RAISING A READER



Relax and enjoy 20 happy minutes with your child. Share insights and ideas with each other while you read.

Have fun reading together!
Take turns reading; you read one paragraph or page and your child reads the next.

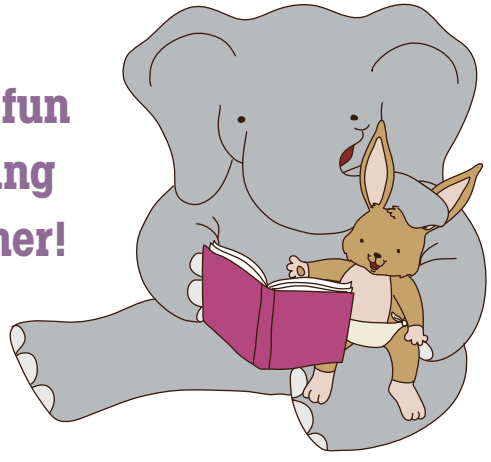
Have fun reading together!
Be enthusiastic and encouraging. Talk about the book and appreciate your child's effort.

Have fun reading together!
Go to the library often. Find topics that interest your child, such as animals, jokes or heroes Reread favorites.

Have fun reading together!
Ask your child's teacher for a list of books that are good for your child's age and reading level.

Have fun reading together!
Chapter and series books provide lots of practice and entertainment.

Have fun reading together!



TIPS FOR PARENTS OF HAPPY STUDENTS

Routine. Establish a time for reading together 20 minutes every day and a place for your child to do homework. Be available to assist and encourage.

Interest. After school ask about your child's day, "Tell me three things you did in class today."

Look. With your child, look in her school bag each day for information from school and homework assignments.

Organize. Display a calendar with family events and promptly write down all the important school dates, such as early release days and parent conferences.

Prepare. Each evening, help your child pack his school bag and lunch, layout clothes and shoes, and take a bath. This habit assures he'll arrive at school on time and ready for a great day!

Involve. Attend parent meetings and school activities. Visit your child's classroom and volunteer if you can.

Connect. When you have questions or concerns about your child's education don't hesitate to contact the teacher or principal. They want to hear from you.

Encourage. Notice and compliment your child's effort and progress.



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READ WITH YOUR SCHOOL-AGE CHILD



IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT 20 MINUTES OF YOUR DAY

The Children's Reading Foundation

A WORD TO PARENTS

When parents and caregivers read with their child during the elementary school years, they provide a valuable gift — the lifelong advantage of literacy! Here are some reasons why it's important to read together 20 minutes every day:

- Young students need lots of practice and encouragement as they learn to read
- Reading aloud improves your child's speaking, reading, listening, thinking and problem-solving skills
- Experience with various kinds of books, like poetry or non-fiction, broadens your child's knowledge and curiosity
- Vocabulary grows as your child hears new words and ideas in new stories
- Reading together daily creates a special bond that strengthens relationships; your child discovers that reading is enjoyable
- Your child learns to read and then reads to learn

Read together at least 20 minutes every day.



Lots more at ReadingFoundation.org

READING WITH YOUR SCHOOL-AGE CHILD

Teachers know the skills students need to become happy and confident readers. They also know which methods are most effective for teaching reading. Four key skills that predict future success are phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. **Reading together at least 20 minutes a day builds these reading skills.**



PHONICS

Simply put, phonics is the sound that each letter makes when reading. Help your child use her knowledge of letter sounds (phonics) to "sound out" letters to make a word; then have her reread the sentence. Play word games while reading. For example, when you see the word "cat," ask your child to think of a word that rhymes (hat-sat), or change a letter to make a new word (car-cap).



VOCABULARY

Vocabulary is all the words your child uses or understands. Students who have the biggest vocabularies are the best readers. Pause to explain a new word or concept while reading together. Make a list of new words at home and watch it grow longer.

FLUENCY

Fluency is the ability to read with speed and accuracy. Listening to your child read aloud helps him increase fluency. When you read, he hears how smooth reading sounds. Pause to clearly say new, different or difficult words, and ask your child to repeat them. Fluency and vocabulary are important for comprehension.

COMPREHENSION

Comprehension is the reason for reading! It involves understanding, remembering and talking about the text. When reading with your child, occasionally ask questions or talk about a character. Let your child guess or predict what might happen next or explain the plot. Can she retell the story: what happened in the beginning, middle and end?

KIDS WHO READ SUCCEED

The Children's Reading Foundation