

**Teachers & Parents:
Working Together to
Promote Independent Readers**

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Overview

- The Building Blocks of Reading
- What Teachers Are Doing to Create Readers
- How You Can Help Your Child at Home

The Building Blocks of Reading

Reading research tells us that to become skilled and confident readers, children need a lot of opportunities to:

- build spoken language by talking & listening
- learn about print & books
- learn about phonological awareness
- learn about the letters of the alphabet
- be read to and read on their own

- learn about phonics
- observe spelling patterns
- develop fluency
- build sight word vocabulary
- build comprehension

Learning to Read

The goal of primary reading instruction is for children to read grade level text smoothly and with expression so that they comprehend what is read.

To help children **develop** reading skills, teachers should...

- ...teach the sounds of language
- ...teach the letters of the alphabet
- ...teach children how words work
- ...read to and with children every day

At home you can...

- Practice the **sounds** of language
- Help your child take **spoken** words apart and put them together
- Practice the alphabet by pointing out letters wherever you see them

For children beginning to read, teachers should...

- ...teach how sounds and letters are related
- ...have students practice the letter-sound relationships they are learning
- ...help students write the letter-sound relationships
- ...engage students during a guided reading lesson daily

Guided Reading

Guided Reading is for children beginning to read. It is when the teacher gathers a small group of students together in order to teach them to use and develop strategies "on the run." Students focus on constructing meaning while using problem-solving strategies to figure out words they do not know, deal with tricky sentence structure, and understand concepts or ideas they have not previously met in text.

The ultimate goal is to help children learn how to use independent reading strategies successfully.

Guided Reading Instruction

Before

The teacher gives a short introduction with a picture walk

During

The child quietly reads the book while the teacher is listening to one child at a time

After

The teacher praises independent strategies and teaches more efficient ways to problem-solve

Problem Solving Strategies

When a child stops at an unknown word or reads one incorrectly, ask the following questions rather than giving the word to him or her:

- Does it Make Sense?
- Does it Sound Right?
- Does it Look Right?

For children reading, teachers should be...

- continuing to teach letter-sound relationships for children who need more practice
- teaching the meaning of words, especially words important for understanding text
- teaching ways to learn the meaning of new words
- helping children understand what they are reading

At Home you Can...

- Re-read familiar books
- Build reading fluency
- Build reading comprehension

FAQ

My child refuses to sit and read with me. What can I do?

A few minutes a day may be all you need in the beginning. Let your child choose the book and then show your enthusiasm and interest in the book.

After a few readings, my child has memorized the story. Is this really helping my child learn to read?

Yes, memorizing stories is an important component of early reading. He or she is gaining a sense of story sequence and is making connections between pictures and print.

Shouldn't I cover the pictures on each page so that my child has to really read the words?

No, the pictures in the book give your child support for reading the text. They are learning to look for additional clues to figure out the story.

FAQ

Should I encourage my child to sound out difficult words?

No. Suggest looking for information that might help your child identify the word. Give clues such as the following: 1) re-read the sentence, 2) read on to search for context clues, 3) look for known word parts, 4) make a logical prediction, 5) think about what the author is trying to say, 6) look at the picture clues

How can I get my child to comprehend what he/she reads?

- * Help your child think about his or her reading.
- * Ask your child questions about the text.
- * Recognize story structure (setting, characters, problem, events, solution) and orally retell the story.
- * Summarize the text.

Tips

- Find a place that is quiet, private and comfortable.
- Select a time that is good for both of you.
- Spend at least 5 minutes (pre-school & kinder.) each day reading together. Continue reading as long as your child shows interest.
- Capitalize on your child's success. Even if the reading is not exactly correct, accept and praise approximations.
- Help your child to independence. Do not be too quick to supply a difficult word. Prompt with statements or questions that lead your child to use clues in the book. so your child develops strategies to problem solve.