

Reading is one of the most important skills your child will ever learn. Mastering reading leads to success, both in school and as an adult. Reading helps us learn and grow throughout life.



You are your child's first teacher. There are many fun things you can do at home to help your child increase his or her reading skills.



You and your child's school are partners in the learning process.



This pamphlet lists some fun, easy, and exciting ways to continue to build your child's reading skills.

For more ideas and additional resources: Contact the Parent Center Coordinator at your child's school. This person can tell you about activities and materials available at the school.

Here are 107 words that appear in most books. Help your child to read as many of these as you can. (Zeno et al., 1995)

Internet resources supporting parents in literacy:

the	from	said	like	way
of	had	out	could	each
and	I	if	has	called
to	not	some	him	did
a	have	would	how	just
in	this	so	than	after
is	but	people	two	water
that	by	them	may	through
it	were	other	only	get
was	one	more	most	because
for	all	will	its	back
you	she	into	made	where
he	when	your	over	know
on	an	which	see	little
as	their	do	first	such
are	there	then	new	even
they	her	many	very	much
with	can	these	my	our
be	we	no	also	must
his	what	time	down	
at	about	been	make	
or	up	who	now	

Internet resources supporting parents in literacy:

www.literacycenter.net
www.readingrockets.org
www.accessarkansas.org/afl/about_us.html
www.cleverisland.com
ADE Special Education Website:
<http://arksped.k12.ar.us>
ADE State Improvement Grant Website:
<http://acc.k12.ar.us/sig>

Ideas to Build Your Child's Reading Skills



Activities for Children at the Upper Elementary School Levels

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
Education

Special Education Unit
State Improvement Grant
(501) 683-5578



Reading combines many skills.

Your child will learn many things on the way to becoming a good reader. Listed are some activities you can do with your child to help him or her become a more successful reader.

Activities to prepare your child for reading success:

Phonemic Awareness

- Keep lots of books in your home your child wants and likes to read.
- Call out your child's spelling words and ask your child to tell you the number of syllables in each word.
- Ask your child to create "tongue twisters" with each word beginning with the same sound (for example, "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.").

Phonics

- Ask your child to sound out each syllable when he/she comes to an unfamiliar word, then put the syllables together to make the word.
- Ask your child to sort his/her spelling word list according to visual patterns, i.e., prefixes, suffixes (triangle, trifocal, tricycle or favorable, affordable, agreeable) or alphabetically.

Fluency

- Read a page from a story, poem, or play to your child with expression. Pause for punctuation. Then ask your child to read the same page out loud to you.
- Ask your child to read familiar stories over and over. See if he/she can read the story more quickly and smoothly over time.

Vocabulary

- Talk with your child about his/her daily activities and encourage him/her to give you details. Be specific. You might ask, "What did you read in language arts today?" or "What are you studying in science this week?"
- Pause when reading with your child and explain any unfamiliar word. Ask your child to make up a sentence using the word.
- Ask your child to make up a sentence using words from his/her weekly spelling list.

Vocabulary (cont)

- Use your child's textbook (for example, in science or social studies) and talk to him/her about the vocabulary in the unit being studied.

Comprehension

- Help your child check out books from the library. Ask him/her questions after reading sections of the book. Some questions you might ask are, "What do you think will happen next?"; "Why do you think that character did that?"; "In what order did the events occur?"; and "What would you do if this happened to you?"
- Allow your child to read and carry out favorite recipes.

