PARENT
NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2020

EARLY LITERACY AND NUMERACY SKILLS

LITERACY

Children start to learn language from the day they are born. As they grow and their brains develop, so do their speech and language skills. They learn to understand and use language to express their thoughts and feelings and to communicate with others. These milestones are important for the development of key literacy skills that will follow them throughout their lives.

Literacy is the ability to read, write, speak and listen in ways that allow us to communicate effectively in many ways to difference audiences. Reading and writing, speaking, and listening help us to make sense of the world. These skills also help us to become better critical thinkers and problem solvers in all aspects of life. In the early years and throughout their lives, children can read almost anything, from books and magazines to logos, signs, and grocery packaging. They can write and talk about the ideas and information they read, and discuss, question and reflect on things happening around them. They can also look at pictures and come up with stories about what they see.

NUMERACY

Numeracy skills are also important and help us to use math effectively to meet the demands of everyday life. Numeracy is the ability to understand, use, and communicate mathematical information and ideas to a variety of audiences. These skills are the foundation for developing logical thinking and reasoning strategies in everyday activities, including cooking, shopping, understanding time, patterns and shapes, reading receipts, reading instructions, and even playing sports.

Young children learn literacy and numeracy concepts in many ways. It is important to encourage your child to participate in a range of activities that interest them. By spending time with your child and giving them lots of encouragement and praise, you will help build their self-esteem and give them the confidence to try new things. Consider using some of these tips to build your child's literacy and numeracy skills.

Catapult Learning

Literacy

- Play word games like 'I spy' in the car or when you are out running errands together.
- Paint and draw to help your children express themselves.
- Sing songs or nursery rhymes. Your child can practice songs and rhymes through shows like Sesame Street. Shows like these prepare children for academic success.
- Read aloud to your children so they can become familiar with the sound of your voice and the tones of the language you speak as their hearing develops.
- Share stories with your child. Record or write down your child's stories and turn them into a book, animation, or slide show.
- Talk to your child about his/her experiences. Ask them to describe something they have done, seen, read or heard about.
- Talk about words your child notices. What do words look like, and what patterns, letters and sounds do they make?

Numeracy

- Read and sing numbers.
- Ask for your child's help in distributing items like snacks.
- Begin teaching your child the address and phone number of your home.
- Use an hourglass, stopwatch, or timer to time short (1–3 minute) activities.
- Point out the different shapes and colors you see during the day.
- Use a calendar to talk about the date, the day of the week, and the weather.
- Cook together. Even young children can help fill, stir, and pour.
- Do a puzzle. puzzles are a great way for children to learn about sizes, shapes and colors.
- Play with blocks to learn about size, numbers, patterns, and problem-solving.
- Sort items based on size, color, or what they do (e.g., all the cars in one pile, all the animals in another).

Think about how else you can work on literacy and numeracy skills at home with your child. Consider faming activities around their interests so they have more buy-in.

FAMILY FUN TO WELCOME THE NEW YEAR!

To welcome the New Year, consider working with your child to set some goals related to their literacy and numeracy skills (e.g., this year, I want to learn multiplication tables). Consider developing a schedule outlining how they will accomplish their goals.

21ST CENTURY SKILLS
PERSISTENCE

In this issue, we are going to discuss ***persistence***. Persistence, sometimes known as grit, is about working tirelessly toward challenges and maintaining effort and interest despite failure and obstacles. A persistent individual tends to be passionate, disciplined, and consistent in their practice. You can teach your child to reflect on their persistence through discussions, writing or journaling, or through the arts (e.g., drawings, photos, or videos about examples of what persistence might look like).

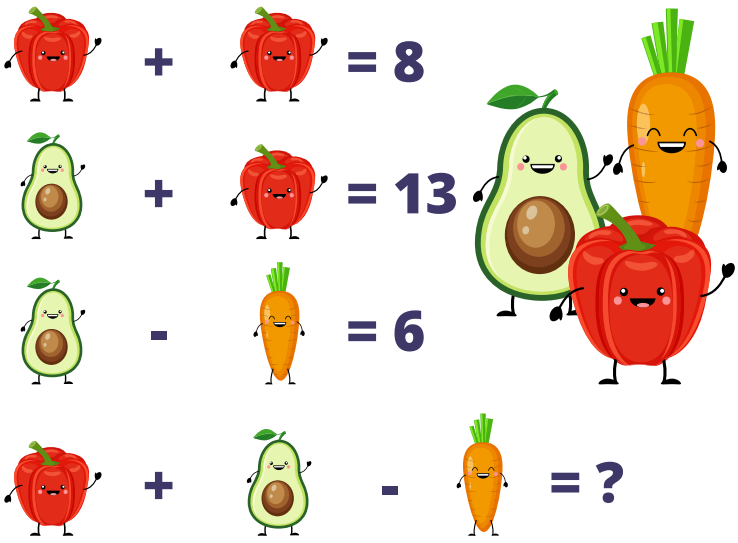
TECH TALK

Websites, applications, and other technologies can help improve a child's ability to build persistence. Some of the best tech tools include:

Any.do **(https://learningworksforkids.com/apps/any-do/)** is a user-friendly app that allows kids to easily add, update, and see scheduled tasks and responsibilities. Parents might find it most helpful to create folders for their children to add tasks to.

Seene **(https://learningworksforkids.com/apps/sceene/)** lets users take multiple photos of a subject in order to create a 3-D image. The app helps kids see the fun in breaking down a larger goal into individual steps.

BRAIN TEASER: NUMBER PUZZLE



ANSWER 4 + 4 = 8; 9 + 4 = 13; 9 - 3 = 6; 4 + 9 - 3 = 10

Catapult Learning