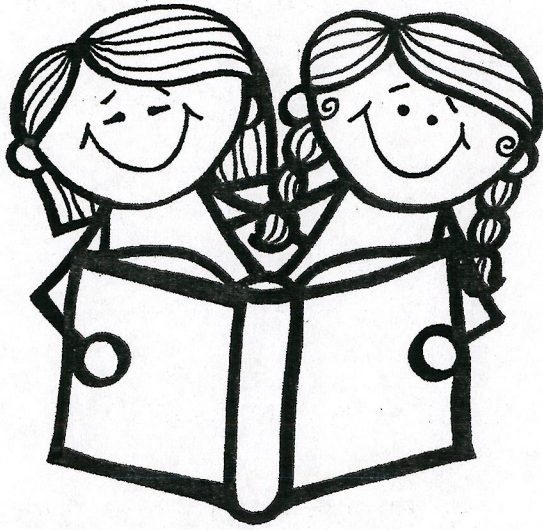


Reading At Home...

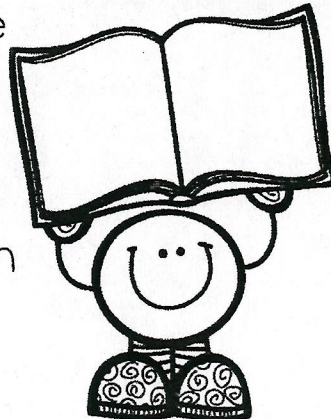
Can Make A HUGE Difference!



Choose Books That Are At An Appropriate Reading Level For Your Child

📖 Use the five finger rule. Open the book to any page and ask your child to read. Put up a finger every time your child does not know a word. If you have put up more than five fingers before the end of the page, this book is too hard for your child.

📖 Choose books that match your child's likes and interests.



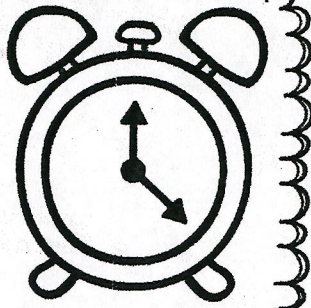
Make Reading A Part Of Your Family Time!

Family time is so important... Why not make reading part of this valuable time with your kids? Here are some tips for integrating reading into our daily family activities:

- Read bedtime stories
- Play a board game
- Visit your local library
- Read a recipe and cook something yummy together!
- Create a comfy reading space in your home.
- Put your child in charge of reading the grocery list at the store.

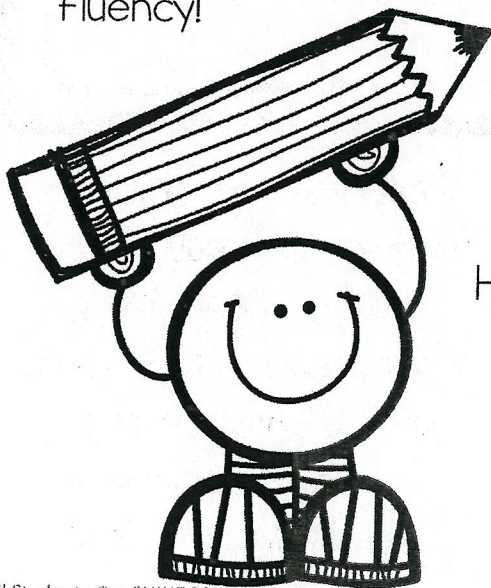
Keep plenty of reading materials in your home: books, magazines, newspapers, and comic books. Children enjoy having a variety of reading materials!

15-20
minutes is
plenty for
a beginning
reader!



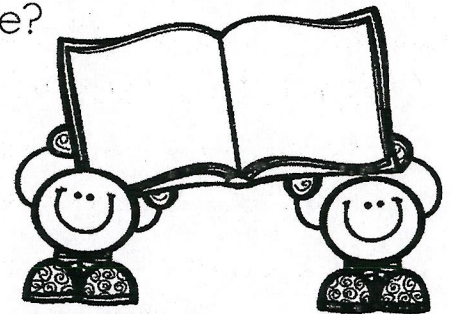
How To Read With A Beginning Reader:

- Encourage your child to use his/her finger to point to each word.
- Read a sentence and have your child repeat it.
- Take turns reading a sentence each or a page each.
- Talk about the story as you read it. What do you think will happen next? What does this story remind you of? How do you think this character feels?
- Don't be afraid to read the same book again! Repeated reading helps build reading fluency!



Check For Understanding

- ✓ Start the book by making predictions. What do you think will happen in this story?
- ✓ Ask questions and make comments during the reading process.
- ✓ After reading a book, have your child tell you the events from the story in the correct order.
- ✓ What was the problem in this story?
- ✓ How did the character feel when...?
- ✓ Encourage your child to make connections. Does this story remind you of another book you read, an event in your life, a movie?



