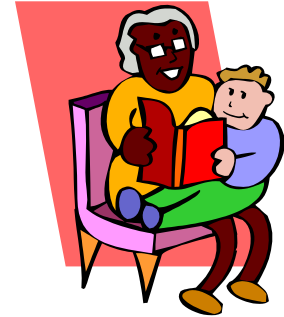




Reading With Your Child

The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children. Strong Families, Strong Schools



- •Set aside a time to read together every night or every other night.
- •Sometimes, take turns reading, paragraph by paragraph or page by page. This is a good way to read books that your child is unfamiliar with or one where he/she misses three or more words per page. If your child likes to read alone, let him/her. If he/she likes you to take a turn, do it. Remember that this should be an enjoyable time for both you and your child.
- •Find a book that interests your child. If the book is too difficult for her/him to read, read it to her/him and then discuss the pictures together. If the book seems too easy, let her/him read it anyway; this will help breed confidence and build interest.
- •If you can get anyone else in the family involved in reading time, do it.
- •In general, if your child struggles with a word, offer her/him hints in sounding out the first letter of the word and then asking “What word would fit here?” Also, another good strategy to teach readers is to read to the end of the sentence and then go back and reread the entire sentence and see if they know what the word is then.* However, if your child becomes frustrated with these efforts and doesn’t seem to be enjoying the story or even able to pay attention to it, start just telling him/her words he/she doesn’t know. Later, as he/she progresses, you can work through the above methods again.
- •Praise, praise, praise your child’s efforts. Do not criticize mistakes, even if you think he/she should not have made them. Each time you read together try to look for something specific your child does well and tell him/her what you’ve noticed. This can be things like sounding out a word on his/her own, reading with appropriate expression, or even just staying committed to reading time.
- •After the story is over, talk about it with your child. Ask his/her opinion about characters and offer your own. Ask open-ended questions (rather than just factual) about what happened in the story including things like, “Why do you think _____ did this? What would have happened if...?”
- •With older children, consider reading long books together, reading a chapter or two each night.

