Family Time = Literacy Time

WHAT CAN WE DO AT HOME?

As we begin the New Year of 2020, it is a good time for families to explore new things and set goals for the exciting year ahead. With this in mind, consider igniting new passion with your child. Encourage them to be curious and try unfamiliar activities or learn about something novel. Take the opportunity to cultivate curiosity, to be brave in trying the unknown, and develop a broader range of interests.

There are many examples of goals you could set with your family.

- You could sign up for story time at your local library once a month.
- Establishing a bedtime routine that involves a new book each night is another idea.
- You could even make a routine of book discussions on car rides or traveling trips. Making literacy a habit is a great goal to set!
- This could include steps like book discussions at dinner, following a recipe for a new meal once a week, or making a weekly visit to the library.

Find a way to measure your growth toward that goal, whether it be a calendar with a star or a sticker chart. Celebrate achieving those goals! Through setting these goals, your child may find a passion they never would have thought of on their own. Send your child the message that it is okay, and in fact exhilarating, to be curious!

RESOURCES

There are several amazing resources available online and at your child’s campus. If you have any specific questions, please feel free to reach out to your child’s teacher, literacy specialist, or instructional coach at your campus.

* Storyline Online: Sponsored by the Screen Actors’ Guild, actors and actresses read some of their favorite books on video. [https://www.storylineonline.net/](https://www.storylineonline.net/)

* Information Reading for Parents: Sponsored by WETA, great compilation of reading articles, explanations, and tips for helping your young readers build their confidence, vocabulary, and understanding. [https://www.readingrockets.org/helping](https://www.readingrockets.org/helping)

Also, they have resources on a variety of reading topics, such as Brain and Learning, Developmental Milestones, Reading Aloud, and STEM Literacy just to name a few. [https://www.readingrockets.org/atoz](https://www.readingrockets.org/atoz)

*Information Reading for Parents: Sponsored by the Nevada Department of Education, family and community resources, several external links to other great resources! [http://www.doe.nv.gov/RBG3/Family_and_Community_Resources/](http://www.doe.nv.gov/RBG3/Family_and_Community_Resources/)

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5 Minute Game—Rhyming

Make new rhymes from old favorites

When your child plays with words, she is building key skills for reading.

Try this rhyming activity together: Sing a favorite song with your child, like “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”

Then sing it again—but this time, change some of the words. For example, “Mary had a little cat. Its feet were icy cold.”

Challenge your child to make up new words to finish the rhyme.

**STRATEGY SUMMARY: PAIRED READING**

Paired reading is a great way to support your child’s progress in becoming a stronger, more fluent reader.

- You and your child both read the words out loud together. Read at the child’s speed. You are modeling good reading for your child.
- Try very hard to do paired reading every day for five minutes. If the student wants to read longer, a total of 15 minutes is long enough.
- Try to find a place that's quiet. Children are easily distracted by noise. Turn off the TV, radio, and stereo.
- When the student comes to an unknown word, wait five seconds to allow time for word attack skills to be used. If the word is mastered, be sure to praise the accomplishment. However, if the student is unable to work it out after five seconds, you say the word.

Source: [https://www.marioncityschools.org/](https://www.marioncityschools.org/)

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<th>Percentile Rank on Standardized Tests</th>
<th>Minutes of Text Reading per Day</th>
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Source: [https://www.allenisd.org/Page/334](https://www.allenisd.org/Page/334)

**COMMON QUESTIONS PARENTS MAY HAVE:**

Q: My child gets frustrated when she can’t read unfamiliar words. What can I do?

A: Help her read the word slowly to identify the sounds of the word. Then ask, “What word would make sense in the story?” A guess based on context may be correct. Be available for your child when she needs help. This lets her feel more in control of her reading process.

Q: My five-year-old uses the same basic words over and over. Besides reading to him, how can I improve his language skills?

A: In addition to reading, expose your child to new places. Take him to the zoo, a park or a construction site and have him describe what he sees. Use different words yourself. For example, you might describe the bath water as soapy instead of simply as warm. Another tip is to avoid using baby talk.