# Reading at Home

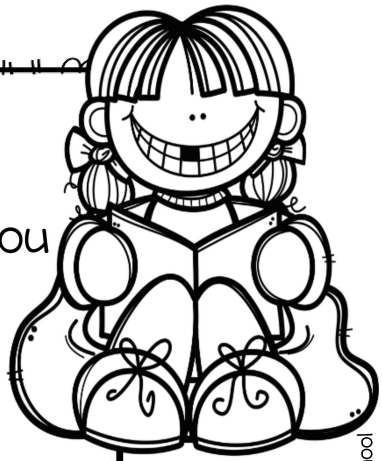
Reading at home will make a **HUGE** difference in your child's school success! Make reading part of your everyday routine. Choose books that match your child's interests.

**READING FOR JUST 10 - 15 MINUTES A DAY WILL BENEFIT YOUR CHILD!**

## Telling, Retelling, and Understanding

•Before reading, make predictions and ask questions. What is the story going to be about?
•Talk about new words and their meaning.
•Make connections to his/her life, other books, and/or movies/TV. What does this remind you of (another book, something that happened to them, a place, a TV show)?
•Talk, comment, and ask questions about the characters and setting as you read the book. How does the character feel? Where is the character at the beginning/middle/end of the book?
•After you read the book, have your child retell you the story in order.
•Act out the story! Make different voices for each character. Use props and have fun!
•Have your child "read" the book (your child will make up the words that may or may not match the text and use the pictures as a guide).

## Building a Reader



★Have your child turn the pages.
★Encourage your child to fill in the rhymes as you read.
★Notice patterns in the text and illustrations.
★Have your child be the "reader" and read the pictures to you.
★Notice and talk about letters and the sounds they make.
★Help your child fall in LOVE with books!

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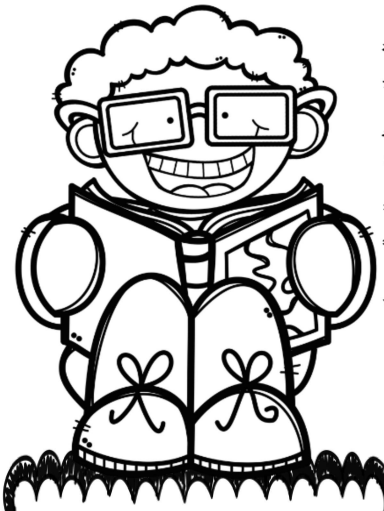

Make a warm and cozy reading nook in your home with pillows, soft chairs, and/or stuffed animals.
Fill a basket with your child's favorite books, tablet, and/or magazines!

# MAKE READING AN ADVENTURE

YOU CAN NEVER READ A BOOK TOO MANY TIMES! EACH TIME YOUR CHILD READS A BOOK AGAIN, HE/SHE GAINS NEW KNOWLEDGE AND BUILDS FLUENCY!

## READ IN FUN PLACES

outside, inside, in the car, in the bathtub, in bed, on the couch, under the covers, under a tree, at the library, in a tent, or in a park

## READ FUN WAYS

with a flashlight, in different voices, on the computer, act it out, by singing the words, in a whisper, to a stuffed animal, to a pet, or with props/puppets

## READ DIFFERENT KINDS OF BOOKS

ABC, counting, fiction, non-fiction, big, small, long, short, rhyming, poetry, song, or fairy tales

## READ ABOUT DIFFERENT THINGS

family, friends, feelings, school, holidays, sports, dance, food, birthdays, forest animals, polar animals, zoo animals, ocean animals, pets, dinosaurs, insects, construction, vehicles, plants, princesses, farms, science, seasons, weather, or various habitats

## Different Media

| | |
|---|---|
| Books | Cards |
| Newspapers | Mail |
| Magazines | Store Ads |
| E books | Signs |
| Letters | Recipes |
| Shopping Lists | Comics |

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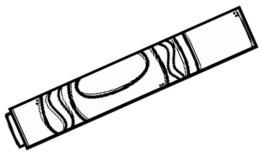


# Writing at Home

Help your child LOVE drawing and writing. Build your child's confidence and encourage him/her along the road to becoming a confident writer!

