



Literacy

THE KEYS TO SUCCESS

Tips for Elementary School Parents

Grades K-2: Reading



Reading Literature and Informational Text Goal: Through frequent opportunities to be exposed to and, with support, to read challenging texts, students will acquire rich vocabulary and build background knowledge. Students will read and demonstrate understanding of various types of text. Students will learn to support their responses to the text with evidence from the text.

Students Can:

- With the help of teachers and adults read and comprehend stories, poems and informational text. (Teachers and other adults may need to help students in kindergarten and grade 1.)
- Ask and answer questions (who, what, where, when, why, and how) to show understanding of key or important ideas in a book.
- Retell stories and facts from nonfiction/informational texts, making sure to use key details from the text to show understanding of the main idea and rely on memory.
- Identify similarities and differences between two or more texts about the same topic.
- Identify and understand the most important points presented by two texts on the same topic. (Teachers and other adults may need to help the kindergarten students to do this.)

How Parents or Caregivers Can Help:

- Read to your child daily (fiction and nonfiction).
- Ask your child questions about the text. Encourage him/her to go back to the text to find the words that support his/her answer (first and second grade).
- Encourage your child to point to key details from the text to support his/her answer to questions and not rely on memory.
- Ask your child to retell the story or events in the text.
- Ask your child to identify the main idea in the story.
- When reading nonfiction text with your child, point out any words that are in bold print, highlighted or in a text box.
- Provide child-friendly definitions for new words from the text. For example, you might define dazzling as something that is so bright it almost hurts your eyes to look at it.
- Ask your child to give examples of how the new words could be used in a sentence or story.
- Find opportunities for you and your child to use the new words in your conversations.
- Visit the local library and encourage nonfiction books as gifts for your child.
- Provide several resources (books, videos, articles, information on the internet, etc.) for topics your child may be interested in. Choose to share a variety of nonfiction text with your child such as magazines, posters, books, newspapers, tickets and directions.

READING FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS GOAL: Students learn the basic skills that all readers need to unlock text. Students will understand print concepts, phonological awareness, phonics and word recognition, and fluency.

Students Can:

- Point to the words in the book and understand that pages in a book are read left to right and from top to bottom.
- Recognize and name the letters of the alphabet.
- Understand that letters make up words, words are separated by spaces, and words are used in books and other printed texts.
- Recognize rhyming words like cat, hat and mat. Understand that car does not rhyme with cat.
- Count, blend together and segment (take apart) each sound in a word.
- Count, blend and segment syllables.
- “Sound out” words by using letter-sound knowledge and be able to decode “d-o-g” to make the word dog.
- Memorize and read sight words like the, and, but, like, school, because, etc.
- Recognize frequently used word parts (such as: un, -re, -ing, -ed, -s) at the beginning or end of words.
- Accurately read grade-level books with expression and understanding.

How Parents or Caregivers Can Help:

- Read to your child daily, point to the words as you read.
- Have your child practice identifying/naming letters in the alphabet, including upper and lowercase letters.
- Point out capitalization and punctuation marks in books/magazines.
- Read rhyming books and recite nursery rhymes often.
- Have children listen for and identify everyday environmental sounds like birds chirping, cars honking.
- Clap and count syllables in words.
- Play with sounds in words.
- Show your child a letter and ask him/her to say what sound the letter makes.
- Sort pictures by sounds, have your child group all pictures that begin or end with the same sound.
- Note the difference between long and short sounds for each vowel (cap and cape, bit and bite).
- Read the same text repeatedly to show your child what smooth, accurate reading with expression sounds like.
- Have your child repeatedly read the same text to you to build his/her ability to read smoothly, accurately and with expression.

Resources

Useful Websites:

- Rhyming Books | <http://goodreads.com/shelf/show/rhyming>
- Word families activities | www.readingrockets.org/strategies/onset_rime
- Phonics and word recognition | www.readingrockets.org/helping/target/phonics
- Sight word practice | www.readingrockets.org/article/tutoring-strategies-primary-grades

Literary and Informational Texts:

- Goodreads | www.goodreads.com
- ReadWorks | www.readworks.org