

Ideas for Supporting Reading at Home

If your child needs assistance in any of the areas listed below, the ideas next to the bullet points may be beneficial.

ORAL READING FLUENCY

- Model reading using appropriate fluency (reading like you talk) and expression.
- Encourage repeated readings of a familiar text.
- Read aloud a sentence from a text and ask your child to “echo” it back to you using the same rate.
- Praise your child for taking breaths at punctuation.
- Students needing extra assistance with fluency may benefit from reading lower level texts.

DECODING

- Place the “Tricky Word” chart near a frequently used reading area. When your child arrives at a word that is challenging to him/her, suggest he/she use the strategies on the chart before immediately giving your child the word.
- Practice phonetic activities (many available online) at home to help your child recognize patterns in words.

SIGHT WORDS

- Refer to the “Dolch Sight Word List”. Create fun activities to help your child practice the necessary words. For example, you might ask that he/she use glitter pens to make a personal set of flashcards. Or, have him/her make two sets of cards and play the memory game with them. Other activities may include building sentences, using highlighter tape to make the sight words stand out in books, or making the words using pieces of yarn, etc.

COMPREHENSION

- Ask your child to make predictions about the book or chapter before reading it. Suggest that he/she view the title, book cover, table of contents, headings, pictures, etc to assist in his/her predictions.
- Have your child develop several questions that he/she has about the book as a basis for predictions.
- Ask questions about the text throughout the reading instead of only when your child has finished the book.
- Suggest that your child write a brief explanation of what has occurred in the book after a passage or chapter.
- If your child is reading a nonfiction text, bring his/her attention to any charts or graphs that are provided. Also direct him to notice the table of contents, glossary, and headings.

- Ask your child to answer several of the questions on the “Comprehension Strategies for Before, During and After Reading” handout.
- Once your child has completed a story, ask him/her to summarize it by stating the important events in sequential order. Praise him/her when specific details are given to support the important events.
- Ask your child how the story relates to his/her own life.
- Ask your child what he/she feels the most important event in the story was. Have him/her tell why this was important.

READING ENGAGEMENT

- Suggest your child read materials from a variety of genres. (fiction, nonfiction, fantasy, biography, mystery, traditional, poetry, etc.)
- Create routines to support reading at home. (visit the public library)
- Model reading for different purposes (newspaper, menu, book of interest, directions)