






Literacy at Home: Parent/Caregiver Guide

The ability to read—and enjoy reading—is a lifelong journey that begins well before a child shows signs of reading and comprehension.



It's important that parents and caregivers spend some time each day reading to or with their child to encourage a love of reading that will last a lifetime. Reading material could include library books, print around the home or in the environment, or digital books. Your child's teacher may also send home a book or passage to practice their reading skills.

When reading with your child:

-  Be sure to make it a warm, positive interaction.
-  Give your child choices of what to read.
-  Read and re-read books your child is interested in.
-  Respond to your child's reading with enthusiasm and praise for a job well done.
-  Correct your child's mistakes in a positive and constructive way.

These suggested activities will help your child practice reading and build his/her confidence in reading:



Independent Reading

Encourage your child to look at books and read on their own.

Modeled Reading

Read aloud the first few pages so your child gets comfortable with the pace and smoothness. Then have your child read the same pages or carry on reading after you.

Shared Reading

Read the selection together and point to the words as you read. Continue reading until your child feels comfortable reading independently.



Echo Reading

Read aloud one sentence at a time. Your child reads the same line immediately afterwards.

Repeated Reading

Have your child re-read a passage (four times for maximum benefits) to obtain a fluent rhythm.

Choral Reading

Read aloud with your child, almost chanting the words. Reread the selection and eventually fade out to let your child read independently.



Helpful Tips to Try at Home

Reading includes **Word Recognition** and **Language Comprehension**.

LESSON 1: SCHOOLS

Word Recognition

Sounds

(listen and identify sounds in spoken language)

- 📖 Hear and create rhyming words
- 📖 Clap parts of words
- 📖 Tap sounds in words

Letters

(understanding that letters represent sounds we hear in spoken and language)

- 📖 Point out words and identify the letters and sounds together (e.g., fridge magnets, street signs, store names, letters in their name or in a book).



Strategies to solve unknown words:

- 📖 Keep your eyes on the word the whole time. Look closely at the letters in order from the beginning. Avoid asking your child to look at the picture for clues.
- 📖 Break the word into “chunks” you know and read across.
- 📖 Slowly stretch each letter sound or word part to read the word.
- 📖 Listen closely to your reading. Stop and go back to fix it up if it sounds wrong.

Words

(blending sounds together to read new words)

- 📖 While listening to your child read aloud, encourage “keeping eyes on words” and not looking up for confirmation or help.

Sight Vocabulary

(reading words automatically or making tricky words stick!)

- 📖 Automatic recall of sight words during early reading is key to success
- 📖 To help your child develop a large bank of sight words, call attention to the tricky parts of words rather than on whole word memorization.



Photo by Jonathan Borba on Unsplash

Language Comprehension.

Vocabulary (the words children need to know to understand what they hear and read, and to communicate)

To develop and expand your child's understanding of words:

- 📖 Read books together that would be too difficult for your child to read alone. Discuss vocabulary words and their meaning.
- 📖 Use high level vocabulary words in your daily interactions.

Comprehension (the understanding of what is read)

Reading provides an opportunity for parents to engage in a dialogue with their child about the texts read and to discuss the ideas and points of view presented.

This dialogue is essential to help children develop oral communication skills.

Before reading:

- 📖 Make predictions of what your child thinks they will be reading about by doing a book look (looking at the title, pictures, headings, etc.)

During reading:

Make connections to life experiences (e.g., *"That reminds me of when ..."*).

- 📖 Make predictions and inferences (e.g., *"What do you think will happen next?"* or *"Why do you think the Lion is mad?"*).
- 📖 Repeat and expand upon the child's response (e.g., *"You think the lion is sad. I think so too because his friend won't dance with him"*).
- 📖 Identify the important information of a text such as characters, setting, key events and main ideas.
- 📖 Visualize (form mental pictures) while reading.
- 📖 Clarify confusing aspects by re-reading content, looking at diagrams/illustrations, and looking up the meaning of unknown words.
- 📖 Ask questions while reading (e.g., where, what, when, why, who and how sentence starters).

After reading:

- 📖 Have your child retell the story back to you. After they have retold the story, get them to change one aspect (e.g., they are going to the park instead of the castle) and come up with a new ending.
- 📖 Ask questions about what was read and have your child answer them.
- 📖 Your child may enjoy drawing activities related to what they have read. They can draw characters, what happened, or extend past the story to think about what might happen next (after the story ends).

