

Summary Key & Concepts

Parent Learning Session

How do I support learning at home?

Summary: This session helps parents understand the importance of using assessment results to identify learning needs, as well as resources that help parents and teachers choose research- and evidence-based strategies that are consistent with each other to help support those learning needs.

Key Concepts:

- To effectively help children at home, it is crucial for parents to understand what academic standards are asking students to know and be able to do in each subject and grade-level. These standards guide classroom instruction and most assessments in Oregon. There are resources to help parents access and understand these standards.
 - **Common Core State Standards (CCSS)** in Language Arts and Math
<http://www.corestandards.org>
 - **The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)** in Science <https://www.nextgenscience.org>
 - On the internet, parents can use simple search terms like “CCSS for Parents” and “NGSS for Parents” to find parent-friendly, bilingual resources like:
 - **Council of Great City Schools’ Parent Roadmaps to the CCSS** — <https://www.cgcs.org>
 - **NGSS Parent Guides** — <https://www.nextgenscience.org/parentguides>
- 2.** Keeping in regular contact with teachers is important so that parents understand their child’s strengths and areas for improvement and what is being taught in the classroom. Regular communication helps parents match their support at home with the teaching strategies at school. Research-based strategies that build on students’ strengths and interests can include:
 - **Language Arts: Supporting reading in everyday activities and discussions.** Regular reading improves vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension — fundamental skills that help children access the complex learning tasks required by academic standards and that boost learning in all subjects.
 - Even small amounts of regular reading (e.g., 15 minutes per day) improves learning.
 - Access to different kinds of texts (fiction or non-fiction, magazines, graphic novels or comic books) supports learning across all grades.
 - Seeing parents read daily models and reinforces the importance of reading.
 - Family activities, like playing reading-related games, having a family book club and discussing what was read, streaming movies or going to museums or community events on the topics read, reinforce reading at home.
 - Reading in languages other than English also supports learning — improving vocabulary and fluency, while also supporting English language skill development.
 - **Mathematics: Using physical objects and illustrations to help diagram and understand math operations and solve math problems.** Strategies like this help develop strong processes for learning, in which students learn to reason and build skills for constructing and solving math problems, including in real-world contexts.