Read Books Online!

There are many fun and interactive websites for literacy.

Here are a few FREE online resources:

www.starfall.com

www.speakaboos.com

www.spellingcity.com

www.wegivebooks.org

<http://interactivesites.weebly.com>

Advanced Story Map Worksheet (Adapted from Gardill & Jitendra, 1999)

Student: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Story Name: _____

1. Who is the central character? _____
2. What is the main character like? (Describe his/her key qualities or personality traits).

3. Who is another important character in the story? _____
4. What is this other important character like? _____

5. Where and when does the story take place? _____

6. What is the major problem that the main character is faced with? _____

7. How does the main character attempt to solve this major problem? _____

8. What is the twist, surprise, or unexpected development that takes place in the story?

9. How is the problem solved or not solved?

10. What is the theme or lesson of the story?

MY READING CHECK SHEET*

Name: _____ Class: _____



Sentence Check... "Did I understand this sentence?"

If you had trouble understanding a word in the sentence, try...

- ☐ Reading the sentence over.
- ☐ Reading the next sentence.
- ☐ Looking up the word in the glossary (if the book or article has one).
- ☐ Asking someone.

If you had trouble understanding the meaning of the sentence, try...

- ☐ Reading the sentence over.
- ☐ Reading the whole paragraph again.
- ☐ Reading on.
- ☐ Asking someone.



Paragraph Check... "What did the paragraph say?"

If you had trouble understanding what the paragraph said, try...

- ☐ Reading the paragraph over.



Page Check... "What do I remember?"

If you had trouble remembering what was said on this page, try...

- ☐ Re-reading each paragraph on the page, and asking yourself, "What did it say?"

*Adapted from Anderson (1980), Babbs (1984)



Worksheet: Cover-Copy-Compare Student: _____ Date: _____

Spelling Words	Student Response
1.	1a.
	1b.
2.	2a.
	2b.
3.	3a.
	3b.
4.	4a.
	4b.
5.	5a.
	5b.
6.	6a.
	6b.
7.	7a.
	7b.
8.	8a.
	8b.
9.	9a.
	9b.
10.	10a.
	10b.

Fold Line

VOCABULARY

Vocabulary is defined as the set of words within a language that are familiar to a particular person. Vocabulary develops with age and is a fundamental part of reading instruction and comprehension. Having a large vocabulary has been linked to success in the classroom and in life.

So how do we help develop our children's vocabulary at home?

The most simple and effective way to develop vocabulary is to read with your children every single day. Take the time to stop and ask questions about unfamiliar words. Use the passage to look for clues to the meaning. Often we will find these "context clues" in the sentences right before or after the unfamiliar word.

Below are some websites that may be useful for helping develop vocabulary. Many are fun for kids and are free.

<http://www.vocabulary.co.il>

<http://www.education.com/activity/vocabulary/> (This site asks you to become a member. Basic membership is free.)

<http://www.k12reader.com/subject/vocabulary/>

<http://pbskids.org/games/vocabulary/>

<http://www.funbrain.com/words.html>

3 KEY IDEAS FOR PARENTS about the Common [CORE]

Thinking Deeply

The Common Core emphasizes critical thinking. It requires students to analyze more, discuss more, evaluate more, justify more and explain their thinking & understanding deeply, especially in writing. *Take-Away: Really thinking deeply is hard. Let it BE hard, help them talk it out.*

Integrating Learning

The Common Core emphasizes learning across disciplines (reading with math & social studies standards combined into one task). Students spend more time working together with different settings, structures & tools. *Take-Away: Problems & solutions happen everyday in the real world.*

Showing How They Know

The Common Core emphasizes proof & evidence. Long gone are the days of worksheets, fact memorizations and skill & drill. Students are not taught this way and they are not assessed this way. *Take-away: The new tests will require students to explain how they know.*

Supporting The Common Core at Home

- ① Ask ***why*** when children tell you they want something or want to do or not do something. ② Use the word ***because*** after "No" or "Not tonight..." ③ Give reasons—you to them and them to you.
- ④ Encourage questions & explore answers (especially questions whose answers **are not** yes or no.)
- ⑤ Explain & discuss issues or problems in your house, neighborhood, & community. Brainstorm solutions. ⑥ Compare how things are alike and different—videos, movies, food. ⑦ Look for patterns ⑧ Describe & categorize stuff. ⑨ Tell your children what you value & why. ⑩ Encourage & celebrate opinions.



How do I get my 20 minutes?

