



## Supporting Your Child at Home

Regular reading at home is one of the best ways for your child to improve their comprehension and expand their vocabulary. Even if you don't speak French, there are still a lot of ways you can support your child at home!

**Expectations:** Reading 60 minutes at home each week (we will gradually build up to this over the next few weeks). Please remember to have students log their reading minutes in their agenda each night.

### Reading tips:

- Make reading a part of their **nightly routine**. Reading for 10 - 15 minutes is a great way to help children settle and relax before going to bed.
- Have your child **read aloud**, even if it's just to the dog or a stuffed animal! This will help them improve their fluency and ability to self-correct.
- **Re-read books** more than once. Especially in a second language, children need to practice new vocabulary to become fluent readers.
- Encourage them to use the pictures to assist with comprehension. Doing a **picture walk** (flipping through the book) and asking your child to make a prediction about the story will help to activate any prior knowledge they may have so that they can better decode new vocabulary they encounter.
- Ask them to **re-tell** the story when they have finished reading to check for comprehension. Key elements such as **who** the story is about, **where/when** it takes place, what the **problem** is and the end **solution** should be included. We will be working lots on practicing re-tell in class this year!
- Get your child to identify parts they did not understand or found confusing. Encourage them to re-read and use what they already know to **clarify**. If they still do not understand, using a French-English dictionary to look up key words (not everything!) may be helpful.
- If your child seems to be having a lot of difficulty with re-tell, they are most likely bringing home books that are too hard for them. We will be discussing how to choose a '**just right**' books in class, but if they still seem to be having difficulty please let me know and I can help them pick out something appropriate.

# Math at home

It is crucial that students have the opportunity to understand and apply what they have learned in the classroom in authentic situations. As a result, I strongly encourage parents to explore different ways to use math at home. There are many real-life applications such as: estimating at the grocery store/restaurant, creating a budget for allowance or using fractions when baking/cooking.

## Math tips:

- When practicing math facts, have students say the **full equation** rather than just the answer (ex: say “ $7 + 5$  is 12” rather than simply saying “12”). Educational research has shown that children better automatize math facts when the whole equation is repeated.
- **Dreambox:** This is a great website to challenge your child and help stretch their mathematical thinking. The game-based environment makes it engaging for students and fun to play! As they play, the software collects student data and adapts activities to meet their individual needs. Dreambox can be accessed online through a web browser or via the Dreambox Learning app on Apple devices.
  - <https://play.dreambox.com/login/uj4b/parkses>
- **Xtramath.org:** Great for practicing basic math facts! The better your child is able to master the basic math facts, the more comfortable they will be when it comes to dealing with more complex algorithms.

**Math Card Games:** For these fun and competitive games, all you need is a deck of cards and some eager competitors! The games can easily be modified to focus on addition, subtraction or multiplication depending on what you feel your child needs.

- **WAR:** Split the deck of cards between two people. Both players simultaneously flip a card from their pile. The first player to add, subtract or multiply the cards and say the correct answer wins the round!
- **Salute:** This game is played with three players. One player acts as ‘referee’ and holds the deck of cards. The referee hands the other two players a card, and they place it on their forehead without looking. The referee either adds or multiplies the cards and gives the sum/product. The other players must then try to use their knowledge of addition/multiplication facts to figure out their card number. The first player to correctly determine their card wins the round and now acts as referee.