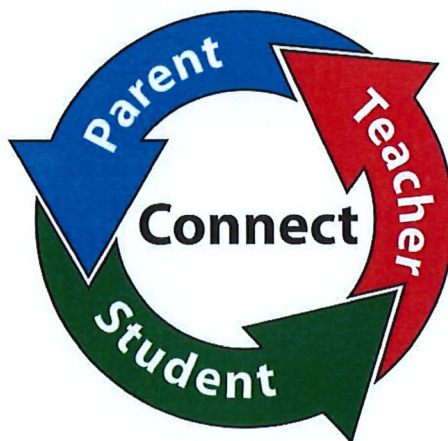




**Leithfield
School**

Learning Conferences

Ideas to support
“Help from Home”
contributions



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT FROM HOME READING

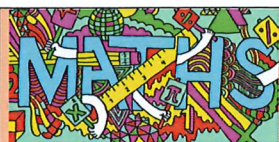
Children don't learn to read so they can read a book – they learn to read by reading books. If you want to get better at something, you must keep practising! Time spent sharing the books that children take home will make a big difference to their reading.

- o Read with your child a little bit each day, encourage them to read with you and on their own.
- o Read your child's book so that you can talk to them about their reading. Every child up to Year 5 will have a reader or a school library book every night. Year 5-8 children are expected to have a book at home from the school library that they can read every night also.
- o Take your child to the library – look for 'Top 100' best seller lists in bookshops to find popular books and authors.
- o Encourage your child to read the newspaper or online sources to find information for you.
- o Encourage your child to read information around them e.g. signs, recipes, manuals.
- o Seize opportunities. If your child gets excited about a topic, find books about it all together.
- o Set up a reading area in your home.
- o Have a book shelf and keep books that interest your child in places where they can easily reach them. As they become better readers, add harder books to your collection.
- o Ask your child to describe events in their lives. Talking about their experiences makes children think about them. Giving detailed descriptions and telling complete stories also helps children learn about how stories are written and what the stories they read mean.
- o Restrict the amount and kind of TV or device time at home. An idea is to have a electronics free day/s. Let your child choose the time.
- o Watch educational TV programs, YouTube clips, internet information with your children.
- o Use words at home, talk about things you do, see, attend and ask your child to talk about their ideas. Encourage their IDEAS.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT FROM HOME WRITING

Writing is about language. Oral language is the key to writing.

- Use words at home, talk about things you do, see, attend and ask your child to talk about their ideas. Encourage their IDEAS.
- Ask your child questions and to describe things you see and do and places you visit.
- Praise your child when they sit down and write on their own accord.
- Encourage your child to do any of the below on their own or together WITH YOU ...using either a pencil/pen and paper or a device...
 - Keep a diary or blog
 - Watch the news and read the local newspaper
 - Write a dinner menu
 - Make lists of jobs, groceries or packing for a trip
 - Write letters to grandparents or other family members
 - Make a book about milestones in their life. From birth until now. A type of scrapbook
 - Have a small booklet and make own dictionary. Draw images and write own descriptions of things
 - Email friends with jokes, facts and snippets off the internet
 - Make and write cards to friends and family
 - Reflect on weekends e.g. on a Sunday with an activity called 5.1.5. Think of 5 things they did at the weekend. Cross out 4 things. Take the left over thing and add 5 words related to that thing. Any words at all
 - Write words down that have the same sound as other words
 - Write a mini book review on books read at home
 - Write poems
 - Write themselves a school report – or – write one for a family member
 - Write a list of questions they want to know the answer of and then set out to answer them using the internet, books and encyclopedias
 - Write anything they like using different mediums; paint, chalk, pencil etc
 - Write a letter to the author of their favorite character in a certain book
- You could have a little desk and 'writing' corner at home.
- Talk about books you read, or your child reads at home or at school.
- Play word games such as Junior Scrabble, Boggle, Hangman or 'I spy', word puzzles.
- Help your child do their homework or look words up in a dictionary.
- Help your child use a computer spell checker to edit their writing.
- Have a supply of writing materials (pens, pencils, paper etc) - talk to your child's teacher if you would like supplies provided.



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT FROM HOME MATHEMATICS

Visit - nzmaths.co.nz - Families and Whānau for some more ideas

Number Sense is critical and can be developed in many ways as noted below.

