Welcome to:

HOMEWORK,
READING, and
TESTING TIPS
Homework Tips
Homework is...

- an opportunity for children to learn and for families to be involved in their children's education
- Homework helps your child do better in school!
Homework can help children

- improve learning skills
- enhance knowledge
- develop good study habits
How to Help with Homework?

- Set a Regular Time for Homework
  - first after school
  - after an hour of play
  - after dinner

- It has to be done before the bedtime!
How to Help with Homework?

- Pick a Place – a quiet corner, comfortable, with plenty of light....
  For example:
  - a desk
  - kitchen table
How to Help with Homework?

- Remove Distractions (TV, videogames, computer)

- Provide Supplies and Identify Resources (pens, pencils, notebooks, dictionaries)
How to Help...

- Set a good example (read books, newspapers, write reports, letters, teach your child how to balance the checkbook)
- Be organized at home
- Model good habits at home (children repeat everything they see and hear)
- Be available to answer their questions or help them find an answer
How to Help...

- Ask about the School’s Homework Policy (Always ask your child’s teacher about any specific rules or guidelines that your child needs to follow in order to complete the homework.)

- Help your child with time management to complete assignments at home.
Ways to help...

- Read aloud using expression
  - intonation
  - gestures
  - Enthusiasm

- Encourage conversation by asking questions about the reading
Parents can help their children to...

- Learn the alphabet!
- Practice spelling
- Label the objects at home
- Read aloud labels, boxes, and signs
Tips for Parents.

- Use a dictionary. Ask your child to find a word in the dictionary and use it in a sentence.
  
  (This is a good way to practice spelling, building new vocabulary words, improving reading skills, and spending time together)

- Visit the library with your child!
Reading and Writing Tips

O Reading is directly related to writing
O Some children memorize easily while they write
O Write notes to each other and put them on the refrigerator or on the board in the kitchen
READING TIPS
MAKE READING FUN!

- Choose short story books with big writing and colorful pictures that show happiness and excitement with topics that children like.
Activities...

- Use puzzles to stimulate your child’s brain
- Play educational games
- Read together with your children!
Assignments

- Monitor assignments
- Look over the completed assignments
  (Always check for mistakes)
Parents...

- Listen to your children while they are reading or speaking.
- Show your children how proud you are of their progress. (You have done a wonderful job!...I am so proud of you!!!!)
Parents please...

- Talk to the teachers and ESOL staff
- Ask for a meeting to discuss any homework issues
- Schedule a parent teacher conference

Your child’s teacher is always willing to help you and your child!
Important!

- Always talk to your children while you are eating or while you are sharing family moments with them. (In English and in your native language.)
Reading in your native language

Parents you can help:

- by supporting your child in his/her first language as he/she learns English. Talk with your child and read with him/her.
- encourage him/her to draw and write.
- do the reading activities with your child in your native language.
Reading activity

* Word Play

* What popular game was invented in Dec. 1929? The answer is: bingo! To celebrate bingo’s invention and give your kids a fun way to practice new vocabulary, parents please try this innovative spin-off the classic game.
TESTING TIPS
Parents keep track of how your child does.

- Carefully review report cards and test scores.
- If you notice your child struggling or a drop in grades, discuss it with your child.
Parents, if your child was struggling with school work...

would you talk to your child’s teacher about it?

- Yes
- No
Talking to your child’s teachers is a good idea.

They may be able to help or to direct you to services, such as:

- Tutoring, or
- Testing for learning disabilities.
- If your child has any special needs, teachers and the school can develop a plan to help your child reach his/her potential.
Getting a Library Card

To receive a library card and check out or download materials, you must visit the Clearwater, Largo, St. Petersburg, Pinellas Park, Dunedin, Safety Harbor, or Palm Harbor branch and present picture identification and documentation of a current Florida mailing address. Documentation may include:

- Driver's license
- Postmarked mail addressed to you
- Car registration in your name
- Copy of a current lease
Getting a Library Card

Your library card is valuable; treat it as you would your credit card. As a library cardholder you are responsible for the following:

- Returning all materials borrowed on your library card by the due date or paying late fees.
- Paying the replacement fees for library items that are lost or damaged while checked out to your account.
- Immediately reporting a lost or stolen card.
- Reporting any change of address, telephone number or e-mail address.
Give practice tests

- Help your child prepare for a spelling test by saying the words as she writes them.
- Have your child correct his/her own test as you spell each word.
Talk to your child how to take a test

- Be sure your child understands how important it is to read the instructions carefully, to keep track of the time and to avoid spending too much time on any one question.
Tips to prepare your child for a test

Your child learns English language skills every day. Here are some tips for helping your child learn more, and for helping your child on the test day.
Everyday tips for Parents

