

Keys for Helping Your New Reader

You can help make **reading fun** for your **new reader**.

Learning to read is a complex process. It will take time.

Games and special activities can make learning to read exciting for your child.

Get your child his own **library card**. Let him choose books for himself.

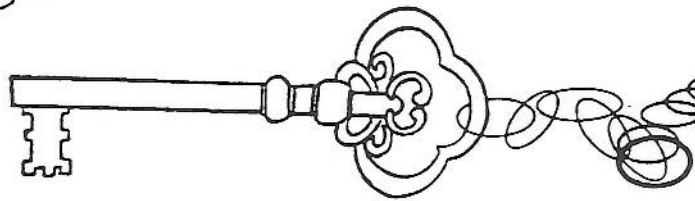
Read aloud to your new reader every day. Cuddle up together. Read lots of different books together.

Always have **lots of books and magazines** on hand, in a place where your child can read comfortably.

Encourage your child to **make up stories** by providing costumes, puppets, a flannelboard, or a tape recorder.

When your child makes up stories, **write them down**. Then read them aloud.

Let your child see you reading. **Talk** with him about what you read.

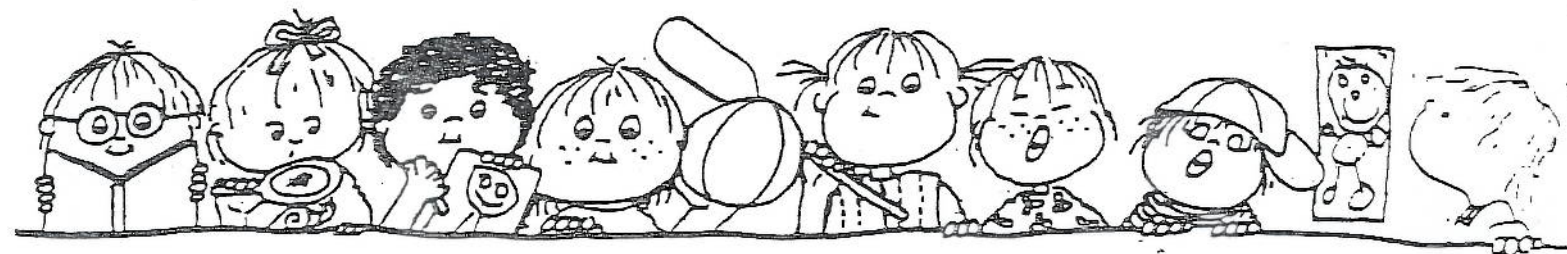


Giving a Hand With Homework

Parents often ask how much help they should give their children with homework. A survey by the Department of Education explains that "Student achievement rises significantly when teachers regularly assign homework and students conscientiously do it." Parents must find a "middle ground" between doing the homework for the child and keeping hands off altogether. Though it is essentially a contract between the teacher and the student, all children work better if they know that their parents are interested in what they are doing. As you decide how much to help your child, please remember that the main purposes of homework are to review the material taught at school and to encourage independence and creativity.

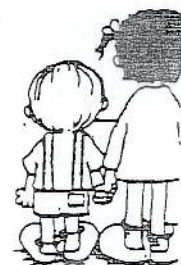
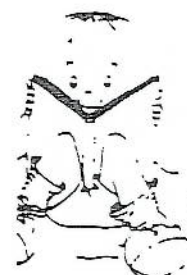
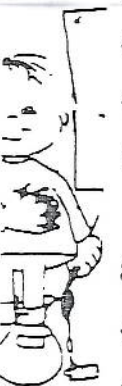
Here are some tips which might help as you provide a helpful and encouraging home atmosphere for your child:

- * Be accessible to your child. Suggest ideas when they are stumped. Assist in finding materials needed to complete the assignment.
- * Establish a good work environment at home. Provide a quiet place to do homework. Make sure your child has pencils, crayons, scissors, etc. in order to complete the homework.
- * Help your child use time wisely. Help decide the best time for your child to do the work. Suggest a break when you see that they are getting tired or frustrated.
- * Watch out for signs of problems. If your child doesn't make it home with the homework or does not want to do it, call the teacher and work through the problem together.
- * Be positive about school. Make your child feel good about their hard work and achievements. Display work proudly and reward them with a special time together for reading, taking a walk, going to the park, etc.



Tips to Help Your Child Become a Better Reader (And Love Books!)

1. Set aside a special time for home reading every day. Try to avoid scheduling a time when your child would rather be doing something else.
2. Make reading time as pleasurable and comfortable as possible so that your child develops warm feelings for books and reading.
3. Notice when your child seems to tire. A book can always be finished the next day—or the day after that.
4. Try different ways of reading.
 - ◆ Listen to a reading by your child and show the pleasure you take in hearing a good story.
 - ◆ Read to your child when the youngster is not yet able to read a book that he or she loves.
 - ◆ Read along with the child when a book is somewhat difficult.
 - ◆ Encourage your child to read part of a book silently and tell you about it.
5. When your child comes to an exciting part, ask the youngster to guess what might happen next. Then check to see if the prediction was right.
6. When your child finishes reading, talk about the story and the illustrations. Tell each other the parts you liked and didn't like, or what the story reminded you of in your own lives.
7. When your child gets stuck on an unfamiliar word:
 - ◆ Wait for a while so the child can think about it.
 - ◆ Suggest that the child look at an illustration for a clue.
 - ◆ Remind the child to look at the first letter, read the line again, and make a guess that makes sense.
8. Some things you can look and listen for when your child reads:
 - ◆ Was the reading fluent or word-by-word?
 - ◆ Does the child pay attention to punctuation?
 - ◆ Do the errors make sense? (That shows the child understands the story.)
 - ◆ Do the errors look like the word in the story?
 - ◆ After an error, does the child self-correct or keep going?



Reading Comprehension Strategies

1. Background knowledge
2. Engage yourself in the reading itself
3. Organize and store information for later retrieval



There are several reading comprehension strategies that are research based and have been proven to work with children. These strategies are used with both fiction and non-fiction text.

***Making Connections** – Using your background knowledge before, during, and after reading in order to make **Text to Self**, **Text to Text**, and **Text to World** connections.

***Questioning** – Asking questions of themselves, the authors, and the texts that they are reading.

Who are the characters?

What is the goal of the main character?

Is there something that is preventing the main character from reaching his/her goal?

What happened in the part of the story that I just read?

***Determining Importance** – Determining the most important ideas and themes in a text.

***Visualization** – Creating a visual and other sensory images from the text during and after reading.

***Fix Up** – Utilizing a variety of fix-up strategies to repair comprehension when it breaks down.

***Inferring** – Using prior knowledge and textual information to draw conclusions, make predictions, critical judgments, and form unique interpretations from text. Finding the deeper meaning of a text.

***Synthesizing** – To monitor for overall meaning, important concepts, and themes in a text, to be aware of how text elements fit together, and to extend the literal meaning of a text to the inferential level.

***Summarizing** – Summarizing is a commonly used strategy in which students often are instructed to search for main ideas and supporting details.

***Use of Graphic Organizers**- Visual representation and organization of text through the use of graphic organizers will assist students with active comprehension. Story maps, sequence chains, cause-and-effect links, character maps and Venn diagrams all facilitate the understanding of relationships among text components. ¹

¹ Adapted from Dr. Timothy Rasinski's work