

Literacy Tip Sheet For Parents



Did You Know.... if a child reads for 20 minutes every day, they are exposed to about 1.8 MILLION words of text every year!

When Do I Start?

You can start reading aloud to your child as early as you like-**THE EARLIER THE BETTER!**

The language experiences that children have before they start school form many powerful brain connections. These connections are used for thinking, language and understanding. Without activities like talking, singing and reading, the brain doesn't develop this rich networks of connections.

Sharing books with your baby

Even young babies can learn from the experience of reading books with you. For example, you can:

- **Name familiar and new things** – this can help your baby learn about sounds and words. The more words children hear, the more words they learn.
- **Change the tone of your voice as you read** – this makes it easier for your baby to pick up on different speech sounds, an important step in learning to make sounds himself.
- **Read slowly** and spend time on each page after you read the words – this lets your baby focus.
- **Turn the pages** when you read with your baby – this shows him how to use a book.
- **Copy the sounds your baby makes** and don't be afraid to use baby talk – it helps babies understand how language is put together.
- **Sing** with your child.
- **Talk to your child about the everyday things** you're doing and seeing together. For example: "What a nice lunch we're having".

Advantages of Children Reading at a Young Age:

Improves School Readiness

Advances Career Success

More Academic Success

Lowers Health Care Cost

Prepared for Lifelong Learning

Enhances Productivity

Increases Interest in College

Boosts Attendance

Promotes Healthy Lifestyles

Raises Self Confidence

Develops Social-Emotional Health

Elevates Life Satisfaction



Fun at Literacy Night

Families that read together, learn together!

Allow children to select books-Collecting books from garage sales is a great way to build a home library!

Build family reading time into routines-Before and after bedtime, before t.v. time, bath time, etc.

Read in different places-try beds, under trees, porch swings, picnic tables, create a classroom to play “school”.

Read stories, words and phrases out loud to build memory and vocabulary.

Ask your child to tell you **what he/she just read!**

Point to pictures, photos and graphics and **ASK QUESTIONS!**

Make up stories together and talk about topics presented in books-This builds interest.

Notice the books that are favorites-read them again and again! This builds repetition and language.

Visit your library and check out local bookstores for free summer reading programs!

Make sure your **child’s preschool or child care provider reads to the children daily!**

Visit any of our **Little Free Libraries in Bath, Fowler, Westphalia, Ovid, Elsie or St. Johns** to swap books.

Keep this goal in mind: All Children are prepared to succeed in Fourth Grade and beyond by reading proficiently by the end of Third Grade.

Learn More About These Reading Experiences and Sign Up For Our Mailing List at: www.clintongreatstart.org

*Dolly Parton Imagination Library

*1000 Books Before Kindergarten

*Ready4K Texts

*Literacy Nights at CCRESA

Read **TO** and **WITH** your child. Have your child read (or tell stories) to you. Look at illustrations together. Try joke books, comic books, a variety of books. Laugh, talk and have fun with books!

Sign up for our “mailing list” at the website below or call (989)224-6831 ext. 2145 to receive information about free, family-friendly activities, literacy events, and classes.

Reading by our “Grinch Tree for Literacy”



Receiving Imagination Library books in the mail



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