

What can I be doing to strengthen my child's chances for academic success?

READING

- Make sure your child reads everyday (15-20 min).
- Expose students to multiple genres (including poetry and informational text).
- After your child reads, ask questions that require students to both go back to the text and check and draw conclusions that are not explicitly stated in the text.

Here are some good questions to ask to encourage critical thinking:

- *Describe the character. What did the character do in the story that lets you know he or she is ____?*
- *Summarize the story/ passage.*
- *What is the main idea of what you just read?*
- *Why do you think the author wrote this story/ article/ passage? (to inform the reader, to entertain the reader, to persuade the reader to think or do something?)*

MATH

- Help students “talk through” their thinking on problem solving.
- Encourage them to show work including drawing pictures to represent the information.
- Support the “Vocabulary of Math” by reviewing math terms often.
- Practice math facts to build fluency.
- Don’t forget to emphasize math in everyday occurrences (measurement, estimation, elapsed time).
- Utilize Dreambox
<https://play.dreambox.com/login/gq6s/rkjt>

WRITING

- Encourage your child to journal or just write about experiences they have. For younger students, having them verbalize their thoughts in complete sentences is a great way to prepare them for quality writing.
- Emphasize descriptive vocabulary, encourage them to use other words to replace “worn-out words” (ie; instead of good – my day was unbelievable, pleasant, or eventful).
- Read, read, and read more! Good reading leads to good writing skills. Expose them to many genres and many authors.

Remember as a 4th grader, your child will participate in the Writing STAAR. The assessment is now given on one day (previously two days) and has two parts. The first part assesses revising and editing skills. This part is multiple choice. The second part requires students to write an expository composition.

SCIENCE

- Review vocabulary specific to Science.
- Talk about occurrences in the nature around us (on the beach, in our gardens, in the weather, in the sky, etc).
- Encourage your child to read a balance of fiction and **non-fiction** literature. There are a lot of books with Science topics available in our school library.

Remember as a 5th grader, your child will participate in the Science STAAR.