

Literacy Tip Sheet for Parents

Help Your Child Develop a Love of Reading

Reading is the cornerstone to success at every grade and subject level. According to the International Reading Association, when children are read to frequently at home, when their questions about books and print are answered, when they are given access to reading and writing materials, and when they receive positive reinforcement about literary activities, there are positive effects on their reading and writing abilities.



Tips for Reading with Your Children

Do it every day and pick a regular time. By doing so, you demonstrate that reading time is important.

Read the book before you read it aloud. Reading aloud is performing. You'll do a better job if you're familiar with what you're going to read.

Read books you like. If you like the book, odds are your child will also. Start by reading books you enjoyed as a child.

Leave them wanting more. Stop your day's reading at a point where your children are eager to hear what's next.

Switch places. Let your child read to you one day and you read to your child the next.

Read articles from magazines, newspapers and other materials aloud.

Read for information and for fun.

Talk with Your Child about Your Reading Habits

Do you preview the text by reading the main headings and looking at the pictures when you read?

Do you make predictions about what you think will be in the novel or article?

What do you do when you do not know a word?

Do you make a guess and keep going or do you sound out every word you know letter by letter?

What do you do when you have trouble understanding what the author said?

Do you reread, summarizing what you have learned so far, and read further to see if you can get more information?

Ask Your Child Questions

Ask your child to tell you about the book he or she is reading. Some sample questions include:

What do you think the book is going to be about?

How can you tell?

Were your guesses correct?

Were you given clues that something else was going to happen?

What was your favorite part of the book? Why?

Other Helpful Hints

Find movies based on books. Then read the book and compare or vice-versa.

Subscribe to magazines targeted at your child's interests.

Have a reading light in your child's room so he/she can read anytime.

Start your child on series books.

Get children hooked on books by beginning a book and allowing them to finish on their own.

Encourage your child to retell the story or story parts.

Invite your child to read the newspaper with you. Talk about an article that is on a subject of interest to your child. Even young children can gain information from pictures and can read some of the comic strips.

Offer your child educational experiences outside school and the home. Visit parks, zoos, museums and historical sites.

Source: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, 301 N. Wilmington St., Raleigh, NC 27601-1612;
<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/>.

Excerpt: *PRincipal Communicator*, August 2004, published by the National School Public Relations Association

Family Literacy Tips

Additional resources

District reading programs

Harcourt Trophies / Trofeos - [Harcourt Trophies](#) – tips for parents and family activities to encourage literacy at home.

READ 180 - [READ 180](#) – Find out about READ 180 an intervention program for struggling readers

Children’s Literacy Initiative - [Children's Literacy Initiative](#) - this program is a research based program for early literacy (K-2). The website offers tips for parents as well as more information about the program.

Reading with your child:

For tips about reading aloud you're your child. This website also offers suggested book titles

Tips for parents to have effective conversations about books with their children and a link to free downloadable books from Reading A-Z

<http://literacyconnections.com/Parents.php>

Family literacy ideas

<http://www.pabook.libraries.psu.edu/familylit/parents/resourcesweb.html>

Moving into Reading:

Preschool through Grade Two (reading and writing)

<http://k6educators.about.com/qi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://www.kidsource.com/kidsource/content3/RWNactivities/Moving.html>

Reading is Fundamental - <http://www.rif.org/> Get involved with one of the nation's best-known reading initiatives by visiting the RIF site. It includes practical assistance to RIF volunteers. RIF has a program for early readers, it's called Care to Read. It's designed to get child care providers involved in early literacy. <http://www.rif.org/parents/tips/default.msp> tips on motivating kids to read and helping struggling readers are among the many tips provided.

Parent Guide to Early Literacy from the American Library Association (printable brochures)

<http://www.pla.org/ala/pla/plaissues/earlylit/parentguidebrochures/parentguide.htm> Printable brochures by the ALA. Easy to download.

Other useful websites:

1. [Harcourt Trophies](#)– tips for parents and family activities to encourage literacy at home.
2. [Scholastic parent information](#) – tips for parents by grade level
3. [READ 180](#) – Find out about READ 180 an intervention program for struggling readers
4. [Helping children learn about reading](#) from the National Association for the Education of Young Children
5. [Helping Children with Learning Disabilities to Succeed](#) - Learning To Read/Reading To Learn From the The National Center to Improve the Tools of Educators, based at the University of Oregon,
6. [Is your child ready for Kindergarten? - The Get Ready to Read! Screening Tool](#) Pearson Education, Inc. publishing as Pearson Early Learning has a sample question and 20 items. Each item is a set of four pictures and a question. Read the question aloud while your child looks at the pictures. Your child answers by pointing to or clicking on one of the 4 pictures and then clicking the Next button. When you've finished all 20 items, the screener will be scored automatically.
7. [National Center for Family Literacy Resources](#) Literacy is a legacy that can be passed from parent to child. But the barriers associated with low literacy - poverty, unemployment, low self-esteem, school failure - are also handed down from generation to generation. Children whose parents lack basic literacy skills often grow up to face similar challenges, perpetuating a cycle of disadvantage. This website offers a variety of resources for parents.
8. Parents helping children learn to read (tips provided by Irvine Unified School District in Texas)
 1. [Phrases that Encourage](#)
 2. [Questions that Encourage Conversation about Reading](#)
 3. [Concepts about Print](#)
 4. [Phonemic Awareness Activities For 4-5-6 Year Olds](#)
 5. [Phonemic Awareness Activities For 6-7 Year Olds](#)
 6. [Ten Tips: Helping Your Child Read Effectively](#)
 7. [Breaking the Sound-It-Out Barrier](#)
 8. [Reading Tips for Parents, Primary Caregivers, and Educators](#)
 9. [Helping Children Develop Oral-Language Skills](#)

