

You are your child's first & most important teacher! Studies show that it's vitally important for children to have a good start in reading. What you do at home is what will help your child become a successful, confident reader!

## Make literacy part of your family time!

- Talk, sing, & read with your child! Children's brain cells are literally turned on when they do these things with their families (Shore, 1997).
- Play board games.
- Choose books over television!
- Write the grocery list together.
- Read the ingredients & directions on a recipe & make something yummy to eat together!
- Create a comfy spot to read at home (all you need are pillows & good lighting).
- Visit the local library & check out books & audio books!
- Read bedtime stories to your child.
- Make a map of your yard or neighborhood & label the pictures.
- Make reading **FUN!**

Experts (Baker, et al 1997) believe that parental emphasis on reading as entertainment, rather than as a skill, develops a more positive attitude toward reading in children.

## How to Read with a Beginning Reader

- Echo read with your child. You read one sentence & your child echoes back the sentence. This helps build fluency & reading with expression.
- Have your child follow along with the text using his/her pointer finger.
- Talk about the text! Make comments & ask questions.
- Read to your child & listen to your child read!
- Re-read the same books. This helps your child build fluency.

## What to do when

### Your child gets stuck

- Be patient. Don't just tell your child a word he/she doesn't know. Here are some cues we use in the classroom. You can remind your child to:
- "Use your Eagle Eye": Look at the pictures for a clue.
  - "Let's try Lips the Fish": Get your lips ready for that first sound. Don't forget the last sound, too!
  - "Try Chunky Monkey": Look for familiar chunks to help figure out the word.
  - "How about Flippy the Dolphin?": Can we flip that vowel sound? For example change from the short a sound to long a.

## Great Questions to ask!

### Before Reading

- What do you think this story will be about? Why?
- What do you already know about this topic?



Follow the 20 minute rule! A beginning reader should spend at least 20 minutes a day reading to or with someone.

### During

- What do you think will happen next?
- What is the problem in the story?
- Build connections! "This reminds me of \_\_\_"
- How do you think the character feels?

### After Reading

- What was this story mostly about?
- What was your favorite part of the story? Why?
- If you could change the end, how would it end?

## Tips for Parents

- Provide lots of reading & writing materials in your home: books, magazines, newspapers, writing paper, pencils, & crayons. Yes- even comic books!

Be a role model for your child. Read for pleasure or knowledge on a daily basis.

- Press for achievement. Let your child know you believe in him/her & expect success!



Literacy is at the root of a person's ability to succeed & the family is at the heart. -Lind, 1999

It pays off when parents get involved! Students make greater achievement gains, & have fewer behavior problems. \*readingrockets.org

- Volunteer at school.
- Check your child's Backpack daily & talk about his/her da



How do I know if a book is the right level for my child?

We use the five finger rule to find a "just right" book.

- Choose a book & open to any page.
- Start reading & put up a finger for every word you don't know.
- If only 2 or 3 fingers go up, you've found a "just right" book!

"¿Y si no hablo ingles?"

Si su español es mucho mejor que su inglés, hable, lea y cante con su niño en español. Así, se fortalecerán sus habilidades de hablar, escuchar y comprender. Sin embargo, con su estímulo, su niño podrá llegar a ser fluente no sólo en una lengua, sino en dos!

### Get connected!

#### For Parents:

[www.colorincolorado.org](http://www.colorincolorado.org)

*Bilingual site with great literacy tips & ideas for parents!*



[www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org)

*Provides ideas & tips for helping children learn to read.*

#### For Students:

[www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)

*Games that build early reading & writing skills.*

[www.speakaboos.com](http://www.speakaboos.com)

*Listen to stories online!*

[www.earobics.com/gamegoo/](http://www.earobics.com/gamegoo/)

*Play games to help build phonological knowledge.*

### Get Out & Go!

Background knowledge & making connections are extremely important for reading comprehension.

• Life experiences enable a child to make those connections! Visit museums, libraries, & parks.

- Detroit Zoo
- Auburn Hills Public Library
- The Henry Ford- Dearborn, Michigan

#### Resources

[www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org)

[www.pbs.org/parents](http://www.pbs.org/parents)

[www2.ed.gov/parents](http://www2.ed.gov/parents)

[www2.ed.gov/pubs/startearly/ch\\_1.html](http://www2.ed.gov/pubs/startearly/ch_1.html)

Learning to read begins at home!

# Parents are Teachers

Simple, fun ways families can help children improve reading!