## Things to Remember

- Writing should be fun and stress free!
- Allow your child to draw and write at his/her level. Every child starts by scribbling. Scribbling is a way for a child to put his/her thoughts on paper in a way that makes sense to him/her.
- Let your child know you value what he/she "writes". Read it, hang it up, or take the list with you to the store.
- The pictures are just as important as the words! Encourage your child to draw about his/her writing!
- Use a variety of tools to write with to make writing fun! You can use pencils, pens, markers, and crayons.

HELP YOUR CHILD FALL IN LOVE WITH WRITING AND DRAWING!

## Building a Writer

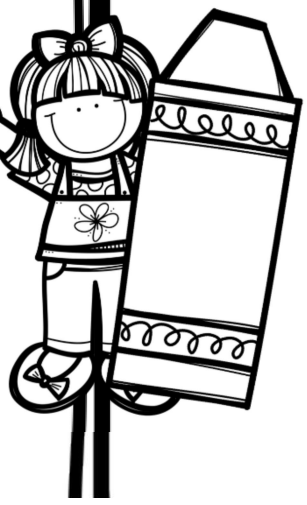
•Encourage your child to write letters, draw shapes/pictures, and various types of lines.
•Help your child sound out words.
•Make word cards with pictures for your child to copy.
•Notice when words rhyme and brainstorm more rhyming words.
•Notice beginning and ending sounds in words.
•Clap how many syllables a word has.
•Let your child see YOU writing in your daily life!

## CREATING PURPOSEFUL REASONS TO DRAW AND WRITE

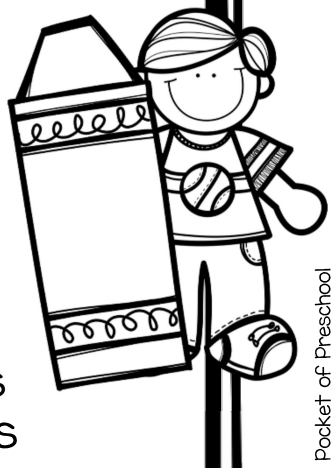
- Make a shopping list before going to the store.
- Make a card for someone's birthday or holiday.
- Create a thank you card.
- Write a note to remember something.
- Make a "To Do" list.
- Make a "wish list".
- Write a letter to someone special.
- Create a book about a memory, special event, or holiday.
- Put a message board in the kitchen and write silly messages to each other.
- Make a sign for each person's door in your house.
- Make fun post-it notes and hide them all over your home.
- Make lunchbox notes for siblings.
- Make or buy a journal for your child to write and draw all his/her thoughts, ideas, feelings, and important/daily events in.
- Make a menu for dinner or a special occasion.
- Make a poster.

## Make a Writing Basket

Find a basket and fill it with fun tools your child can use for writing!
Here are some ideas of things you can add:



| | |
|---|---|
| Crayons | Stapler |
| Pencils | Scissors |
| Markers | Glue |
| Note Pads | Stickers |
| Stationary Paper | Tape |
| Construction Paper | Stencils |
| Post-It Notes | Word Cards |
| Envelopes | Letter Cards |
| Glitter Glue | Letter Charts |



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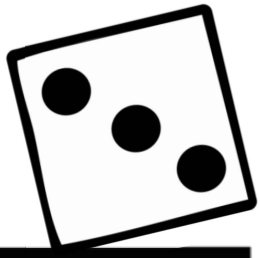
# Math at Home

Children develop positive feelings about math when they have fun math experiences at home with their family!

## Things to Remember

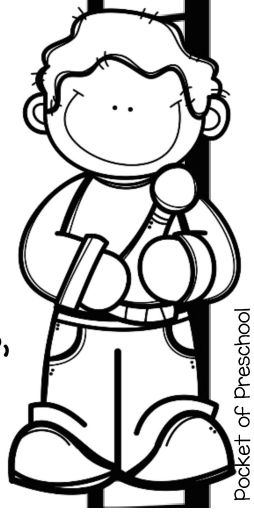
1. •Exploring math should be fun!
2. •Allow your child to count, read numbers, explore shapes, create patterns, and measure at his/her own individual level.
•Every child learns differently. That is what makes your child unique!
3. • Give hints, not answers.
• Celebrate and praise ALL math discoveries!

SHOW YOUR CHILD HOW YOU USE MATH EVERY DAY!



