



Family READING RESOURCES



● Raising a Reader

Parents are a child's first teacher, and there are many simple things you can do every day to share the joy of reading while strengthening your child's literacy skills.

- Look for new books and authors that your child may enjoy.
- Organize an area dedicated to reading and writing tools.
- Visit the library for story time and book recommendations.
- Encourage your child to talk about what he's read.
- Talk to your child, and sprinkle interesting words into your conversation.
- Offer a variety of books to read.
- Read with your child every day.
- Expand your home library to include magazines and nonfiction.
- Ask questions if you're concerned about your child's development.
- Decide to raise a reader!

● Encouraging Reading

Books enhance our experiences by providing historical context, cultural insights, and deeper understanding of the world around us.

- Pairing books with real-life experiences helps children learn by exploring emotions through stories and understanding concepts through factual information.
- Helping your child become a successful reader starts with simple steps, such as demonstrating good reading habits and engaging in conversations about books at home.
- Building a love for reading starts at home, where parents can create a reading friendly space that inspires children's curiosity.

● Access to Reading Materials

Starting a home library for your children shows them how important books are.

- By creating a home library you can help your child learn the love of reading.
- Building a home library teaches your child the importance of books.
- Discover fun ways to find books for your home library by visiting flea markets, book swaps, and adding books to birthday and holiday wish lists.
- Create a comfortable and inviting spot where your child can store and enjoy their books.
- Personalize the library with fun touches like homemade book labels, personalized stickers, etc.
- The public library is a great place for families to access books, storytimes, free activities, movies, music and more for free

● Types of Reading

There are multiple types of reading material for families to access.

- Graphic novels use pictures and simple text to make reading fun and helps children improve their skills and confidence, especially for children who struggle or are hesitant to read.
- An article or two from the local newspaper is also a great, inexpensive resource.
- Nonfiction books teach children about real people, places, and events with pictures and charts.
- Digital media, including magazines, digital books and audiobooks are available at the library for free.

● Thinking About Your Reading

Parents can help build critical thinking and reading comprehension skills in the children.

- Parents can help children develop critical thinking skills through conversations, experiences, and by sharing quality books that encourage them to think deeply and explore ideas.
- Higher-order thinking (HOT) helps children go beyond memorizing facts by understanding, connecting, and using information to solve problems and think critically.
- Sharing books with your child helps them develop good reading habits, especially when you talk with them as you read. Using the think-aloud method, where you share your thoughts while reading, helps children connect what they hear to what they already know.
- Reading with comprehension means understanding what's been read. These skills can be developed by using a before-during-after approach. Set a purpose before reading, be an active reader and reflect after reading.

● Reading Aloud

Story time is a great way to connect with your child and share exciting stories and pictures and increase their understanding of the world.

- The best story times are interactive, talking about the story as you read.
- Parents can use the PEER method to make story time more interactive and engaging:
 - P=Prompt your child with a question about the story, (example: point to a picture and say, "What is that?")
 - E=Evaluate your child's response (example: "That's right! That's a balloon")
 - E=Expand on your child's answer by adding detail (example: That's a big, red balloon!)
 - R=Repeat the prompt to reinforce learning (example: have your child repeat, "Big, red balloon")
- Reading with your child is a great way to enjoy stories and build literacy skills.
- Younger children tend to focus on pictures during story time. Encourage them to enjoy the pictures while focusing on the text to develop reading skills
- Reading aloud supports your child's growth. Start small and make it a regular habit.
- Audio books help children enjoy language, storytelling and imagination. They're perfect for car rides or home, making stories easy to enjoy anytime.

● Reading Strategies

Additional strategies to improve reading skills:

- Increase your child's reading stamina or ability to focus and read on their own without getting distracted.
- Writing helps children express their ideas and creativity while improving reading skills.
- Reading fluency is when a child can read smoothly and with expression and focusing on understanding instead of sounding out words. Building reading fluency early helps children understand what they read and can help them in general do better in school.
- Talking and reading with your child can help them build their vocabulary and knowledge which is a key for reading success.