**How Can I Help My Child Learn Mandarin When I Don’t Speak It?**

1. Support your child in doing any Chinese homework they have. For example if s/he has a take home reading book listen to your child read it. If your child has spelling words, have them write the words two or three times each night. If your child doesn’t have homework, ask your teacher for some, or use some of the below resources. 15-30 minutes of Chinese practice at home can definitely help your child learn Chinese.
2. Currently, some students in 3rd – 4th grade use a Singapore reading curriculum. You access [their website](http://xuele.moe.edu.sg/xuele/slot/u107/index1.html) and have your children read you the books they are studying in school. The website can be a little difficult to navigate because it’s in Chinese, but don’t be intimidated – it really isn’t that difficult, especially because your child can probably figure it out. If that fails, contact your child’s teacher.
3. Some students use [Better Chinese](http://www.betterchinese.com/). Your school may provide free or discounted membership; it is typically about $30.00 a year. Having your children read you the online stories can be very helpful reinforcement.
4. [Math flashcards that children can use to reinforce math vocabulary](http://www.graniteschools.org/depart/teachinglearning/curriculuminstruction/math/Pages/DIMathVocab.aspx). (English translation [here](http://www.graniteschools.org/depart/teachinglearning/curriculuminstruction/math/Pages/MathematicsVocabulary.aspx)).
5. Digital flashcards based on the key vocab words are available to help your children reinforce their skills. [First grade](http://quizlet.com/23566271/1st-grade-mandarin-key-vocab-words-flash-cards/), [second grade](http://quizlet.com/22944116/2nd-grade-key-mandarin-chinese-vocab-flash-cards/), [third grade](http://quizlet.com/22405010/3rd-grade-mandarin-words-flash-cards/), [fourth grade](http://quizlet.com/21885511/miss-ma-4th-grade-mandarin-chinese-vocabulary-flash-cards/).
6. Practice reading with [Chinese Immersion teachers from Canada reading Chinese books](http://welearntv.vansd.org/chinese-immersion-program).
7. Let your children watch Chinese video clips. For example, they can watch [Dora the Explorer](http://shaoer.cntv.cn/children/C25006/classpage/video/20110505/100799.shtml) or [Spongebob Squarepants](http://shaoer.cntv.cn/worldcartoon/C16738/classpage/video/20100225/101405.shtml) (note – both of those links are to YouTube-like sites that display ads. Putting the display to full-screen often eliminates the ad. Both of those links are for individual episodes; additional episodes appear underneath). Younger learners might enjoy [Sesame Street](http://www.sesamestreetchina.com.cn/) or [Thomas the Train](http://bao.beva.com/animation/album-0-50-0-0-1.html) in Chinese. Several other videos, songs, etc. are linked [here](http://www.wasatch.provo.edu/Site_School/307/index307.htm).
8. Connect with other parents of immersion students and work together. You can visit the [Utah Mandarin Immersion Parent’s Council](http://utahimmersioncouncil.wordpress.com/)  for more information.
9. This [YouTube video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ff9jgBN1Juo) explains how to make it so that you can type Chinese characters on your computer. Some children will have fun typing letters to each other using characters. For those who like pinyin, [this macro](http://www.pinyinjoe.com/) can help you quickly transform a word like “wo3” into “wǒ.”

**Additional Resources**

**Apps**

Pleco ([iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id341922306?mt=8), [Android](https://www.pleco.com/android.html)) is a great Chinese dictionary app. Free, with optional add-ons.

[Chinese (Mandarin) Course - Speak and Learn Pro](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/chinese-mandarin-course-speak/id409216179?mt=8) (iOS only). Works like Rosetta stone, but much cheaper ($9.99). Should be a fun review for most students and a good way to reinforce learning.

**Other resources**

<http://www.nciku.com/> - A great online Chinese dictionary

<http://www.archchinese.com> – A website for generating worksheets for handwriting practice. The site also has an animation tool showing you the stroke order for 7,000 frequently used characters.