## Fun Activities to Try

★Count as you walk, jump, skip, march, or go up the stairs. Do one movement for each number.
★Read counting books. Notice the number and count the objects as you read!
★Make numbers and shapes with playdoh. First roll the playdoh into rolls (snakes). Use the rolls to form numbers and shapes.
★Sort the laundry by color or clothing categories. Count the number of items in each pile. Which pile has the most/least?
★Go on a shape hunt (inside or outside). Talk about the shapes. Feel and count the sides and/or corners.
★Find markers that are the same size. Using markers, measure how many markers tall each person is in your family is by lining up the markers next to them.



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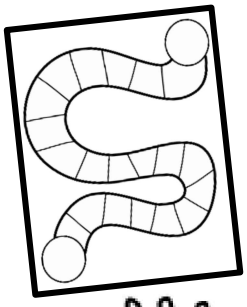


## Commercial Games That Incorporate Math

Candyland, Hi Ho Cherry-O, Trouble, Counting Cookies, Uno, Chutes and Ladders, Hungry Hungry Hippos, Cootie, The Sneaky Squirrel, The Ladybug Game, Barrel of Monkeys, Jenga, and puzzles

# Using Hands on Materials at Home

Here is a list of math tools and items you may have at home that are great for exploring math! Be creative and have fun! Just explore the materials or make up your own game!

### EXPLORE COUNTING

- Coins, buttons, cotton balls
- Beans or uncooked pasta
- Small plastic animals
- Popsicle sticks
- Rocks or sea shells
- Cereal or small snacks
- Cupcake pans and egg cartons to count items in

### EXPLORE SORTING

- Sort various items: coins, buttons, rocks, sea shells, seeds, blocks, lids, screws, nuts, bolts, cars, animals, blocks, and/or doll accessories
- Make collections of items to sort and treasure

### EXPLORING PATTERNS

- Find patterns on clothing, wrapping paper, etc.
- Copy and/or make patterns using various items (buttons, lids, silverware)

### EXPLORE MEASURING

- Measuring cups and/or spoons
- Various size bowls or containers
- Materials to measure and scoop such as water, sand, noodles, or cotton balls
- Measure by repeating an item such as blocks or cups
- Tape measures and rulers
- Scales
- Timers

### EXPLORE SHAPES

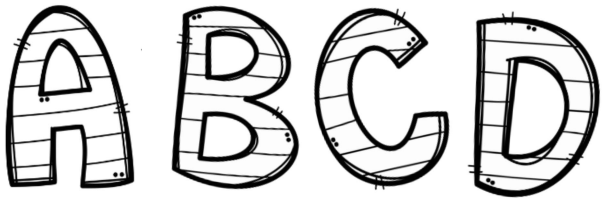
- Build, create, and sort blocks and buttons

### OTHER FUN MATH ITEMS

- Dice
- Cards
- Puzzles
- White board and markers
- Magnet numbers
- Chalk
- Maps

# Learning about Letters At Home

Give your child MANY opportunities to explore letters!

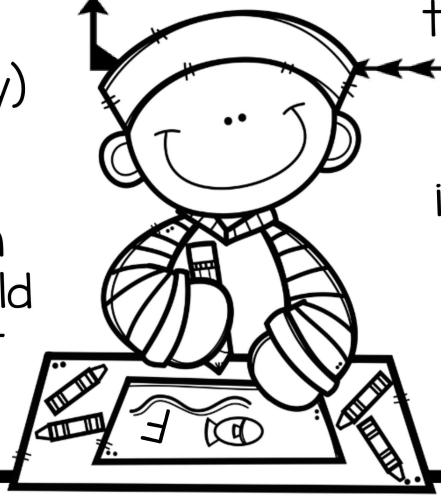



## Things to Remember

- Learning about letters should be fun!
- Hands on experiences make the most impact.
- There are 26 letters (52 if you count uppercase and lowercase separately) in the alphabet. That's a lot of letters to learn.
- Start with the letters in your child's name and build from there. Go slowly. It will take time.

## A Child's NAME

It is very likely that the first letter a child will learn is the first letter in his/her name. The next letters he/she will likely learn are the rest of the letters in his/her name and other important words such as mom and dad. Do activities with only the letters in your child's name and build from there!



Starfall is a fun, interactive website and app to help your child learn his/her letters. www.starfall.com

## Notice Letters Everywhere

The more you notice letters the more a child's curiosity about letters builds! It will make a HUGE difference! It is so exciting when your child begins noticing letters and starts asking you about the letters!

