



Experts' tips on getting ahead in Year 5



Introduce reasoning

If you haven't already, start working on reasoning alongside maths and English. Introduce reasoning using the **learning journeys** where your child will have access to over 90,000 questions, helpsheets, videos and explanations.

Atom's algorithm sets your child weekly targets based on their ability to give them a tangible goal to work towards and ensure they are on track.



Little and Often Approach

Our brains encode new information much more effectively and deeply when dealing with smaller 'chunks' of information with rests in between. Childhood development experts say that a reasonable attention span to expect of a child is two to three minutes per year of their age.

In practice this means it's much more effective to break revision up across the week, for example **20 minutes each morning before school**.

8 years old 16 to 24 minutes

10 years old 20 to 30 minutes

12 years old 24 to 36 minutes



Identify knowledge gaps

One of the most important ways to prepare for exams is to identify and address knowledge gaps! Log in to your parent portal at least **once per week** and use the performance section to pick out 2-3 areas your child is finding challenging and set a **tailored custom practice** activity in each one.



Improve Exam Technique

Mock tests help build confidence under timed conditions and ensure your child isn't surprised on exam day.

Set **1-2 mock tests a month** until the final six weeks before the exam where you can increase to one per week. After each test, spend 10 minutes reviewing the transcript with your child to identify corrections.



Read, read, read

Reading regularly supports English comprehension skills and helps build a wider vocabulary, enhanced analytical thinking and reasoning skills.

[Explore Atom's Year 5 recommended reading list.](#)



The Exam is done, what next?

Your child has worked hard to reach the level required to sit the 11+, and the focus should now be on maintaining this knowledge so that they enter Year 7 in a strong position. It's time to switch to Atom's English, maths and science package to work on advanced English, maths and science ahead of Senior school.