

Tips for Families of Elementary & Middle School Students



Read to and with your child every day. It is very important to read out loud to your child before they start school. Help your child to read with you. Ask them to find letters and words on the page and talk with your child about the story.



If your child has a disability, they may find reading frustrating. **Use technology to support reading** such as audio books on a device, audio recording yourself reading a book so your child can read along, or apps that highlight words as they read them aloud.



Help your child to see that reading is important. Suggest reading as a free-time activity. Make sure your child has time in their day to read. Set a good example for your child by reading newspapers, magazines, and books in front of them. If you are reading on a device, make it evident that you are reading. Set up a reading area in your home.



Keep books that interest your child in places that are visible and where they can easily reach them. As your child becomes a more skilled reader, make sure that you add higher leveled books to your collection.



Reading informational texts for pleasure is as important as reading a novel. Give your child opportunities to read informational texts aligned to their interests. Allow your child to choose books and articles that feature their favorite sports teams, historical figures, hobbies, or other interesting topics.



View pleasure reading as a value. Almost anything helps your child reads – including the Sunday comics – helps build reading skills.



Literacy development begins in the home. Connect common home literacy practices to school literacy practices, such as looking at photographs, cooking together, reading family emails or social media posts, or writing out a daily schedule.