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10 Tips to Ensure Academic Success

1. Make sure your child eats a healthy breakfast and gets a good night's sleep.
2. Make learning part of your daily routine by listening to educational songs or stories in the car and playing word-guessing games in the grocery store.
3. Make homework a regularly scheduled activity. Children who get into the habit of sitting down at the same place, at the same time, develop good study habits. Even children in preschool, or those who haven't any assigned homework, benefit from sitting down to read a book without distractions at a pre-arranged time a few nights a week.
4. Encourage your child to notice written numbers and street addresses, license plates, and days on the calendar. This reinforces the fact that numbers are a part of daily life.
5. Guide your child's Internet searches. Encourage him/her to find topics of interest. Offer your own ideas, but allow your child's choice to be personal. Follow up with some questions to improve reading comprehension. This way, you can introduce more complex vocabulary and language structure.
6. Play games with your child. Pull out a box of blocks—not for building, but to discuss concepts such as area, size, space, shape and dimension.
7. New readers need to be able to break down words into individual syllables in order to begin to sound out and spell. Audio books/kits can be a big help in this area as students have fun and practice reading at the same time.
8. Motivate your child to participate in educational contests and activities. At www.SongsThatTeach.com, you will find interesting coloring contests and drawing lessons.
9. Songs are an easy way to introduce and practice counting, forwards and backwards. Try practicing together each time you climb the stairs.

Introduce your child to interactive and thematic websites. Cultivate your child's socialization and an appreciation for diversity by making same age pen pals from around the world. Corresponding and learning about other languages and cultures can be fun and interesting.

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Sara Jordan is available for an interview. Please contact media@sara-jordan.com. Sara Jordan has been a composer and educator for over 25 years. Sara Jordan Publishing has produced an impressive array of award-winning educational programs. Over 60 educational audio programs and resource books teach Math, Phonics, Health and Social Studies. Due to worldwide requests from parents and teachers alike, most of her titles are now available in English, Spanish, and French. Visit www.songsthatteach.com.

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