- Make sure your child attends school regularly. The more your child is in school, the more likely he or she is to do well on tests.
- Encourage your child’s efforts to learn English and every other subject he or she studies in school. A student who feels supported by his or her family will learn and do well on tests.
- Encourage your child to eat healthy foods. A child who is healthy and feels well is ready to work hard and learn in school.
- Make sure your child does his or her homework every night. Homework supports classroom learning and gives your child extra practice using the English language.
- Encourage your child to speak, read, and write in his or her heritage language. The skills needed to develop in one language will transfer to the other, resulting in increased comprehension and academic achievement in English.
- Meet with your child’s teacher often to discuss his or her progress. Parents and teachers should work together to help the student.
- Make sure your child is well-rested every day. Tired children have trouble paying attention in school and they have trouble doing well on tests.
On the test day:

- Make sure your child is rested and has a healthy breakfast.
- Make sure your child is dressed comfortably, and he or she arrives at school on time.
- If your child wears glasses or a hearing aid, make sure he or she remembers to use them during the test.
- If your child is supposed to receive any test-taking accommodations (for example, using a large-print version of the test), make sure he or she receives those accommodations.
- Finally, encourage your child to relax. Too much emphasis on test scores can make a child nervous, which makes it harder for him or her to do their best work on the test.
FOCUS

You have a previous ParentCONNECT account if you:
- Ever used ParentCONNECT to view your child's grades or attendance.
- Ever used SRS (Student Reservation System) to change any of your child's information, reserved a seat in a school, or applied for a PCS magnet or fundamental school.
- If you have forgotten your ParentCONNECT username and/or password, visit any school for assistance. (Note: you will need to provide a valid ID as listed below).

How does a parent obtain an account if they have never previously had a ParentCONNECT account?
- Visit any school to apply and bring a valid ID.

Welcome

PARENTS

to the Pinellas County Schools

SCHOOL BOARD
OF PINELLAS COUNTY

Robin L. Wilke
Carol L. Cosk
Janet A. Clark
Terry Krasner
Peggy L. O'Chia
Linda S. Lerner
Glen Ton Gilzean, Jr.

SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Michael Grego, Ed.D.

Pinellas County Schools
301 Fourth Street, SW
Largo, FL 33770
727-588-6000
Important!

- Parents please work with your children.
- Education is our best investment!
- Education is priceless!
- Your children deserve a great education!
If you can, volunteer to help in school

1. Tutor and mentor children
2. Go on field trips
3. Supervise the playground or lunchroom
4. Share hobbies and talents with the class
5. Help with the Parents Bulletin Board or a Family Resource Library at the school
6. Plan and conduct a Family Reading Night
7. Collect and donate materials for projects
8. Make welcome signs
9. Ask the teacher for any projects that you could do at home
10. Offer to translate
Tell Me More is English language learning software that helps its participants to improve Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing English skills. The program includes the opportunity to hear, self-record and practice the pronunciation of words from lessons and activities. It is free for Pinellas ELL families.

To start:

2. Enter:
   - ID: Pinellas
   - Password: Pinellas
3. Click on “Launch Tell Me More”
4. As a new user, create a free account:
   - Click on “Click Here”
   - Enter First and Last Name, email address, and home language
   - Create User ID and Password
   - Click on “Create My Account”
5. Enter your User ID and Password
6. Click on “Validate”
7. Select “Language” to learn and click OK
8. Choose a lesson level from the Training menu.

Note:
- To change the Interface Language, go to Preferences
- To change Lesson Levels, go to Training
- To learn about other available resources, go to Resources
Tell Me More

- English language learning software
- Several users can use this software (mom, dad, brother, sister, etc.)
Tell Me More: How to Use It
Tell Me More: How to Use It

Select the initial level to start working on the course or take the assessment to determine the level you should work on.
Tell Me More: change lessons

Lesson in Progress
Introductions 1 [change lessons]
0 % Complete
Time Remaining: approx. 1h 06m
Level 1 - Complete Beginner [change levels]

Skills Practiced
- Writing (0.00%)
- Speaking (0.00%)
- Reading (0.00%)
- Listening (100.00%)

Weekly Report
Time spent this week: 0h 32m

Guided Tour
Discover TELL ME MORE
Tell Me More: How to Use It

You can change the program instructions to another language by clicking “preferences”.

