

Office of Academics and Transformation
Literacy Tips for Parents from Birth to Grade 5



BABIES	TODDLER	PRE-KINDERGARTEN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk with your baby—all day long Describe the weather or which apples you are choosing at the grocery. Talk about the pictures in a book or things you see on a walk. Ask questions. By listening, your child learns words, ideas, and how language works. • Snuggle up with a book When you hold your baby close and look at a book together, your baby will enjoy the snuggling and hearing your voice as well as the story. Feeling safe and secure with you while looking at a book builds your baby's confidence and love of reading. • Choose baby-friendly books Books with bright and bold or high-contrast illustrations are easier for young babies to see and will grab their attention. Books made of cloth or soft plastic (for the bathtub) or "board books" with sturdy cardboard pages are easier for a baby to handle. • Encourage your baby's coos, growls, and gurgles These sounds are your baby's way of communicating with you and are important first steps toward speech. Encourage attempts for your baby to mimic you. The more your baby practices making sounds, the clearer their communication will become. Go ahead and moo, woof and honk! • "Read" to your baby Pay attention to how your baby reacts to the book you are reading. Stop if your baby isn't enjoying the story and try another book or another time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep reading short, simple, and often Toddlers frequently have shorter attention spans than babies. Look for text that is short and simple. Read a little bit, several times a day. • Don't expect your toddler to sit still for a book Toddlers need to MOVE, so don't worry if they act out stories or just skip, romp, or tumble as you read to them. They may be moving, but they are listening. • Choose engaging books Books featuring animals or machines invite movement and making sounds. Books with flaps or different textures to touch keep hands busy. Books with detailed illustrations or recurring items hidden in the pictures are great for exploring and discussing. • Ask questions Take time to listen to your toddler's answers. Toddlers have strong opinions and interesting ideas about the world. Encourage your toddler to tell you what he or she thinks. This will allow you to build language skills and learn what makes your toddler tick at the same time. • Play to their favorites Read favorite stories again and again. Seek out books about things your toddler especially likes—trains, animals, the moon etc.. These books may extend a toddler's attention span and build enthusiasm for reading. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read together every day Read to your child every day. Make this a warm and loving time when the two of you can cuddle close. • Read it again and again Go ahead and read your child's favorite book for the 100th time! • Be interactive Discuss what is happening in the book, point out things on the page, and ask questions. • Know when to stop Put the book away for a while if your child loses interest or is having trouble paying attention. • Give everything a name Build your child's vocabulary by talking about interesting words and objects. For example, "Look at that airplane! Those are the wings of the plane. Why do you think they are called wings?" • Point out print everywhere Talk about the written words you see in the world around you. Ask your child to find a new word on each outing. • Talk about writing, too Mention to your child how we read from left to right and how words are separated by spaces. • Point out print everywhere Talk about the written words you see in the world around you. Ask your child to find a new word on each outing. <p>Source: "Reading Tips for Parents of Babies, Toddlers and Preschoolers" Reading Rockets. Retrieved on: August 27, 2018 from http://www.ReadingRockets.org</p>

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Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read to your child every day or have him/her read to you for at least 15 minutes. • Ask your child to retell a story in his or her own words by telling what happened first, second, third, etc. • Remind your child to think about sounds and letters. Link his or her name with words that begin with the same letter (e.g., John and jump). • Trace letters in sand, sugar, or shaving cream. Say the letters as you trace them. • Use a combination of drawing, speaking, and writing to describe an event, give information about a topic, or share an opinion. • Use technology to build your child’s ability to match letters to sounds. There are several websites that make the tasks game-like. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide time and space for your child to read free from distractions, such as television. • Look for opportunities in everyday places to build your child’s vocabulary. Sprinkle interesting words into conversation and build on words you have talked about in the past. • Look for books, magazines, or other materials about topics your child likes in order to motivate your child to read. • Play with words. Have your child sound out the word as you change it from <i>fat</i> to <i>sat</i>, from <i>sat</i> to <i>sag</i> to <i>sap</i>; from <i>sap</i> to <i>sip</i>. • Partner with your child to gather facts and information on a topic that interests your child. • Visit Internet sites such as Discovery Education or NBC Learn to gather information about a topic. • Write to describe an event, provide information on a topic or share an opinion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be sure your child has a library card. Children should select books in which they are interested to develop a passion for reading. Many libraries have book clubs and family activities that make reading fun for the entire family. • Talk about how related words have similar spellings and meaning; for example <i>knowledge</i> and <i>know</i>, <i>beautiful</i> and <i>beauty</i>. • It is helpful when your child sees other people reading at home. Share what you have read. • Write about a short series of events shared by you and your child. Ask them to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings. • Write opinions on books your child has read using important details and examples to support a position. • Use technology to help build your child’s interest in reading. There are several websites where students can read books or articles online; this will help with words your child cannot read independently.

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Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce your child to a series of books like <i>The Magic Tree House</i> or <i>The Boxcar Children</i>. Consider other books by the same author. • Ask your child to summarize a story in a few sentences. Ask them to predict what will happen next. • Use time spent running errands in the car for word play. If you are in a traffic jam, talk about how jam could also be something you put on bread. Who can think of the most homophones? • Talk about what you see and do in an effort to expand your child’s background knowledge. Talk when you are cooking together, going on vacation, or watching TV. • Ask your child to write stories with dialogue and descriptions of character’s actions, thoughts, and feelings. • Partner with your child to gather information from online sources to build understanding of a topic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When watching television, mute the sound and turn on the closed captioning option to encourage reading. • Ask your child what he or she has learned from reading and how that knowledge can be used in real life. Have him or her read the most interesting or useful sections aloud. • Note what kind of reading material your child enjoys reading (books, magazines, newspapers, Internet). Subscriptions to their favorite magazine or books about favorite topics make great gifts. • Assist your child in using references such as the Internet or dictionary to look up unfamiliar words. • Show your child how to “read with a pencil”. Tell them to underline key details, circle words or phrases they do not know, and write a note in the margin to summarize the main idea of the paragraph or section. This will help make your child’s thinking visible. • Show your child how to access safe Internet resources to research a topic of interest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make time for conversation at home. Discuss current events, shared interests, and future aspirations for future or career. • Visit museums, zoos, theatres, historical sites, aquariums, and other educational places to help increase your child’s exposure to new knowledge and vocabulary. • Talk about how particular elements of a story, play or television show interact. What effect does the setting have on the characters or the plot? • Talk about how prefixes and suffixes affect the meaning of a word (such as bi-, re-, dis -). • Guide your child to group their ideas while writing by using headings. • Allow your child to use the computer to compose, revise, and edit their writing. <p>Sources: “Standards and Instructional Support.” <i>FLDOE.org</i>. Retrieved on: August 31, 2015 from http://www.fl DOE.org/academics/standards/ “Parents’ Guide to Student Success.” <i>National PTA every child. one voice</i>. Retrieved on: August 31, 2015 from http://www.pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583</p>