

READING **SUCCESS** AT HOME



HELPFUL TIPS FOR PARENTS

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Written by

Fiona Clare

Literacy Outreach Coordinator, Literacy in Kamloops

With support from

Lorraine Brookes, Dianne Dean, Tricia Persad, Deanna Steptoe

School District No. 73 Primary Literacy Resource Team

And my mentor Debbie Schiller

Design and typesetting by

Carlo Sia

Henry Grube Education Centre Print Shop

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Contact: literacyinkamloops@gmail.com



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1. Why is reading important?



The ability to read is an important key to success in school and in life. Everyday we need to make sense of information that is all around us.

We read to:

- learn about our world and the things that interest us
- find a good job and keep it
- communicate with family, friends and others
- enjoy the pleasure of a good story

2. How can I help my child become a life-long reader?

- Make reading FUN – that’s how children learn naturally
- Read together every day – make it a positive time
- Find books your child is interested in – comics and fun books are okay
- Let your child see you reading – you’re the role model



“Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.”

~Emilie Buchwald



More reading activities:

- Play board and card games that are fun and not too hard
 - Commit to “family game night” once a week or once a month
- Listen to recorded books, especially on long car rides – free at the library
 - Listening to stories helps kids “draw pictures in their minds”
- Play word games or guessing games in the car, like “I Spy”

Help your child “**read the world**” through magazines, newspapers, recipes, photo albums, shopping lists, traffic signs, trading cards...

3. How do I help my child choose “Just Right” books?

Good questions for your child to ask are:

- Am I interested in the book?
- Do I understand what the book is about?
- Do I know most of the words, or is it too hard for me?



Hearing my favourite book over and over again helps me memorize words and read better.



I like to choose my own books because I like to read about things that interest me.

4. How do we warm up the book together?

Before reading the book, look at the cover and then do a “picture walk” through the pages.



As you look at the cover, talk about it.

As you do a “picture walk” ask:

- For fiction/storybooks
 - What do the pictures show?
 - What do you think is happening?
 - What might happen next?
- For non-fiction/information books
 - What do you already know about this?
 - What do you wonder about this?



When you’ve read the book, ask: “What did you learn?” Share what you’ve learned too! Make it a real conversation, not a quiz.

5. What do I do when my child isn't a confident reader?

These strategies will help your child relax and enjoy the book more. Find books that are **easy** for your child to read. Success leads to confidence!

After you've warmed up the book, you can:

- First read the book to your child
- Read together at the same time
 - Your child doesn't have to worry about sounding out the hard words, because you are reading them together.
- Echo read - You read a passage, then your child reads the same passage
 - Your child will follow your lead of reading smoothly with good expression, stopping at the periods and pausing at commas.



Memorizing is part of the process!

6. What do I do if my child makes a mistake?

Reading is about thinking. What is important is that your child understands what is being read.

- If your child makes a mistake and it still makes sense, leave it alone, keep reading, don't interrupt!
- If your child makes a mistake and it doesn't make sense, **PAUSE**. Give your child some time to self-correct or figure it out.
- If your child continues to read without self-correcting, **PROMPT** by asking a question.

Here are examples: The text reads, "The man rode the horse."

- Your child reads, "The man rode the **house**."
Ask, "**Does that make sense?**"
- Your child reads, "The man **rided** the horse."
Ask, "**Does that sound right?**" (Is that the way we talk?)
- Your child reads, "The man **roped** the horse."
Ask, "**Does that look right?**" (Do the letters match the sounds in the word?)
- When your child self-corrects, **PRAISE**
 - Encourage your child to self-correct, but sometimes you just need to say the word so you can both continue to enjoy and understand the book.

You don't need to correct every mistake!

7. What can I do if my child still can't read a word?

If your child still needs help to figure out a word, suggest one of these strategies:

1. Look at the picture for clues



2. Think about what makes sense



3. Go back and reread



4. Look at the letter clues



5. Find word parts or chunks you know



6. Skip the word, read on, then go back.
Now what makes sense?



7. Flip the letter sound



8. How do I check that my child understands what's been read?



During and after reading:

- Talk about what is happening in the book
 - Most stories have a problem and a solution; talk about the problem and wonder about what the solution might be
- Predict or guess what might happen next
- Ask about the meaning of words
- Ask your child's opinion and thoughts about the book
- Share your thoughts and opinions too!

9. Confidence is the key to success!

Remember...

- The best book is one your child WANTS to read
- It's okay to read favourite books over and over again
- Learning to read takes practice - be patient
- Mistakes are opportunities for learning
- Relax, enjoy this time together and HAVE FUN!

“Mistakes are meant to be teachers, not undertakers”

~Ralph Klein



Just a final reminder...

If your child makes a mistake...

Pause

If he/she still can't read the word...

Prompt

And remember, always...

Praise!

For trying hard, for reading smoothly, for self-correcting, for sharing time with you and for being a great kid.



