



FCAT CONNECTION

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HOW FAMILIES AFFECT STUDENT SUCCESS

Research has shown that the biggest link to academic improvement is discussing at home what students are learning at school. (SuiChu & Williams, 1996). Student learning increases when families support and encourage them to improve in their schoolwork and when families read with them (Henderson, 1987).

Families are often surprised by the vast benefits achieved by reading to students. Some of the benefits include increases in vocabulary, listening skills, letter recognition, length of spoken sentences, and comprehension, not to mention the fact that students will place an increased importance on reading. (Scheffer, 2001). To help parents capitalize on this research, the FCAT Connection will be sent home weekly until the FCAT in March to provide families with ideas, topics and specific ways parents can connect to their child's learning.



SCHOOL/HOME CONNECTION:



The top portion of each FCAT Connection will focus on an FCAT math skill and math activities that will help students improve in math. Activities like counting while driving, estimating at the grocery store, measuring, and converting prices when shopping are just a few of the activities that will be covered in future FCAT Connections. The bottom portion of each FCAT Connection will have an article that explains a specific reading skill and shares specific reading strategies to be used at home.

As you receive each issue of the FCAT Connection, make a point of reading through it and working with your child(ren) on the skills it contains. You will be re-

QUESTIONS TO ASK STUDENTS

- Give me an example of a problem you discussed in math class today.
- How did you solve that problem?
- What was your favorite subject today? Why?
- What is the story or article about that you are reading in class?
- What is one question that your teacher asked you today?

Asking specific questions about your student's day can have a significant impact on your student's success at school. Try asking some of the above questions as you drive to and from school each day.

Quote of the Week: "Too often we give children answers to remember, rather than problems to solve." ~Roger Lewin

warded with your child's improved academic performance as well as a closer connection with your child because of the time spent helping them with their learning.

