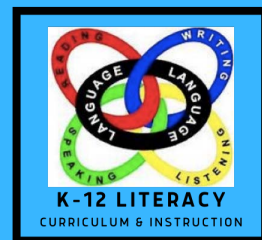




READING/ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION LITERACY

For Parents & Families:
Simple Tips to Help Build K-12 Literacy



KINDERGARTEN TO COLLEGE AND CAREER

Learn tips to support literacy at home.



Proficiency in literacy is the foundation of all learning, and we are committed to making that a top priority for students. As we raise expectations of our students, innovative and varied practices are needed in the classroom to provide students with learning experiences that will prepare them for life after graduation.

LITERACY TIPS FOR PARENTS: KINDERGARTEN TO 2ND GRADE

Primary Grades

Read! Read! Read! Encourage your child to re-read favorite books and poems. Re-reading helps kids read more quickly and accurately. Check out the other great tips that encourage your child have fun with language!

Learning about words is fun!



Talk about letters and sounds. Help your child learn the names of the letters and the sounds the letters make. Turn it into a game! “I’m thinking of a letter and it makes the sound mmmmm. What’s my letter?”

Play sound games. Practice blending sounds into words. Ask, “Can you guess what this word is? m-a-p?” Hold each sound longer than normal.

Trace and say letters. Have your child use a finger to trace a letter while saying the letter’s sound. Do this on paper, in sand, a plate of sugar, shaving cream, etc.

Play word games. Play games like I-Spy with specific letters and words.

Environmental Print Read street signs, restaurant signs, store signs, logos, cereal boxes, and any other print that your child sees often.

Take control of the television. It’s difficult for reading to compete with TV and video games. Encourage reading as a free-time activity.

I read, you read. Take turns reading aloud at bedtime especially. Kids enjoy this special time with their parents.

Be patient. When your child is trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give him/her time to do so. Remind your child to look closely at the first letter or letters of the word.

Ask questions. Ask your child questions about the books they have read and/or the books you read to them. This would include questions about the main idea, characters, and what happened at the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

Read-Talk-Write Encourage your child to write about what he/she has read by asking questions and talking about the answers before writing their response.

LITERACY TIPS FOR PARENTS: 3RD GRADE TO 5TH GRADE

Intermediate

For this age group, continue to make reading for fun a part of your child's daily routine. Set aside quiet time, with no phones, computers, or other distractions, when your child can read for pleasure. Keep books, magazines, and newspapers at home. Make sure your child sees you reading.

Goals at this age include improving fluency, analytical skills, and diversity of reading materials.



Practice reading difficult text out loud. Do this until your child no longer stumbles over words.

Read the same story or novel separately. Then discuss it together.

Monitor independent reading choices. Make sure your child is challenging themselves. Make sure they are transitioning from early reader books with only a few words on the page, to longer books with chapters.

Invite your child to read his or her writing out loud to other family members. Ask questions about your child's word choices and ideas.

Keep a running list of difficult vocabulary words and their meanings. Include words your child is learning in other subjects such as science and social studies. Start a family vocabulary box or jar. Have everyone write down new words they discover, add them to the box, and use the words in conversation.

Play word games like Scrabble and hangman. Or, find fun word games online.

Go to a play or musical with your child. Discuss the way the actors bring the words to life.

Start to introduce informational materials. Read items such as instructions, mail or maps together.

Read non-fiction articles in newspapers or online. Discuss the difference between facts and opinions. Talk about the news together. Pick one story in the news, read it together, and discuss with your child what it means.

Encourage research. When your child asks questions, ask them to think about where they might find the answer. Urge your child to use logical arguments to defend his or her opinion. If your child wants a raise in allowance, ask him or her to research commonsense allowance systems and, based on that research, explain reasons why, supported by facts and details.

Develop recall skills. After your child reads, have them verbally summarize the main ideas and details to you.

