

Fifth Grade Tips

Language Arts Tips

- The next time your child writes a report or an essay, have him read it aloud to you. If he stumbles a lot, it may mean he must do more editing to smooth it out. Once it's smooth, ask him to read it aloud to you like he was conversing.
- Introduce your child to and encourage her to use a variety of reference materials: atlas, world almanac, books, dictionary, thesaurus, encyclopedias, etc.
- Ask your child to read to you a favorite part of a book he's just read. Discuss with him about why it appeals to him.
- Talk with your child about daily events. Use the newspaper for items of interest. Ask her how it affects her. Listen closely.
- Talk with your child about her past. Have her tell you about her life up to now. Use family photos to help jog memories. Tell her about your past. Encourage her to ask you questions.
- Ask your child his plans for the future - whether next week, month, or year. Listen closely without judging.
- Every so often, use a "hard" word when talking with your child. Look it up and discuss its meaning.
- Have your child keep a list of new words she's learned. Ask her to listen for new words as people talk. Have her find new words in books, newspapers, magazines, etc. Discuss the meaning of the words and have her add them to the list. Ask her to name other words like this.
- Ask your child to try to use his new word in his writing and speaking at home.
- Take every opportunity to show your child the various kinds of writing: to entertain, convince, teach, sell, explain, notes, express emotions, etc. Ask your child to compare the ideas of different authors. Is one more interested in history than the other? Children's issues? Geography?

Math Tips

- Help your child learn time management using math. Have him estimate how long it takes to do tasks. Use a clock to time each one. See what part of a job can be done ahead. Discuss how the use or misuse of time by the child affects the family. Have him make a monthly calendar for himself to include morning activities, school, homework, after school, evening, and weekend plans.
- Bring math concepts into your conversations as often as possible: cost of a gallon of gasoline, two for the price of one sales, miles driven, loaves of bread eaten in a month, loads of laundry in a month and the amount of soap used, etc.
- Discuss the math concepts behind the news: the prime rate of interest, the Dow-Jones average, rising population figures, numbers of barrels of crude oil in a recent oil spill, etc.
- Give your child the challenge of finding the best price for jeans (or shoes, cars, etc). But is it really cheaper if you have to drive 25 more miles to the store? Have him look at it from all angles.
- Is your child interested in sports? Have her follow the sports statistics in the newspaper of her favorite player or team. Ask her to explain the figures to you. What do they mean? How do they compute them? How can a player improve his stats? What are percentages? Etc.
- Use the newspaper weather section to check temperatures around the nation and the world. Ask him to keep a graph of the temperatures in various areas of the world, especially northern and southern hemispheres. Discuss your child's findings with him.
- Point out the need for math skills on trips. At the gas station, ask her how much gas you needed and the cost per gallon. Refer to speed limit signs, "Miles to go" signs, etc. Ask her to read the speedometer and odometer. Ask her to estimate distances between stops; then check the odometer for accuracy. At the end, ask her to calculate how much the gas cost (using car's miles per gallon, cost of gallon of gas and miles driven). How could you have driven less and saved money? What would you have saved then?
- At the supermarket, ask your child to keep an on-going cost list. (How much are we up to now? How much do we have left to spend?)

West Contra Costa Unified School District



Student Standards for Fifth Grade

The West Contra Costa Unified School District, in partnership with families, staff, students, and the community, develops educational programs to meet the needs of all students.

This brochure is designed to introduce families and caregivers to the WCCUSD Standards in Language Arts and Mathematics. These grade-level standards were adopted by the school board during the 1998-99 school year. Students are assessed every year to monitor their progress in meeting these standards.

Our school district is committed to working with families to assure student mastery of these mandated standards.

Board of Education

Karen Leong Fenton
George Harris III
Patricia Player
Glen Price
Charles Ramsey

Fifth Grade Language Arts

Standard 1 - Reading: Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development

Students use their knowledge of word origins and relationships, with historical and literary context clues, to determine the meaning of specialized vocabulary and to understand the precise meaning of grade-level-appropriate words.

- Word Recognition
- Vocabulary and Concept Development

Standard 2 - Reading: Comprehension

(Focus on Informational Materials)

Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They describe and connect the essential ideas, arguments, and perspectives of text. They relate text structure, organization, and purpose.

- Structural Features of Information Materials
- Comprehension and Analysis of Grade Level Text
- Evaluation of Style

Standard 3 - Literary Response and Analysis

Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of world literature. They clarify the ideas and connect them to other literary works.

- Structural Features of Literature
- Narrative Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text
- Literary Criticism

Standard 4 - Writing Strategies

Students write clear, coherent, and focused essays. Writing exhibits awareness of both the reader and purpose. Essays contain formal introductions, bodies of supporting evidence, and conclusions. Students successfully use the stages of the writing process as needed.

- Organization and Focus
- Research and Technology
- Revising and Evaluating Writing

Standard 5 - Writing Applications

(Different Types and Their Characteristics)

Students write narrative, expository, persuasive, and descriptive text of at least 500 to 700 words. Student writing uses standard English and research, organizational, and drafting strategies.

Standard 6 - Written and Oral English Language Conventions

Students write and speak using Standard English appropriate for each grade level.

- Sentence structure
- Grammar
- Punctuation
- Capitalization
- Spelling

Standard 7 - Listening and Speaking Strategies

Students deliver focused, coherent presentations that convey ideas clearly and relate to the background and interests of the audience.

They evaluate the content of oral communication.

- Comprehension
- Organization and Delivery of Oral Communication
- Analysis and Evaluation of Oral and Media Communications (t.v. news/ads)

Standard 8 - Speaking Applications

(Different Types and Their Characteristics)

Students deliver well-organized formal presentations employing traditional rhetorical strategies (i.e., narration, exposition, persuasion, and description). Student's speaking uses standard English, organization and delivery strategies.

Students listen and respond to oral communications. They speak in clear and coherent sentences.

Fifth Grade Mathematics

Number Sense

- Students compute with very large and very small numbers, positive and negative numbers, decimals and fractions and understand the relationship between decimals, fractions and percents. They understand the relative magnitudes of numbers.
- Students identify positive & negative integers (ex...-2,-1,0,1,2...) decimals, fractions & mixed numbers on a number line.
- Students perform calculations and solve problems involving addition, subtraction and simple multiplication and division of fractions and decimals.

Algebra and Functions

- Students use variables in simple expressions, compute the value of the expression for specific values of the variable, and plot and interpret the results.
- Students use a letter to represent an unknown (evaluate simple expressions by substitution e.g. if $X=3$ evaluate $X+9$).

Measurement and Geometry

- Students understand and compute volumes and areas of simple objects.
- Students find the area of right triangles and parallelograms.
- Students understand the difference between perimeter, area, volume.
- Students identify, describe, draw and classify properties of, and relationships between, plane (2-dimensional) and solid (3-dimensional) geometric figures.

Statistics, Data Analysis and Probability

- Students display, analyze, compare and interpret different data sets, including data sets that are not the same size.

Mathematical Reasoning

- Students make decisions about how to approach problems.
- Students use strategies, skills and concepts in finding solutions.
- Students move beyond a particular problem by generalizing to other situations.