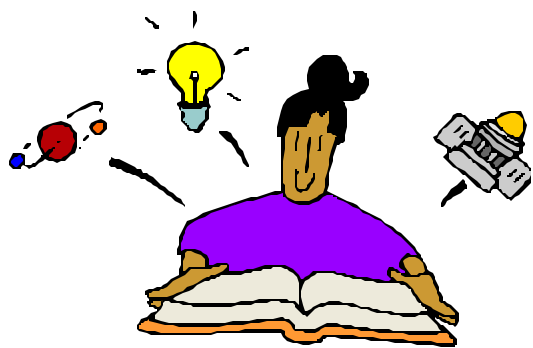


Reading is one of the most important skills your child will ever learn. Mastering reading leads to success, both in school and as an adult. Reading helps us learn and grow throughout life.



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 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)

| | | | | |
|------|-------|--------|-------|---------|
| 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 Lower Elementary

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. Below 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 can look at and read.
- Match pictures of things that have the same beginning, middle, and ending **sounds** with your child (shovel, shirt, shell; cat, hat, bat; rake, block, smoke).
- Say a word and ask your child to name a word that rhymes with it.

Phonemic Awareness (cont)

- Say a word and ask your child to tell you the beginning, middle or ending sound.
- Ask your child to substitute one sound for another to make a new word (bug to bun, cap to map).

Phonics

- Place letter magnets on your refrigerator and ask your child to tell you the names and sounds of the letters.

- Practice saying the names and sounds of letters with your child.
- Match pictures of familiar things with the letters representing the beginning, middle, and ending sounds.
- Say a word such as cup and ask your child what new word results when you change the letter "c" to the letter "p" (pup).

Fluency

- Practice rapidly naming the letters of the alphabet with your child (use letter cards, magnetic letters, alphabet strips to help).

Fluency (cont)

- Practice rapidly naming sight words with your child (see the word list in this pamphlet).
- 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 aloud 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 (for example, "What games did you play at recess?").
- Ask your child to read words he/she sees every day (for example, the words on signs, menus, notices, and labels).
- Look through a book before reading a story and ask your child to use words to describe the pictures.
- Pause when reading with your child and explain any unknown word. Ask your child to make up a sentence using the word.

Comprehension

- Help your child check out books from the library.
- Allow your child to read and carry out simple recipes.
- Stop and ask your child questions while reading (for example, "Who are the people in this story?"; "Where does this story take place?"; and "What is this story about?").
- Ask your child to retell parts of a story to you after reading together.