LITERACY TIPS FOR PARENTS: 6TH GRADE TO 8TH GRADE

Middle School

Set the mood for reading and writing with your middle schooler. Help your child to create a good study area with everything you need (for example, highlighters, pens, paper, etc.). If you don't have a quiet place at home, try your school or local library. Try these other great tips for supporting your child's reading habits.

Remain involved with what is happening in your child's school.



Know Where to Begin Make a list of everything your child will need to do, and note all deadlines. (For example, if your child's English teacher is assigning an essay, inquire about specific deadlines and checkpoints leading up to the final due date).

Study at the Same Time Every Day Even if your child doesn't have homework every night, use the time to review notes, catch up on missed reading assignments, and re-read text that were difficult to comprehend. If sitting down to work is part of your normal routine, you'll approach it with less dread. Also, you'll become a pro at using time productively.

Keep Things in Perspective Know how much weight your child's assignment or test carries, and use your time accordingly.

Get More Involved with Your Child's Study Habits Keep your child's mind from wandering by guiding them in taking notes, underlining sections, annotating documents with them and discussing topics related to their homework.

Organize the Information Your child may process information in different ways. Some people like to draw pictures or charts to digest information, others prefer to read out loud or make detailed outlines. Try to find the methods that work best for your child. Ask your child's teacher for recommendations if you're having trouble.

Take Advantage of Any Free Time If your child has a study period or a long bus or car ride, use the time to help your child review notes, prepare for an upcoming class or start their homework.

Communicate If your child has concerns about the amount or type of homework they have, you may want to talk to their teachers or counselor. They can help you understand how much time your child needs to allot for homework and how to manage their tasks.

Celebrate Your Child's Achievements Reward your child for hitting milestones or doing something well. Positive affirmations encourage your child to continue to strive for academic excellence.

LITERACY TIPS FOR PARENTS: 9TH GRADE TO 12TH GRADE

High School

Remain involved with what is happening in your high schooler's learning. High school students tend not to share as much information with their parents as students in the lower grades. Parents should make it a habit to attend meetings, request conferences, and even volunteer. Active parents are better able to support student needs before they become more serious issues and hinder post-secondary goals.

Having great organizational skills is instrumental in students' success in high school and beyond.



Help your child with their soft skills.

Soft skills, the ability to collaborate, create, think outside the box, and communicate, are important skills that students will need whether they choose to enter college or opt to join the workforce instead.

Practice and implement effective organizational strategies.

While this skill is not explicitly taught in high school, having great organizational skills is instrumental in students' success in high school and beyond. Parents can help teens by providing tools and resources like binders or folders to help keep tasks and assignments organized. Also online calendars and organizational applications that can be accessed on tablets or smart phones can also be helpful and allow parents the opportunity to stay connected to upcoming deadlines.

Provide support with studying.

Many students struggle with studying when they enter college. It is important that parents begin to cultivate and support effective study habits. Provide students with a place and atmosphere for studying. Offer help or tutors when needed.

Make reading fun and accessible.

Make sure that your student has an active library card and even access to the electronic library that can be accessed on smart devices. Co-read with your students so that they have someone to discuss their reading with.

Consult with your child's school counselor to develop a post-secondary plan for your child.

Much of what students plan for after high school depends on what they are able to accomplish while still in high school. It is important that parents take the time to discuss post-secondary goals with their child and consult the school counselor to make sure that the student is taking the right courses, participating in the right clubs and organizations, and preparing for the appropriate assessments.

Complete all necessary student aid documents.

Many parents get anxious at the mention of student loans. It is important that parents help students prepare for college by completing all necessary student aid documents. Applications like FAFSA are required if students want to apply for federally funded grants and loans. Completing the application does not commit a parent or student to the funds, but rather it makes receiving the funds possible.

LITERACY TIPS FOR PARENTS & FAMILIES PROVIDED BY

K-12 Literacy Team

Curriculum & Instruction



Questions? Email ci_ela_team@scsk12.org

