



# Simple ideas to use at home with your child! 😊

## Reading Ideas

- Rhyming Words - “Can you think of any words that rhyme with ‘hat’, ‘pet’, ‘stay’, ‘brick’?” Made up words are fine too. Children are tested on non-sense words. Ex: t-o-g, b-a-v, w-u-m, ch-a-z, etc.
- Give your child a word and see if they can give you the sounds they hear in the word. “What sounds do you hear in ‘play’?” They should answer, “p-l-ay”. “What sounds do you hear in ‘school’?” They should answer, “s-c-oo-l”. “Sounds in ‘circle’?” s-ir-c-l
- In the same way you can ask your child what word you are making. Give them the sounds you hear in a word and have them guess the word? “What word is this? ch-a-r (chair), What word is this? f-i-r (fire), What word is this? g-l-a-s (glass).”
- Give your child a word and ask them what sound they hear at the beginning, middle and end of the word? Middle and end are harder.
- “What vowel sounds do you hear in these words? ‘net’, ‘chip’, ‘box’, ‘Pete’, ‘beach’, ‘cute’.” Make sure to use short & long vowel sounds.
- Chunks - ch, sh, wh, th, ck, mb, oa, oy, oi, oo, ea, ight, mp, ai, a-e, o-e, -y, aw, ar, or, ir, er, ur, i-e, -ing, qu, -tion, ee & more!
- Blends - bl, sl, str, cr, tr, fr, pr, pl, sk, sp, st, br, fl, dr, gl & more!

## Math Ideas

- Have your child guess a number between 0-50. Tell them if their guess is too high or too low. They REALLY struggle with this. Playing this in the car would be great practice for your child. You can start with a smaller range 0-10 or 0-20. You can even write down the number range on paper, 0-20. If they guess 15, and that is too high, I change the written range from 0-15. Then they guess again. Writing the numbers on paper is a great visual for your child.
- Have your child mentally answer simple 3-4 step math problems. “What is  $3+4$ ? (Give them time to get the answer in their head.) Take that number and add 5 more. (Again, give them time to get the answer.) Take that number and subtract/take away 2. What is the answer?”
- Have your child count by 2’s, 5’s, 10’s. Give them a starting number and ending number. “Can you count by 5’s from 20-50? By 10’s from 30-80?”
- Identify coins and their values. This isn’t covered in our first grade curriculum. Once your child knows the values, start counting small amounts of change under \$1.00.
- PRACTICE! PRACTICE! PRACTICE addition flashcards. We teach them it is fine to use their fingers or other strategies to get answers, if needed. However, if they use their fingers, they will be slower to get answers.
- Can your child see the connection between addition and subtraction facts? If they know  $4+5=9$ , then they should know  $9-5=4$ . We call these “fact families” or “related facts”.