Listen and count

Learning together is FUN

Do the following activities with your child. They are linked to the work that he or she is already doing in class. In this way you help him or her to stay up to date with his or her learning.

**Writing and presenting: instructions**

Following instructions refers to how one listens to what is being asked and doing the actions that go with it. This is an important skill that your child needs to develop (not only for school but to use for the rest of his life).

Instructions need to be clear (say what is needed) and to the point. A good example is to refer to the President who gave us an instruction to stay at home during the COVID-19 lockdown, to protect us from any harm.

Today you and your child will learn about instructions by playing a fun game where you will be changing roles. As a parent, you pretend to be your child, and your child can play your role as a parent.

First write down a list of ten simple instructions on a page, for example, "Stamp your right foot 2 times." Then, "Stamp your left foot 3 times." "Everybody clap your hands 5 times!"

Now take turns with your child to give an instruction and to follow orders.

**Breaking down exponents**

An exponent is the number of times a number is multiplied by itself, for example, $2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$ is written like this: $2^3$. Your child learned about exponents in Grade 7. Exponents are important in maths because they allow us to make something shorter (abbreviate) that would otherwise be repetitive to write, as in the example above.

Explain to your child that if we want to say in mathematics ‘the product (x) of 5 multiplied by itself 6 times’, without using exponents, we would only be able to write that as: $5 \times 5 \times 5 \times 5 \times 5 \times 5$. We use exponents to make writing easier by saying $5^6$.

To make the lesson easier teach your child by using smaller numbers, for example the exponent for $3 \times 3 \times 3$ is $3^3 = 9$, $2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 16$ is $2^4 = 16$. Do a few examples such as these. To make this activity more fun, ask him or her to draw pictures to represent numbers. For example:

![Image of a smiley face divided into three parts]

By using pictures, your child learns and understands that we are using the same picture and multiplying it by the exponent.

---

**Parent Corner**

The focus for Grade 8 today is on listening and following instructions. In mathematics, your child will learn more about exponents (the number of times a number is multiplied by itself, for example, $2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$ is written like this: $2^3$). You and your child will need to find recyclable materials around the house to play a game.

**Book of the day**

To Build A Fire is a story that links to the theme of today which is the importance of following instructions. It is about a fight between life and death. Nature is often seen as a powerful force which should be feared and respected. The man in this story is careless and, despite having helpful information, makes silly mistakes. He takes the power of nature for granted. If the man had listened to instructions he would have been saved.

Download this book (it’s free) on your smartphone:

https://americanliterature.com/author/jack-london/short-story/to-build-a-fire

**Online Resources**

FREE online applications (Apps) recognised by the Department of Basic Education (linked to the curriculum) are available.

2Enable register here: https://www.2enable.org/

Also visit the DBE’s Cloud at: https://dbecloud.org.za

---

**Play today**

Tin-pin-bowling is a fun game that you and your child can play indoors or outdoors. To play our part to save the planet (to be ‘green’) collect any empty cans around you. Fill them with sand or stones and even decorate them for extra colour. Stack up the cans to form a pyramid.

Stand a short distance away from the tin-pyramid and use a small stone or a ball and see if you can knock them down all at once. Each player should only get 2 throws at a time.

This fun activity not only releases stress but also develops a child’s concentration and spatial skills (how far apart things are).

---

Remember to keep it PLAYFUL and FUN. That is how children learn.

---

The LEGO Foundation

---

Content based on the CAPS for this grade.