

How to Help Your 8th Grade Child Succeed in English Language Arts

In grade eight, students will read major works of fiction and nonfiction from all over the world and from different time periods. They will continue to learn how to understand what they read and evaluate an author's assumptions and claims. They will also conduct research that will require the analysis of resources and accurate interpretation of literary and informational text.

Activities You Can Do at Home:

Get Ready

What would your child do in case of a citywide emergency? Ask your child to research emergency preparedness. He can use books at the library or research online at <http://www.nyc.gov/readyny>. Have him consider what he would do if he was at school? What about at home? Ask him to create an emergency plan for your family based on his research, and present it to you. What steps should you take?

Thinking Ahead

Begin talking about college early. Consider visiting a local college campus with your child, or researching online. What does he or she expect from college? What high school courses will your child need to pass to prepare for college?

Stump Me!

Help your child build her vocabulary and show off her knowledge at the same time. Pick a letter of the alphabet (such as "C") and a subject (such as math). Then take turns listing words that fit that description (such as calculations, cosine, and calculator) until one of you repeats or runs out of words. Keep challenging each other with different subjects and letters.

Tips for Supporting Your Child:

- ◆ Help your child to keep a journal. Encourage your child to write about things that happen at home and school, or things the child wants to remember.
- ◆ Start a family reading club. You can pick up free materials everywhere - pamphlets, brochures, and fliers to discuss together.

Additional Resources:

<http://www.engageny.org/parent-guides-to-the-common-core-standards>

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/game>



How to Help Your 8th Grade Child Succeed in Math

In grade eight, students take their understanding of unit rates and proportional relationships to a new level, connecting these concepts to points on a line and ultimately using them to solve linear equations that require them to apply algebraic reasoning, as well as knowledge of the properties of operations. Students will also expand their understanding of numbers beyond rational numbers to include numbers that are irrational.

Activities You Can Do at Home:

How Many Windows?

Find ways to discuss expressions when you are out in the city with your child. For example, look at a building together. Ask your child to come up with an equation that expresses how many windows there are, without counting them one by one.

Answer: number of stories with windows times number of windows per story = number of windows on the building.

Don't Be Late!

Waiting for the bus or train can take time out of each day. How much time does your child spend commuting to school? Ask him to write an equation representing this time. What happens if he misses a train and his wait time doubles?

Example:

x = walk to station

y = wait on platform

C = commute to school

D = commute with delay

z = time on train

$C = x + y + z$

$D = x + 2y + z$

Make a Budget

Think of a household item you use regularly. This could be a food item or something like laundry detergent. Ask your child to keep track of the quantities that are used each week. Ask her to help create a plan or budget for the rest of the year.

To help her keep track, ask her to create an equation. The equation should predict how many items will be used over a year. She should also predict how much that will cost. For example:

1. x = number of loads of laundry each week

2. Each load of laundry costs \$0.99 in detergent

3. $x(52)$ = number of loads of laundry per year

4. $x(52)(.99)$ = cost of laundry detergent over a year

5. $51.48x$ = cost of laundry detergent over a year

Tips for Supporting Your Child:

- ◆ Help your child look for relationships between sets of data in everyday life. For example, help him compare the time he goes to bed and the number of times he hits snooze in the morning.
- ◆ Ask your child to determine how mathematics is used in specific careers, such as medicine (writing prescriptions or planning treatments) or business (budgeting). This could lead to a good discussion and allow students to begin thinking about their future aspirations.

Additional Resources:

<http://commoncoreworks.org/site>

<http://powermylearning.org>

