

The Home and School Connection

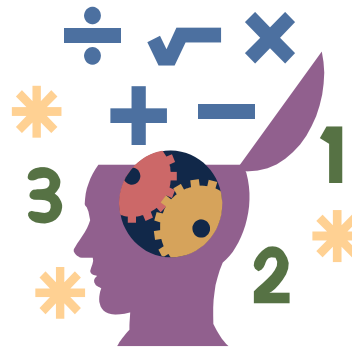
“When parents are involved in their children’s education at home, they do better in school. And when parents are involved in school, children go farther in school—and the schools they go to are better.”

--*A New Generation of Evidence: The Family is Critical to Student Achievement.* A.T. Henderson and N. Berla. Washington, D.C.: National Committee for Citizens in Education

Education is a partnership. Our children benefit from a home and school connection. That’s why many parents join local parent-teacher organizations and attend back-to-school open houses. They also volunteer for field trips or special projects that bring them to school for celebrations, career days, or teacher conferences.

We encourage you to become directly involved with your child’s education. Your input does make a difference. Here are some helpful tips:

- Seek advice from your child’s teacher on helping your child study for tests.
- Check your child’s homework every night.
- Limit TV viewing on school nights.
- Stay informed about what is going on at your child’s school.
- Respond to communications from your child’s teachers to build a link between home and school.



Math Terms for ALL Ages!

Math terminology can be confusing for all ages. Here is a quick review for parents and students alike.

If you see...	Then you must...
More than, combined, added to, total, sum, altogether	Add
Minus, less, less than, difference, fewer than	Subtract
Times, product, multiplied by, in all	Multiply
Per, out of, quotient, average, divide equally	Divide
If you see...	Then it means...
Same as, means the same, equivalent to	Equals



The Keys to Remembering What You Read

Learning is an active process, not a spectator sport. It requires energy and most important of all, concentration. For many students, focus is not a problem when they are reading about subjects they enjoy. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. In the course of their studies, students have to plow through a good deal of material they find dense and boring. And this is when taking the time to take good notes while reading becomes so useful in enhancing learning.

Note taking works on a number of levels. It heightens attention by forcing students to actively engage with the material they are reading. Just as importantly, it encourages students to put the material into their own words and into some meaningful order. This simple task improves comprehension because the student must summarize the information just read. Reiterating and condensing text is one of the very best ways to understand and remember.

There are a number of methods for taking notes while reading. The most basic involves margin notes and "self-talk," a technique in which the reader questions himself about what he's reading. You can coach your child to use this strategy by saying, "After you read a page in your novel (or a section in your textbook), ask yourself, 'What did I just read?' or 'What is the main idea here?'" "Answers should be briefly recorded in the page margin. If writing in the textbook is not an option, your child can use Post-it notes.

Use selective highlighting

Another effective way to improve comprehension is selective highlighting. Teach your child to read first and then go back to selectively highlight only the essential terms, phrases, or dates AFTER he or she has read the section or passage.

Consider purchasing highlighting tape when marking in the school-issued text isn't an option. Now, in order to prepare for an upcoming test, your child can review what's been "highlighted" with tape and remove it as he masters the materials. Both highlighting and margin notes are effective as stand-alone strategies, but even more powerful when used together.

Two-column notes

To set up columned notes the student divides or folds the paper into two sections, labeling the left section column "key words" and the right section column "notes." On the left the student records the main idea, and on the right he jots down an explanation using short phrases.

This note taking method helps children to be more independent learners. Your child can fold his paper vertically on the line between the keywords and notes so that he can quiz himself and not rely on someone else to assist with studying.

Older students can take this method one step further. Instead of simply recording a key word or concept, they write the chapter subheadings in their text books as a question. For example, if the heading is "Good Nutrition and Dietary Choices promote Good Health the student would jot down "How does good nutrition and dietary choices promote good health?" They then add details in the right column that answer the question. Finished Product - the student now has a ready-made study guide!

To get an added bonus, studies show that if students summarize their notes within 24 hours of initially recording them, they're more likely to remember the information for a test.

Three-column notes

Three-column notes are highly effective for younger students and visual or tactile learners. In addition to the first two-columns, a third section for a drawing is added. By drawing a picture of the concept or term, children are hooking a concrete visual image to the information they need to remember. This is one powerful strategy!

Regardless of the note-taking method used, many students are under the impression that "less is more". While being succinct is important, the fact is that the more notes students take, the more information they will be able to recall later. In this particular case, "more is more!"

Excerpted from LD Online:

<http://www.ldonline.org/article/39886>