Go on a letter hunt around your home. Notice and talk about the letters you see!

When you are out in the community or in the car, notice the letters on signs, menus, ads, and labels.

Get magnet letters for the refrigerator. Start with just the letters in their name and SLOWLY add more and more letters.

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# Fun Activities to Try

- Go outside and make letters with chalk. Erase/trace the chalk with a wet paint brush.
- Make Lego or block letters. Write letters or add letter stickers on the sides of your child's legos and/or blocks. As they build, they can notice, talk about, and learn their letters.
- Go to the library and check out a few alphabet books. Notice and compare what the letters represent in each book.
- Make a name or word collage. Write a word or their name on a piece of paper. Have your child place stickers, dots, tissue paper, beads, etc. on top of the letters you made.
- Make letters with playdoh. First, roll the playdoh into rolls (snakes). Use the rolls to form the letters. You can also use letter cookie cutters!
- Play letters hide and seek! Take your magnet letters and hide them around the room and then find them! Put the letters in order at the end to make sure you have found all the letters!
- Sensory letters! Sprinkle salt, flour, or oatmeal onto a cookie sheet. Your child can use a finger to make letters. Gently shake the tray to erase so you can make more.
- Make a letter collage. Get a magazine or a store ad. Have your child cut out the letters they find. Glue the letters all over the page randomly. Glue matching letters next to each other. Put them in ABC order, or make words with the letters.

## In the Tub

Bath time can be a fun time to learn about and make letters.

- Get foam letters for the tub. Start with the letters in their name and gradually add more SLOWLY.
- Lather shaving cream on the tub wall and practice making letters in the shaving cream.

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# Fun Fine Motor at Home

Help your child develop the strength and motor control he/she needs to write and draw!

## Things to Remember

Make it FUN and hands on! Children need **FREQUENT** opportunities and a variety of materials to develop their fine motor control as well as eye hand coordination.

## Quick Information

Fine motor development involves the use of small muscles of the body (hands and fingers). It is the ability to pick up small items, color with crayons, copy designs, string beads, cut with scissors, draw shapes, and write letters.

## INCREASE CONTROL AND HAND STRENGTH

- Do a variety of puzzles.
- Tear paper and make a collage.
- Peel and stick stickers and/or tape to paper.
- Build or play with dominos.
- Color and write with broken crayons, short colored pencils, and thin markers.
- Offer tracing stencils or trace around objects.
- Build with small Legos or small wooden blocks.
- String beads, noodles, cereal using pipe cleaners or yarn.
- Play games or explore with tweezers or small tongs to pick up items such as cotton balls, marshmallows, cereal, pom poms, or small rocks. Commercial games that use tweezers are Bed Bugs, Thin Ice, and Crazy Octopus.
- Sprinkle salt, flour, or oatmeal onto a cookie sheet. Your child can use a finger to make lines, shapes, letters, and/or numbers. Gently shake the tray to erase.
- Paint with various types of brushes and on various surfaces (paper, foil, wax paper).
- Use hole punches, shape punches, and/or letter punches.

