



YOU READ TO ME.... AND I'LL READ TO YOU!

~Jeannette Mulholland Reading Specialist

What can I do to help my child read?

- Read to your child every day.
- Encourage your child to read to you. (Even if he/she “reads “ the pictures). Encourage your child to bring books home from school.
- Look at all the pictures first.
- Make predictions about what will happen next.
- After reading the story, discuss what happened.

What else should we read?

Reading is not just a bedtime story!

- 👁 Cereal boxes
- 👁 Store signs
- 👁 Road signs
- 👁 Bills
- 👁 Grocery lists

Label things around the house.

- ✍ Appliances
- ✍ Furniture

How do I choose books to read?

- 📖 Go to your public library.
- 📖 Get a copy of the Jefferson County Summer Reading List.
- 📖 Get suggestions from your child’s teacher.
- 📖 Choose books with pictures to support the story.
- 📖 Match your child’s (and your) interests.
- 📖 For younger children– large print with only a few lines on a page.

STOP! and use the 5 finger rule when you choose a book!

Read a page in the middle of the book. Put up one finger for every “clunk” you have.

- 👋 10 fingers- too easy
- 👋 1-3 fingers-just right !
- 👋 4-5 fingers- quite hard
- 👋 5+ fingers- too hard for now

My child seems to memorize the words. Is that OK?

- 😊 Memorizing is a natural part of a child’s early reading development.
- 😊 Memorize nursery rhymes.
- 😊 Repeat phrases and match print to words.
- 😊 Memorizing builds fluency and helps reading

Should my child use his/her finger to point to the words?

- ☞ Pointing to words (tracking) is one of the first strategies that we teach.
- ☞ This helps a child look at the words and focus on the sounds and letters.
- ☞ Even adults will sometimes “finger point” when the text gets harder.
- ☞ Eventually (usually by second grade) your child will learn to “point” with his eyes or to use a bookmark.

Should I cover up the pictures? **No!** Looking at pictures is a strategy that good readers use. Pictures are a clue.

What do I do when my child doesn't know a word?

- ✓ Have your child look at the pictures for clues.
- ✓ Check the first letter, say the sound, and make a guess. What about ending sounds?
- ✓ Ask the child to see if the “guess” makes sense, looks right and sounds right.
- ✓ Re-read and make another attempt.
- ✓ If your child tries and still struggles after 5 seconds – tell him/her the word.

Should I make my child “sound out” the words?

- 👂 We now say “stretch out” instead of “sound out.”
- 👂 Knowing the sounds a letter makes is important.
- 👂 Sounding out each individual letter or word is tedious and no fun!
- 👂 Read words in context, not in isolation.
- 👂 Read books with predictable rhymes or patterns and lots of pictures. (Dr. Seuss, Brown Bear, Brown Bear)

What other strategies can we use?

Have your child search through the whole word. (or play Guess the Covered Word)

- ✍ Look for word patterns. (cat to mat to matter)
- ✍ Check for prefixes and suffixes. (un-, -ful)
- ✍ Does what I read make sense?
- ✍ Does it look right? Fit the letter patterns?
- ✍ Does it sound right?

Now what if my child still does not have letter-sound identification?

- ✓ Letter-sound knowledge is very important! Can't move on to reading or writing without knowing letters and the sounds they make.
- ✓ Use alphabet books.
- ✓ Make flashcards with a letter and corresponding picture.
- ✓ Put magnetic letters on the refrigerator.
- ✓ Practice and read to your child at home.

How will writing help my child learn to read?

- Reading and writing are linked processes.
- Often the first thing your child reads is his own writing.
- Print sends a message.
- Build words out of letter tiles. (Making Words)
- Write at home – grocery lists, notes to you, letters to relatives, pictures with labels
- Make writing materials available –pens, crayons, envelopes, old stationary, cards

What else?

- ☺ Have your child say the word slowly “stretching it out.” You may need to exaggerate the sounds early on.
- ☺ Have your child write down the sounds that they hear. Accept inventive spelling in early grades.
- ☺ Make sure all Word Wall Words are spelled correctly.
- ☺ Your child’s reading/writing vocabulary grows from practice.

Does writing always need to be done on paper?

- ✍ Practice writing letters in shaving cream.
- ✍ Write in the air.
- ✍ Write in the sand at the beach.
- ✍ Use wipe boards in the car.
- ✍ Keep a journal or a diary.
- ✍ Writing opportunities are everywhere!

Last minute suggestions.....

- Reading should always be fun!
- Read lower level or easier books at home.
- A reader is like an athlete....the more you practice, the better you get!
- Praise your child’s efforts! “Mistakes” are building blocks to learning!
- Enjoy reading and writing with your child....make memories.

Sources:

Read to Your Bunny, by Rosemary Wells

Read to Me: Raising Kids Who Love to Read, by Bernice E. Cullinan

When a Child Reads, by Denise Worthington

Jefferson County Schools Literacy Lane Website <http://classroom.jc-schools.net/read>