**English Language Practice at Home**

**Developing Oral Language at Home**

* Encourage talking – every interaction at home or as they study any school topic, is an opportunity for your child you practice speaking language. Parents can ask questions, give prompts and be patient as their student develops their oral language.
* Be patient. Sometimes, your child may not have the correct vocabulary or struggles with pronunciation and will require a little more time to speak new vocabulary.
* When students speak, remind them to speak clearly and not mumble. Clear sound is an important skill to develop for communication.
* Ensure that your students are listening to you as well by using clearly pronounced speech.
* Incorporate a question a day to encourage your child to talk. Questions should be appropriate to the age of the student and their interest. Topics can include activities they are involved at home or online.

**Developing Reading Skills at Home**

Have students read books, magazines, comics, their school work, etc. Students should read at least 30 minutes a day. Students can:

* Read aloud to you, their siblings or friends.
* Read aloud in front of a mirror so they can see how their mouth pronounces words.
* Read into a device such as their cell phone or the computer and play it back so they can hear what they just read.
* Read instructions to assignments and explain what they have to do.
* Read computer-generated books.
* Retell the story in their own words.
* Read a storybook and then explain what they would have done if they were the main character.

**Developing Writing Skills at Home**

Students should be encouraged daily on a variety of topics. They may look up vocabulary and grammar rules online as they are writing. They can:

* Write daily, on paper or on a device.
* Students can write an explanation of what they have read.
* Write a response to an article in the newspaper or an online story.
* Write they are thinking or what they are doing as a tweet or an email.
* Write a poem or a song based on something they like or have read.
* Describe an event on a photograph from your home country.
* Write instructions that gives step-by-step procedures, such as how to cook their favourite dish.
* Keep a daily journal of things they are thinking, experiencing, or doing.
* Draw a diagram indicating what they want to share.
* Write an ad or a TV commercial promoting a product or an event.

**Suggestions for Fun, Meaningful, and Generally Tech-Free Learning Opportunities**

[Source: Kim Jones McClelland, teacher](https://www.facebook.com/GiftedatMarshallElementary/)

Now that many schools are closed, here are some suggestions for fun, meaningful, and generally tech-free learning opportunities (especially for elementary schoolers):

* Interview a family member.
* Measure the area and perimeter of each room in your home.
* Graph the types of birds that frequent your yard or windows.
* Be completely silent for 60 minutes, then write about the experience.
* Write and mail a [real] letter to your teacher or principal or classroom penpal. Address the envelope yourself.
* Build a "fable fort" out of blankets and chairs. Camp in it all day while you create stories to tell your family over dinner.
* Learn morse code and use it to communicate with your siblings through walls and floors.
* Alphabetize the spices in your kitchen.
* Stay up late and stargaze.
* Call a grandparent or older relative. Ask them to teach you the words to a song from their childhood days.
* Using household materials, build a working rain gauge, barometer, and wind vane.
* Determine and chart the times that different liquids require to turn solid in the freezer.
* Design and build puppets that perform a show about multiplication.
* Construct a family tree.
* Learn ten new big words. Write them in marker on your bathroom mirror.
* Draw a map of your home.
* Sit silently for 15 minutes while you write down every sound you hear. When you are done, classify the sounds (high/low pitch, high/low volume, manmade v. naturally occurring, etc.).
* Create a Venn Diagram that compares and contrasts two people in your family, your neighborhood, or your church, mosque, or temple.
* Learn, practice, and perform a magic trick.
* Learn, practice, and tell three new jokes.
* Use household materials to make and play stringed, percussion, and wind instruments.
* Learn to shine a pair of shoes.
* Collect leaves from ten different (non-harmful) plants. Sort them by size, color, and texture.
* Put your favorite book, toy, and keepsake on a small table in sunlight. Draw or paint a full color still life.
* Find, pick, and dissect a flower.
* If you have stairs, walk up and count them. Walk down and count by twos. Walk up and count by threes. Continue through tens.
* Determine the volumes of ten containers, them display them in order on your porch.
* Write a poem on your sidewalk using chalk.
* Classify twenty everyday objects by shape, size, color, height, mass, and material.
* Measure the length of your bed using five different nonstandard units.
* Call a person who speaks a language you do not. Ask them to teach you five common words or phrases.
* Create and use a secret code.
* Using one type of paper (constant), build three different paper airplanes (independent variable) and test to see how far they fly (dependent variable).
* Set a clock three hours and seven minutes ahead. Whenever someone needs to know the time, help them figure it out by subtracting.
* Write down every adjective you say for one full day.
* Learn three new jokes. Tell them to an aunt or uncle.
* Design a map of every state ever visited by people in your family.
* Write or tell a story titled "What if humans had to leave the Earth and no one remembered to turn off the last robot?"
* Find ten rocks smaller than a dime.
* Using paper, tape, and string, design, build, and test a device that warns you when someone opens the kitchen cabinet.
* Imagine, create, and fly a full size flag that tells the world about you.

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