Reading

Your child will bring home a book each day. This book will be easier than the ones he/she is reading during class time. This is so reading doesn't become a chore. Make it as relaxed and enjoyable as you can. Here are some tips for successful reading.

- Do a ‘picture walk’ first before reading. This means look through the book first, talking about things in the pictures. This keeps the necessary vocabulary fresh in their memory.
- Students ask themselves 3 main questions: Does it make sense? Does it sound right? Does it look right?
- Does it make sense? Encourage your child to look at the pictures for clues and information. PLEASE DON'T COVER THEM. You might ask “Can you see something in the picture to help you?” “What is happening in the story?”
- Does it sound right? This prompt encourages your child to make use of their knowledge of how language works. You might ask “How would you say it?” “Can we say it that way?” “Try again and think what would come next”.
- Does it look right? This prompt encourages the child to focus on the way the word looks. You might ask “You said 'cat'. Does that look right?” “What sound can you see at the beginning? End?”
- If they are too tired to read, you can read to them or alternate pages, you read one, they read one.

Magic Words

Your child has also been given a set of 'magic words' (frequently used words). Put them on flashcards and practise reading them regularly through games like memory or fish. Once your child knows all the words, they will be tested and given a new set to learn. Recognising these high frequency words really helps the students with their reading.
Encourage your child to count things around the home, play board games and handle money. Ask them to help you find specials in catalogues. Cooking is also an enjoyable way to apply everyday maths.

A maths suitcase will go home later in the year for your child to explore. It is full of mathematical objects and games and every student is able to take it home for a few days. They record what they liked playing with in a book and report back to the rest of the class.

If you have any more questions about how you can help your child at home please don’t hesitate to ask.

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