

Working *with* the Common Core State Standards "Shifts"

What Parents Can Do to Help their Children Learn

The Common Core State Standards ask teachers to make 12 major “shifts” or (changes) in their classrooms – six shifts in English language arts and six shifts in Mathematics. These changes may be tough at first as students and teachers adjust to higher expectations. As a parent, you can help and learn more by talking with your child about what they are learning. Ask open-ended questions about what they learned in school each day, read their homework and attend school events to learn about what their teachers expect.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERACY – EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS AND IDEAS FOR PARENTS

What is the Shift?	What will students have to do?	What can parents do to help?
Read as much fiction as non-fiction	Read more non-fiction; Understand how non-fiction is written and put together; Enjoy and discuss the details of non-fiction	Supply more non-fiction texts; Read non-fiction books aloud or with your child; Have fun with non-fiction in front of your child
Learn about the world by reading	Learn more about science and social studies through reading; Use “primary source” documents; Get smarter through the use of texts	Supply series of texts on topics that interest your child; Find books that explain how things work and why; Discuss non-fiction texts and their ideas
Read more challenging material	Re-read until they understand; Read books both at and above their comfort level; Handle frustration; Keep pushing to improve – BUILD STAMINA!	Know what is grade level appropriate; Provide challenging texts as well as books they can read easily; Read challenging books with your child; Show that challenging books are worth reading
Talk about reading using evidence	Find evidence to support their arguments; Form judgments and opinions; Discuss what the author is thinking; Make predictions about what will happen next	Talk about texts; Demand evidence in everyday discussions and disagreements; Read aloud or read the same book as your child and discuss; Discuss predictions
Write about text using evidence	Make arguments in writing using evidence; Compare multiple texts in writing; Learn to write well	Encourage writing at home; Write “books” together using evidence and detail; Review samples of exemplar student writing
Know more vocabulary words	Learn the words they will need to use in college and career	Read often and constantly; Read multiple books on the same topic; Talk, read, listen, sing, and make up rhymes/word games