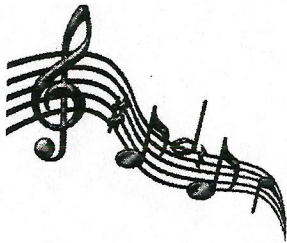
- Read during snack time
- Keep a few books in the car
- Make a set time to read aloud to your child—even if it's for 5 minutes!
- Add reading into transitions—reading while you clean up lunch or finish getting ready to leave
- Read everything! Signs, food boxes, magazines, etc.
- Keep books by the bed
- Have a set time for your child to read quietly to themselves
- Play reading games—hangman, Brain Quest, etc.
- Read while you wait at a restaurant or doctor's office
- Listen to stories online. Try Storyline Online!
- Read activity books, such as cookbooks for kids or Klutz books.

What is Fluency?

Fluency is the ability to read smoothly and automatically, with expression and attention to punctuation.

Pace = the speed in which you read

- The goal is to read at a "just right" pace
- Reading not too fast and not too slow



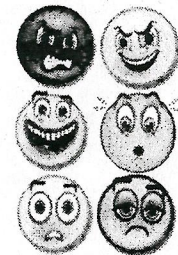
Phrasing = Chunking the words together into meaningful phrases

- Reading in phrases and not reading words one word at a time.

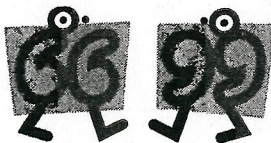
Samantha drove to the store
and bought some bread.

Intonation (Expression) = Reading with feeling in your voice

- Changing your voice to match a character
- Reading like you would speak (and not like a robot!)
- Moving your voice up and down



Punctuation = Reading with attention to punctuation



- Stopping at *periods* . . .
- Taking breaths at *commas* , , ,
- Making your voice go up for *question marks* ? ? ?
- Showing excitement for *exclamation points* ! ! !
- Using "quotation marks" to change voice for characters

FLUENCY

Fluency is the ability to read with accuracy, speed, and proper expression. Children must be able to read fluently in order to fully understand what it is they are reading, whether silently or aloud.

Children who are not fluent readers often sound choppy while reading. This could be due to the child struggling with decoding sounds and/or words, or simply needing more practice reading to increase speed and expression.

Tips to Promote Fluency:

To read fluently, children need to hear what it sounds like. Reading to your child often is a great way to model and promote fluent reading. They will then transfer what they've heard into their own reading.

Expose your child to a wide range of genres, including poetry, fairytales, narratives, nonfictions, and even speeches.

Always remind your child to pause at the ends of sentences while reading.

Make sure your child is reading on their appropriate level. We use the AR/Star program to determine each child's individual reading level. Books can be looked up in the AR program even from home to determine if a book is within your child's level.

Helpful Websites

<http://www.readingrockets.org/helping/target/fluency>

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/5-surefire-strategies-developing-reading-fluency>

<http://www.keyschool.org/documents/LS%20Reading%20Strategies%20for%20Elementary%20Students.pdf>

10 free Reading Programs for Kids on Mobile Devices

Each program offers different features. If you click on the program titles, you will find more details and an easy access link to that program.

Farfaria: a travelling book library for kids with hundreds of books for kids age 2 to 10. The app is free to download and have one free book every day without subscription. With subscription, kids can read books offline without Wi-Fi after you download the books on your device.

Bookboard: a free book app allowing you to access all the books with a free membership. The books cover a wide age range: from picture books for toddlers to chapter books for school age kids. If you subscribe for a paid membership, kids can download the books to read offline. I particularly like the book unlocking features that motivate kids to read more books.

National Geographic Young Explorer: a free online magazine designed for kids from National Geographic Kids. It is available on their website and as apps for Apple devices and Android devices. It has 7 issues each year, with options to read in English or Spanish. It even offers free teaching guide and printables under the For Teachers section.

Timbuktu: a children's magazine on the iPad. You can download the app for free. It has 12 issues per year, that requires subscription, but each issue has 2 stories free without subscription. The design of the stories is different from traditional magazine, with many visuals and engaging actions to encourage young readers to read more.

Poetry from the Poetry Foundation: the app offers free access to thousands poems from the Poetry Foundation. The content is updated monthly. Although not designed for kids, parents can find kids appropriate content by search for themes, like Spring, Friendship.

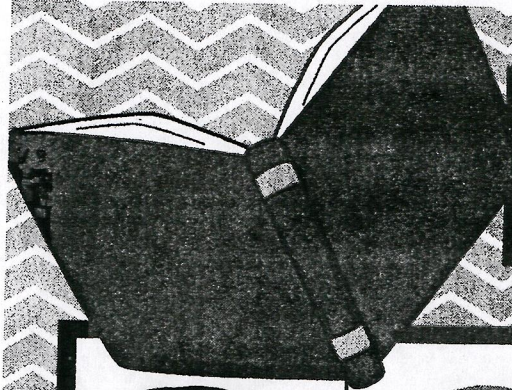
Learn with Homer: a comprehensive reading program on iPad designed for kids age 2 to 7. It has lessons teaching kids reading skills, like phonics, vocabulary, comprehension. There are many books under the Story Time section, and many are free.

