is long, have your child choose 4-5 to focus on at a time

**5** Have your child write the words in alphabetical order or in order from shortest to longest

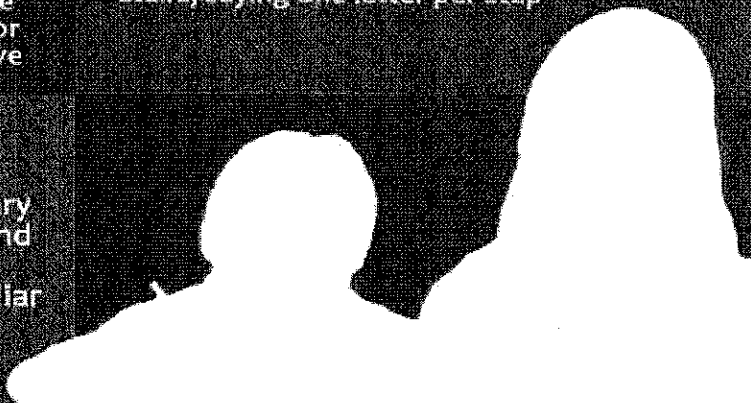
**6** Play "Hangman" with your child using the spelling words

Make crossword puzzles and word searches with the spelling words for your child to solve

**7** Combine spelling with physical activity

Have your child do jumping jacks, saying one letter per jump, or while walking up and down stairs, saying one letter per step

**8** Keep a dictionary in your home and help your child look up unfamiliar words



**Encourage your child to read!**  
Good readers are often good spellers.

# Ways a Parent Can Help with **MATH**

1

Look for shapes and patterns in real life

2

Have your child measure ingredients for a recipe you are making

3

Ask your child to explain the math skills he or she is working on in school

4

When helping your child with homework or school assignments, ask him or her to explain how he or she got an answer

5

Help your child find some appropriate number and problem-solving games to play online

6

Play card or board games that involve counting or patterns

7

Ask your child to count change at the grocery store, or to estimate the total cost while you are shopping

8

Compare:

Which is the tallest?  
...the heaviest?  
...the longest?  
...the smallest?  
...the fastest?  
...the hottest?  
...the most expensive?

9

Have tools such as a ruler, a scale, a calculator, and a measuring tape available to use in your house

10

Encourage your child to track or graph scores or stats for a favorite sports team

11

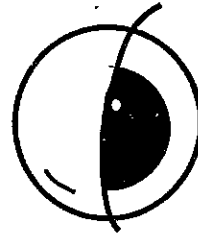
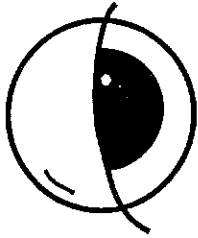
Use dice to make a game out of practicing math facts



Point out ways math is part of "real" life: money, computers, music, art, construction, cooking...

All around us, every day.

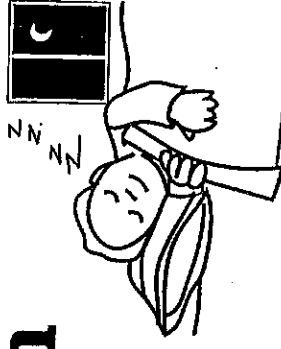
# Sleepy Suzy



Suzy is eight years old. She stayed up last night to watch a movie on television. She went to bed at 11:00 p.m. and had to get up at 7:00 a.m. to go to school.

- How many hours of sleep did Suzy get?
- Did she get enough sleep?
- What will Suzy be like at school today?

# How Much Sleep Is Enough?



AGE	SUGGESTED HOURS OF SLEEP
One to Six Years	10-12 Hours
Six to Twelve Years	9-11 Hours
Twelve to Fourteen Years	8-10 Hours
On Through Growing Years	8-10 Hours

# Television Viewing

On long rainy afternoons or early Saturday mornings, every parent, at one time or another, has been grateful for the magic of television, entertaining our otherwise bored and restless children.

However, like a powerful medication, TV must be used wisely. It can provide great educational entertainment for children, but it also can produce some very undesirable side effects, particularly if it's overused. The average child watches TV three to five hours a day and, by the age of 14, has seen 11,000 TV murders. That amounts to an overdose of TV.

## Keep TV under control

- Limit TV time to no more than two hours a day, including weekends.
- Watch what your children are watching. Talk about what's real and not real. In real life, people who are injured or killed don't pop back up like cartoon characters, or appear a couple days later in another show.
- Make TV viewing a choice, not a habit. Turn the set on for a specific program, turn it off when the program is over.
- Set a few basic rules: No TV during family meals and no TV until all homework, practice and chores are done.

## Here's Why

- Watching violent programs can worry or frighten children. We know it's make-believe, but young children don't or can't always make that distinction. And because kids imitate what they see and hear, it may cause increased aggression.
- Also, when children spend hours glued to the TV, there are several very important things that they're NOT doing:
  - They're not reading.
  - They're not studying.
  - They're not playing with friends.
  - They're not exercising their bodies or their minds.
  - They're not talking with us about their day.

Don't forget...as parents, we're our children's first and most important teachers. The best way to teach our children good viewing practices is by our own example.



*From the members of the (XYZ Education Association)*