

Report to PARENTS

The Rewards of Reading

The seeds for success in the classroom are sown at home. Encouraging children to read at home is one of the most powerful ways that parents can support students' learning. Just 15 minutes of reading at home per day can make a difference in students' reading fluency. Prioritize reading with these tips.

Always have books on hand. Keep a book in your bag or your car's glove compartment so your child can read in the car, or while waiting in line at the grocery store. Make regular trips to the library, and keep an eye out for books at bargain sales or garage sales. Or, consider holding a "book swap" with neighbors and friends. For birthdays or holidays, give your child new reading material.

Keep it up. Find ways to encourage your child to pick up new reading material to read once one book is finished. For instance, introduce him or her to a series or ask your librarian for books by the same author. Draft a "to-read" list that your child can check off. Consider subscribing your child to a magazine for kids.

Focus on their interests. Encourage your child to check out books from the library that feature characters or topics he or she is interested in. Whether it's NASCAR to NASA, the topic doesn't matter (as long as it's age-appropriate), as long as your child is reading.

Read out loud together. Schedule time to read aloud together, taking turns to read passages. Invite your entire family to participate. Use different voices for different characters, or invite your child to make sound effects for the story.

Make it a routine. Consider how to make reading habitual. Your family could have a weekly read-aloud session, or you and your child could read each week before bed.

Be a patient listener. No matter how slowly your young learner reads, avoid finishing sentences for your child. Gently correct mistakes, sound out words together, and let your child know you're proud.

Cut the distractions. During reading time, turn off or put away electronic devices. Make sure you follow the rule, too.

Ask questions. Ask your child about what he or she is reading in school or what you are reading together. Try open-ended questions such as, "Why do you think the character did that?," "What would you do if you were in that situation?," or "What do you think will happen next?"

Read beyond books. Invite your child to read menus, greeting cards, movie listings, newspaper comic strips, or directions to a destination. Word recognition is an important step for reading fluency, so consider using strips of paper and tape to label everyday objects in your home to boost your child's familiarity with words.