Oxford Owl: not an app, but a website that fully functional on iPad and iPhone. You need sign up for a free membership to access the content, which include math and reading. There are over 250 eBooks in the Reading section, all can be accessed free on both computer and mobile devices. Most books also have audio so kids can listen to the books.

Memetales: a book reader app designed for kids 10 and younger. It is free to download with 15 free books upon downloading the app. After that, the app offers one free book each week. It is available for both Apple devices and Android devices.

Starfall: it is not an app, but a website. It doesn't functional well on Apple devices, but you can make it work by using a free app Rover. Rover makes the Flash content functional on iPad and iPhone. Starfall is a reading program for young children, and it has many kids' books on the site that are free.

I Like Stories: A free app with about 40 books for kids, and 6 books are free. All books are titled "I like _____ ? _____". Kids can also create their books to read with family and friends.



name _____

R

e

a

D

O

Read a poem to someone at home.

Listen to someone at home read a story.

Go to the library with someone and pick out books to read at home.

Read a story and tell someone about the main characters.

Turn out the lights and read a story by flashlight.

Listen to someone at home talk about something they remember about school.

Read a story with someone at home. Make a connection to a character in the story.

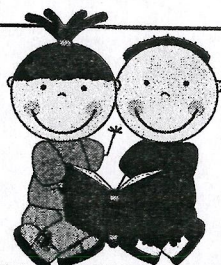
Read a story. Tell someone at home about the setting.

Select a book. You read a page and someone at home reads a page. Take turns throughout the book.

Read two pages in a book to someone with great expression!

You read a story. Think of 2 words to describe the story.

Listen to someone make a prediction about a story you are reading.



Read a story together. Decide on a new title for the story.

Read a book with someone at home. Each tells what they like about the book.

Read a non-fiction story together. Share 2 facts that you learned.

Make up a story when you are riding in the car with someone.

Read a story together. Have someone else think of 2 words to describe the story.

Have someone at home read a newspaper article to you. You tell about the article in your own words.

Read a story by yourself.

Tell someone at home a prediction about a story before you start to read.

Read a story and tell someone at home about the main characters.

Read a story. Talk with someone at home about the illustrations.

Help someone at home write a grocery list.

Listen to someone at home tell about something that happened to them. You retell the story in your own words.



name _____

W

R

i

t

e

Write 5 words that describe you.

Write 5 words that describe someone at home.

Write about your favorite holiday.

Make a list of all the things that are laying on your bedroom floor.

Write as many words you can think of that rhyme with "play".

Have someone from home write about their favorite memory of 1st or 2nd grade.

Write about the funniest thing that has ever happened to you.

Write a letter to the principal.

Write a journal entry in the dark with a flashlight.

Read a story to someone. Have mom or dad write a brief summary about the book.

Write about the best field trip you went on.

Make a list of your favorite foods.



Read a story by yourself. Write a brief summary about the story.

Write 3 questions you would like to ask the President of the United States.

Write down 10 things you can hear at home.

Write a thank you note to somebody.

Write sight words in shaving cream.

Have someone at home write 3 reasons they are proud of you.

Write as many words as you can think of that begin with "oh".

Write about your favorite animal.

Write a word with your finger on someone's back and have them guess it.

Write 2 sentences about the weather. Check punctuation.

Write a poem with someone at home.

Write a story of your choice.

Reading comprehension-- is the ability to **read** text, process it and understand its **meaning**. An individual's ability to **comprehend** text is influenced by their traits and skills, one of which is the ability to make inferences.

Websites to help you help your child!

When in doubt—Google reading comprehension! There are such a variety of games, worksheets, and interactive reading stories to fit your child's needs. Find one that fits your child and you!

https://www.hand2mind.com/pdf/miriam/grades_1_2.pdf

www.k12reader.com/reading-comprehension-guide

<https://www.teachervision.com/reading-comprehension/.../55347.html>

Phonics--a method of teaching people to read by correlating sounds with letters or groups of letters in an alphabetic writing system.

Websites to help you help your child!

When in doubt—Google reading phonics for first or second graders! There are such a variety of games, worksheets, and interactive reading stories to fit your child's needs. Find one that fits your child and you!

www.education.com/worksheets/first-grade/phonics/

www.kizphonics.com/phonics-program/1st-grade-level-1/

<https://www.pinterest.com/swanie59/first-grade-phonics/>