

April Tips for Language and Literacy Skills

Courtesy of the GECSB Speech and Language Department



Oral Language

- The Value of Speaking and Writing in full sentences. Tips for Home:
 - In a world of fast paced technology the value of complex oral language had diminished. Your child's ability to orally answer questions and answer questions when writing in full complete sentences is important. Here are some tips for home:
 - Ask questions about their day at school, a trip to a friend's house etc. and expect a full sentence answer. Model full sentence answers yourself (i.e., What did you do at your friend's house? "Jumped on a trampoline and ate pizza." Model "When I was at my friend's house we jumped on a trampoline and for dinner we ate pizza.")
 - Work on this skill when writing at home too. Ask questions and expect answers in full sentences. Model this for them when they have trouble.

Reading

- Reading at home can make a HUGE difference!
 - Choose books that are at an appropriate level
 - Five finger rule – read a book with your child, if they make more than five mistakes on one page, it is too difficult, try a lower reading level
 - Make reading a part of your family time
 - Read at bedtime, make a cozy reading area, visit the library, read and make your grocery list
 - Aim to read 20 minutes every night
 - Research shows 20 minutes a night can improve reading skills
 - Check for understanding
 - Start by making a prediction before you read the book, ask questions and comment while reading, then after retell the story, and talk about what you liked about the story
 - Read books online
 - Go to raz kids (ask your child's teacher), www.starfall.com, www.wegivebooks.org, www.speakaboos.com

Writing

- Have fun writing down answers to silly questions related to the month of April
- Sample Questions:
 - Does your family do an Easter egg hunt? Describe it or another family tradition you have.
 - The raindrops fell so hard on my roof that....
 - Describe your favourite rainy day activity.
 - What are your favourite things to do outside in the spring?
 - I jumped into a puddle so big that....