

# THE CONNECTION BETWEEN READING AND LANGUAGE: WHAT CAN I DO AT HOME TO HELP?



## SHARE LITERACY TOGETHER

It is so important to share books and literature with your child at a very young age. You can model the importance and joy of reading by reading to your child and letting them see you read. Establish a daily read-aloud time.

What Can I Read With My Child?

- Classic Fairytales
- Favorite books or plays
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Letters
- Recipes
- The Bible
- Internet Sites

Encourage visits to the library together and find books that relate to your child's interests.

*Interesting Fact: In an international study, Elley reported that access to print was the most powerful factor associated with reading achievement (Temple, 60-61). Temple, Ogle, Crawford, and Freppon state, "Parents are the children's first and most important teachers" (39).*



## TIPS FOR READING WITH YOUR CHILD:

- As you read, let your child explore the cover & photographs. Ask them to predict what will happen in the story.
- Point to the words in the story (newspaper, magazine, etc.) as you read.
- Share connections with your child. "This reminds me of..."
- Ask your child to recall events (and characters) in the story or article.
- After reading, have your child share their favorite part of the book, magazine, etc.
- Re-read stories. Let children help re-read a favorite story or tell you the story by putting it in their own words.

*Interesting Facts: Children's early experiences with books directly relates to their success in learning to read at school (Norton, 4).*



## EXPLORE

- Encourage your child to ask questions about things they see or do. Share your thoughts with them on things that you feel are important or subjects that you might be discussing with others.
- Point out words, letters, or various landscapes to them on trips.
- Sing songs with your child. Don't forget the classic ABC song!

- Expose your child to letters and letter sounds. Point to letters and identify the letter and the sound that it makes.
- Clap out rhythms, jump rope to rhythms. Read rhymes and poems.
- Ask your child to help you (or observe you) writing a letter to a family member.
- Encourage writing and drawing by having various materials available for your child (paper, pencils, markers, crayons, paints, finger-paints). Hang up letters and notes for your child to see & copy.
- Introduce new vocabulary words to them by describing tasks at home that you accomplish
- Have your child help you cook. Show & read them the recipe. Have your child assist you in following the step by step directions.

*Interesting Facts: By the end of age 3, children have vocabularies of about 900 words (Norton, 5). Children that grow up without a variety of experiences may be 3 to 5 years behind other children in developing the mental strategies that aid recall (Norton 11). Young children need many opportunities to apply the skills, concepts, information, or ideas in books (Norton, 19). Researchers Hart and Risley (2003) found that a child's vocabulary grows phenomenally depending on how often and how much parents speak to them. Parents who verbalize with their children expose them to MILLIONS of words over their early childhood years. A wealth of vocabulary aids children in their ability to read. Verbalizing can be talking about the day's errands or singing your favorite song to your child.*

Resources:

Temple, Charles. (2008) All Children Read Pearson Education, Inc. Boston, MA.

Tompkins, Gail. (1997) Literacy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Simon & Schuster. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey

Hart, B., & Risley, T.B. (2003). *The Early Catastrophe: The 30 Million Word Gap by Age 3*. American Educator, 27(1), 4-9.

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