

# Read Every Day!

Studies have shown that reading ability improves the more that students read! Simply reading **20 minutes each night** can have amazing effects. Your child can read to themselves, with a family member, or back and forth with a partner!

Reading with a parent or loved one is a special experience for a child. Try to make reading a part of your family time!

- \*Read bedtime stories.
- \*Start a chapter book. Read a few pages each night.
- \*Visit your local library together.
- \*Read a recipe and cook something together.
- \*Create a comfortable reading space in your home.
- \*Let your child “catch you” reading!



# Choosing “Just Right” Books

Have you ever tried to stumble through a book that is too hard for you? It's miserable! We don't want our children to suffer through “too hard” books! Attempting to read a book that is too difficult will only frustrate your child. Use the “5 Finger Rule” when trying to decide if a book is appropriate for your child's reading level. Ask your child to read a page from the book. Each time he/she comes to an unknown word, hold up one finger. If all 5 fingers are up before finishing the page, the book is probably too hard!

## **Parent Question:**

**My son frequently asks to read books that are too easy for him. Should I make him choose books that are more difficult?**

When your child reads books below his reading level, he is building confidence, gaining fluency, and growing his love for reading! Many adults have a favorite book that they reread numerous times. Allow him to return to his favorite books but encourage him to try out some books on his reading level. Go to the library and browse the shelves. Point out books with interesting covers. He may find a new favorite!

# Comprehension Tips & Tricks

## **Build background knowledge**

- Background knowledge is what a reader brings to the text with him/her. If a child already knows a little about a topic before reading, they will understand more of the text. When reading with your child, you can help build their background knowledge by searching for pictures online or looking up videos on YouTube.

## **Think “out loud” for your child**

- While reading together, stop every now and then, and say what you are thinking in your head. This models to your child how they should be thinking while they read.

## **Let your child be the teacher**

- Allow your child to ask you questions about the stories you are reading together. Your child will enjoy asking you questions, AND they will be using critical thinking skills to come up with the questions!

# Comprehension Tips & Tricks

## **Read it again**

- There are few of us who can read a text, especially nonfiction text, one time and remember all of the information. Asking your child to read a second or even third time will make it easier for them to remember the important points from the passage.

## **Read-Summarize-Read**

- This strategy allows your child to read smaller chunks of materials, think about them, and then read some more. After every page or two, depending on your child's ability level, stop and ask your child to tell you what is happening in the story or what he/she has learned so far.

## **Compare it**

- During and after reading, talk with your child about how this book is similar to other books you have read. Discuss how the book reminds you of an event or an aspect of your life or the world.

# Ask Questions!

## Fiction

- What do you think will happen next?
- What did you just read about?
- What is something you can figure out about this story that the author did not tell you?
- What is the theme of this story?
- What is one challenge the character had?
- What is a word you can use to describe the main character? Why do you say that?
- Who is telling this story? How does their perspective affect how the story is told?

## Nonfiction

- What is the main idea?
- What details support the main idea?
- What did you just read about?
- What does this word mean? How did you figure that out?
- How does this chart, map, picture, or timeline help you understand this topic better?