Preferences
Tell Me More: How to Use It

- Scroll down to modify the language of instruction and click apply
Tell Me More: Points to Remember

- Click on “home” to go to the main page. This will give you the opportunity to select a level that you want to work on.
Tell Me More: Points to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson List</th>
<th>Time Remaining</th>
<th>Completed</th>
<th>Correct</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introductions 1</td>
<td>1h 05m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introductions 2</td>
<td>1h 27m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Cocktail Party 1</td>
<td>2h 19m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Cocktail Party 2</td>
<td>2h 19m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Exercises</td>
<td>0h 18m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Family 1</td>
<td>1h 12m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Family 2</td>
<td>1h 50m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Conversation: Talk about Family</td>
<td>0h 10m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Set</td>
<td>0h 02m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Set</td>
<td>0h 03m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Going on Vacation 1</td>
<td>1h 16m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Going on Vacation 2</td>
<td>1h 50m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Exercises</td>
<td>0h 47m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Set</td>
<td>0h 17m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Meeting 1</td>
<td>0h 47m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Meeting 2</td>
<td>0h 58m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting People 1</td>
<td>0h 42m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting People 2</td>
<td>0h 50m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Conversation: Make an Appointment</td>
<td>0h 10m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Exercises</td>
<td>0h 37m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tell Me More: Points to Remember

While working on a lesson, before clicking on the correct answer, right click on each word to listen and to pronounce it.
Tell Me More: Points to Remember

- Click on red dot to record own voice and see the score.
Tell Me More: Points to Remember

- In order to log off, you would need to click on Change accounts.
BrainPopESL

- Provides English language learning level-appropriate lessons with an animated movie, words to know that explains the new vocabulary and Facts to Know about the grammar introduced in the move.
BrainPopESL

My beginning students LOVE using BrainPOP ESL. I have enjoyed implementing it into my classroom and have found that it works especially well for reinforcing instruction.

—Kendra V., ESL teacher, Memphis, TN
BrainPopESL

- Teaches grammar and vocabulary
- Available only through the Internet
- Username: pcsbesl
- Password: brainpop
- 3 levels
- 6 units
- 5 lessons per unit
BrainPopESL
BrainPopESL

- Unit 1: My Mom's Pictures
- Unit 2: It's Nice, Isn't It?
- Unit 3: I Was Shy
- Unit 4: Was it an Accident?
- Unit 5: Happy Birthday!
BrainPopESL

Each lesson has:
- Know More-grammar
- Words, Words, Words!-new vocabulary
- Read it!-reading comprehension
BrainPopESL

- Write it!-writing exercises
- Hear It, Say It!-word pronunciation
- Play It!-fun games
- Warm Up!- preparation for the quiz
- You Can Do It!-the quiz
BrainPopESL

- To record your own voice, click cc
Get insync this School Year

with

insync
www.insyncedu.com

- Aligned to new Common Core standards
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- Study skills — K-12
- College Readiness — 9-12
- Career Exploration — 9-12
- Great for homework help, test-prep and accelerated learning!
- READ and LISTEN to activities in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole

1200+ Activities & Resources available for all district parents, students, and teachers

Get Started Today!

1. From your district website, click on the insync logo or go to: www.insyncedu.com/insync/pcsb
2. Enter your District Code: PCSB then select START
3. Create your username, password, and profile to begin!

For difficulties logging in, contact help@insyncedu.com

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InSync Education Parents K-12

Families, Students, and Educators: use the code provided by your district to create an account for FREE!

Create your Account

Enter your District Code below
to create your profile and start using the resources and activities with your student!

Enter District Code  START

Already Have an Account?

Login below

Forgot password?

Username  Password  GO

If you don’t know your district code, check your district home page or contact your local school.

Sign-up to explore thousands of fun activities to use in the class or at home! Search by grade level OR by subject to find resources and activities to support what your student
InSync Education Parents K-12

- Available through the internet only
- Available in English, Spanish, and Haitian-Creole
- For the username and password, please create your account using the pcsb code first, and fill out the profile information to set up your account.

![Create your Account](image)
InSync Education Parents K-12

Set up your account
InSync Education Parents K-12

- Help with Mathematics, Reading and Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, College and Career Preparation, Homework Help, Life Skills, Next Grade Readiness, and Test-Taking Tips.

- Search by Keyword or select subject(s)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learning the Meaning of Words from Other Languages</strong></td>
<td>Students can develop their vocabularies by understanding the origins of some words.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Comparing and Contrasting Fiction and Nonfiction Texts</strong></td>
<td>Comparing and contrasting texts helps students understand how information is conveyed most effectively and how stories can have differences in their elements but still have similar outcomes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How Literary Works Reflect the Time They Were Written</strong></td>
<td>Authors create literary works that reflect the world and the historical period in which they live.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main Idea and Supporting Details in a Text</strong></td>
<td>Being able to determine the main idea and relevant details in a text is a good strategy to help understand texts and the information presented in them.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
InSync Education Parents K-12

Main Idea and Supporting Details in a Text

Introduction

Your student can find the main idea and supporting details of a text by paraphrasing, summarizing, and inferring. Graphic organizers are tools that can help your student determine the main ideas and details of different types of texts.
Main Idea and Supporting Details in a Text
Grade(s): 6-8

Introduction

Your student can find the main idea and supporting details of a text by paraphrasing, summarizing, and inferring. Graphic organizers are tools that can help your student determine the main ideas and details of different types of texts.