

EXTRA SPECIAL EDITION

Parent Newsletter

Winter 2022-23

Welcome to the **Winter Extra Special Edition Newsletter**. Each issue contains information for parents and caregivers of children in Exceptional Student Education (ESE) programs.

Reading Begins at Home

Reading Begins at Home

Strong parental involvement is a key component of the *Just Read, Florida!* initiative. Other than helping your children to grow up happy and healthy, the most important thing that you can do is help them develop their reading skills.

Babies

Read to your baby for short periods several times a day. As you read, point out things in pictures. Name them as you point. Cardboard or cloth books with large simple pictures with which babies are familiar are the best books to begin using.

Children Ages 1 - 4

Talk with your child as you read together. Point to pictures and name what is in them. When he is ready, ask him to do the same. Ask about favorite parts of a story and answer questions about events or characters. Wherever you are with your child, point out individual letters on signs, billboards, posters, and books. When he is 3-4 years old, ask him to find and name letters.

Children, Kindergarten

Read predictable books to your child. Teach him to hear and say words such as the names of colors, numbers, letters, and animals. Predictable books help children to understand how stories progress. A child easily learns familiar phrases and repeats them pretending to read. Practice the sounds of language by reading books with rhymes and playing simple word games (i.e., *How many words can you make up that sound like the word "bat"?*)

Children, First Grade

Point out the letter-sound relationships your child is learning on labels, boxes, newspapers, and magazines. Listen to your child read words and books from school. Be patient and listen as he practices. Let him know you are proud of his reading.

Children, Second & Third Grade

Build reading accuracy by having your child read aloud and point out words he missed and help him read words correctly. If you stop to focus on a word have your child reread the whole sentence to be sure he understands the meaning.

*Taken from the U.S. Department of Education, *Helping Your Child Become A Reader* and The Partnership for Reading *Put Reading First* publications.

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"There will be obstacles. There will be doubters. There will be mistakes. But with hard work, there are no limits." Michael Phelps



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Reading Tips for Parents from FDOE website

1. **Read to preschool children for at least 20-30 minutes a day. Have older children read to you.** Reading is the most basic of the basic skills. Make reading a natural part of your child's daily routine.
2. **Keep good books, magazines, and newspapers in the house.** Get a library card and use it. Make it easy, both for adults and children, to find something interesting to read.
3. **Add to your children's enjoyment of reading by discussing each book they read.** Discussing the book helps them learn to express themselves. You will also enjoy the conversations.
4. **Make sure your children see you read for at least 20-30 minutes a day.** Remember, you are their primary role model.
5. **If you have difficulty reading, tell your children stories.** Hearing about your family history and your experiences will help your children develop an appreciation of language, storytelling, and the past.
6. **Limit TV viewing and monitor what your child watches.** Studies show that excessive television viewing is directly linked to poor school performance. Inappropriate television programming can also adversely affect your child's behavior.
7. **Meet with your child's teacher to find out what your child should learn and how you can help.** Know what kind of homework is expected from your child and make sure he or she completes it.
8. **Provide your children with a regular, quiet place where they can do homework.** Make it easy for them to find a place to work. Set up a place with few distractions close enough to you so they can ask you questions.
9. **Expect every child, not just those considered bright, to take tough academic courses.** Advanced Math, Science, English, History, Arts, and Foreign Language courses provide the kind of knowledge and skills they need.
10. **Demonstrate your commitment to high standards. Don't ask teachers to give your children unearned grades and promotions.** The goal is a good education, not a good report card.
11. **Support school efforts to develop and maintain rules for student discipline.** Children thrive in an environment where they know what is expected of them.
12. **Familiarize yourself with academic standards in your state.** Find out whether your state has academic standards and make sure they are rigorous enough. Learn what schools are doing to achieve these standards.
13. **Find out whether your school has high standards and clear expectations for its student.** Ask what children should know and be able to do by the fourth grade in math and reading...by the eighth grade...and by graduation. What about history? English? Science? Make sure your children are acquiring the skills and knowledge they need in all subjects.
14. **Ask for REAL data and information about student performance and progress.** Ask how your school ranks compared to other schools. Find out if advanced courses are offered and whether students have additional learning opportunities before and after school and during summers.

Reading Tips for Parents from FDOE website continued

15. **Challenge the notion that your school is one of the "better" ones. Chances are its standards are still not as high as those in many other industrialized nations or the best schools in your state.** Support teachers, principals, and superintendents who want to make improvements.
16. **Give time to your school.** Put your time into meetings, tutoring, research, discussions - whatever it takes to improve your school. Join or build a partnership with local businesses, colleges, teachers, and parents to improve teaching and learning.
17. **Find out about after-school and summer programs in your community.** Help interest your child in learning outside of the school day. Give your child the opportunity to explore new skills and participate in art and music programs.
18. **Join or develop partnerships to support students who want or need more learning time beyond the regular school day. If they exist, help make them better. If they don't, help start them.** There may not be enough hours in the average school day to support excellence. Set up additional time for learning to give students more opportunities to master tough subjects. Help ensure that ALL students are able to meet high standards.
19. **Follow the advice of many experts.** Students should not work more than 15-20 hours a week at a part-time job during the school year. Recognize that study time and homework will result in far greater earning power over the long term than a part-time job. If children need to work, make sure their work is an experience from which they can learn important academic or workplace skills.

Reading Aloud with Children of All Ages

by Derry Koralek ~ Reading Is Fundamental

Read Aloud Early, Later, and As Often As Possible

- Reading aloud is important from infancy through the high school years. Families and teachers can create and continue a tradition, introduce and reinforce the pleasures of reading, and, as children get older, set the stage for meaningful conversations about numerous topics.
- Read aloud at a predictable, scheduled time that fits with daily routines at home and school. And read aloud spontaneously—when adults and children are in the mood for a story.
- Families can increase read-aloud opportunities by asking older siblings to read to younger ones; teenage babysitters to read while caring for children, and grandparents and other relatives and friends to read during their visits. Teachers can do the same using volunteers and other visitors to the classroom.
- Read aloud at home and in school and when away from home or the classroom—at the doctor's office, on the bus, while waiting in line, outdoors, or on a field trip.