NUMBER KNOWLEDGE and basic facts fluency will help your child's ability to work with STRATEGIES and more difficult concepts. However while instant recall is important, they need to understand **how it works** and be encouraged to look for **patterns**

E.g. $4 \times 5 = 20$. They need to understand that this is 4 groups of 5 or in $6+3+4+7$ the pattern might be $6+4+7+3$ - Ten facts pattern.

Using Maths in everyday situations e.g. shapes, space, temperatures, fractions, money, area, weight, clocks, days of the week, months, calendars, rate and speed, sports scores and travel distances will develop a purpose for using mathematical ideas and further extend understanding, access and engagement.

- o Practice/apply basic facts regularly.
- o Estimate things all the time: Money, length, numbers of things, shapes, timing. E.g. "Around about how many ..."
- o Handle real money and engage your child in saving money/budgeting
- o Play counting games when travelling.
- o Look for patterns in things.
- o Use metrics - centimetres, metres, litres, kilograms etc.
- o Play cards and board games with your child.
- o Apply fractions, decimals and percentages in real life - "Is the Ipad fully charged? How do you know?"
- o Help teach and practice patterns with your child. E.g. $4 \times 5 = 20$, so therefore $5 \times 5 = 25$ - adding 5 more
- o Help make connections with your child. E.g. 19×4 : (19 groups of 4) could be thought of as 20×4 (20 groups of 4 - 4.)
- o What shapes make up our environment? Look in your pantry - What do you notice the most common shapes are? Why might this be?
- o Ask questions such as:
 - What if ...? How many...? What do you think...? Why?
 - Is there another way to...? Tell me how you...?
 - What have you tried...? What do you know about...?
 - Just suppose it was...? How did you start...?
 - What comes next...? How many is it to...?
- o If your child says they don't know ask them - "What do you know?" Be a positive role model by responding to questions with "I don't know the answer yet, but let's work it out together" or "Google it"
- o Show an interest by asking open-ended questions. Instead of asking "How was school today?" Try "Tell me what you did at school today". Focus on learning instead of asking "What did you do in Maths today?" Try "What did you learn in Maths today?"
- o Give praise for your child being able to verbalise several methods for solving the same problem and talk about which ways are smarter than others. Share with them the way YOU solve Maths problems and let them share THEIR ways with you.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT FROM HOME

R.I.S.E

RESPECT

- Teach and reinforce manners – “Please”, “Thank You”, waiting at doorways for people to go through.
- Demonstrate and discuss using kind words – speaking kindly to others
- Taking care of personal belongings – routines for schoolbags, lunchboxes, clothes etc before/after school.
- Demonstrating and acknowledging Fair Play.
- Learning to WAIT – for someone to finish speaking / for someone to finish their task.
- Talk about good/bad touching and personal space.
- Point out examples of respectful behavior and name it specifically.

INVOLVEMENT

- Encourage children to take part in activities inside and outside of school.
- Ensure they honour their commitments once made. Share with them when dilemmas about conflicts of commitments occur.
- Have regular family / friends activities – getting out and about, go to park, bike rides, walks, use pool etc.
- Find a project to get involved in as a family.

SELF-MANAGEMENT

- Have shared expectations – e.g. Keep room tidy.
- Let children take responsibility for managing before and after school routines.
- Ensure notices are moved efficiently between home & school.
- Have home “jobs” to be done to contribute to family life.
- Have individual or family timetables visible and model them being used.

EXCELLENCE

- Establish routines for home learning
- Have regular jobs with rewards for ‘a job well done’
- Talk about and share successes – all family members/ all endeavours
- Have a “Brag Wall” or “Brag Book” where achievements are recognized
- Encourage phone calls, letters to grandparents / friends to celebrate successes.

Some possible questions for parents to ask at the conference....

- What are you most proud of about this work?
- Can you show me an example of how you learnt that?
- Why do you think this is your next learning step? How do you know?
- How do you think we could help you at home?
- What do you do if you can't do something or find something hard to do in class?
- What have you learnt through doing this work?
- Are you a 'learner' in your class? How do you show that?
- What does your teacher do that helps you to learn? What could he/she do more of to help you, do you think?
- How do you celebrate your learning achievements in your class?