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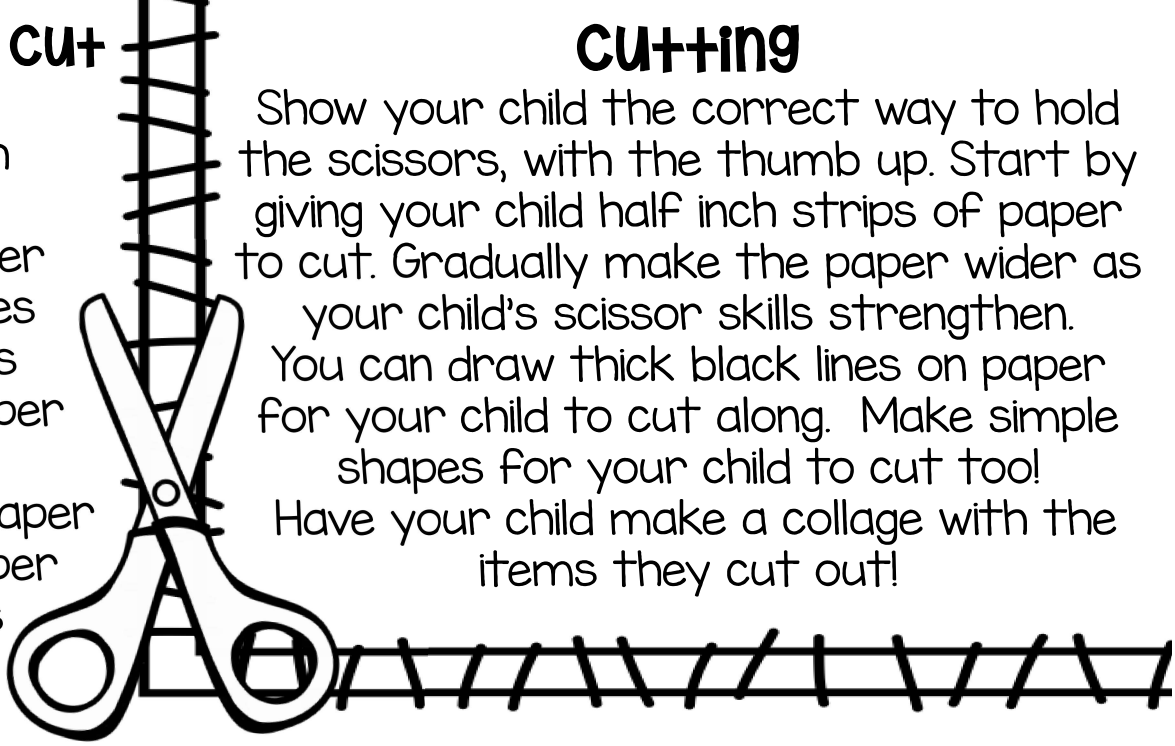
## Items to Cut

Paper
Playdoh
Goop
Newspaper
Magazines
Coupons
Tissue Paper
Ribbon
Wrapping Paper
Fancy Paper
Leaves
Grass



## Cutting

Show your child the correct way to hold the scissors, with the thumb up. Start by giving your child half inch strips of paper to cut. Gradually make the paper wider as your child's scissor skills strengthen. You can draw thick black lines on paper for your child to cut along. Make simple shapes for your child to cut too! Have your child make a collage with the items they cut out!

## Playdoh & Goop

There are endless activities your child can do with playdoh and goop! Roll the playdoh into balls or snakes, cut it with scissors, pinch off small pieces, or make a sculpture. Hide small objects (pennies or a small plastic animal) in the playdoh and then try to find it. Manipulate the playdoh to make pretend food. Get out a rolling pin and cookie cutters to make playdoh cookies! Make prints in the playdoh using buttons, toothpicks, popsicle sticks, small plastic animals, or sea shells.

## Water Play

Water play can be a great time to incorporate fine motor fun! Add the items below and let the fun (and muscle building) begin!

- Eye droppers
- Turkey basters
- Bath squirters
- Spray bottles
- Sponges to squeeze
- Tongs and tweezers
- Containers with lids

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# Fun Recipes to Try

## Basic Playdoh

**What you need:**
2 cups of flour, 1 cup of salt, 4 tsp. of cream of tartar, 2 cups of water, 2 Tbsp. of vegetable oil, and food coloring

**How to make it:**
Measure and mix all ingredients together in a sauce pan off the heat until all the clumps are gone. Put on the stove and set it to a medium heat. When it pulls away from the sides of the pan and forms one large ball, it is finished! Let it cool. Knead the dough and have FUN! Store the dough in an air tight bag. No need to refrigerate.

## Jello Playdoh

**What you need:**
2 cups of flour, 2 Tbsp. of salt, 2 Tbsp. of cream of tartar, 1 cup of water, 2 Tbsp. of vegetable oil, and 1 box of Jello (1.4 oz)

**How to make it:**
The same way as the basic playdoh except don't forget to add the box of Jello when you add the flour!

## Goop

**What you need:**
one part liquid starch, two parts white/clear glue, and washable markers (optional)

**How to make it:**
Add the liquid starch to the glue until the mixture becomes a workable ball. Store in a air tight container in the refrigerator. Once it is cold, play and have FUN! For added fun, let your child use the markers to color the goop as they play!
Helpful Hint: If it gets on a piece of clothing, soak the item in water. This will break up the liquid starch. Then wash in the washer as normal.