



Strategies to Strengthen Reading Fluency at Home (Kindergarten)

Reading at least 20 minutes a night: Studies have shown reading at least 20 minutes a night with your child during the week will strengthen his or her reading skills.

- Children that need to “catch up”, extra time will make a difference to close the gap
- Provide a variety of different types of books so your child can have choices to keep up his or her interest level
- Find other kindergarten families or neighbors that might like to join a “book swap”
- Regular visits to the library will offer many choices

Echo Read with your child: Modeling good reading is very important to develop strong confident readers. Modeling how to read dialogue or show inflection in your voice will help your child become more aware of these skills in his or her own oral reading.

- Adult reads a few sentences, child rereads these same sentences
- Pay attention to how your child’s oral reading develops from week to week
- Share the growth and changes you notice
- Praise your child for these accomplishments (Having joy associated with reading is very important)

Review upper and lower alphabet letters:

- Mix upper and lower case letters written on a recipe card or pieces of paper, no more than 6-10 letters at a time
- Call out a letter name and have your child find the match
- Turn the letters upside down and take turns with your child turning them over one at a time calling out the letter names
- Once your child has mastered the letter names, start having your child say the letter sounds
- Have your child practice the short vowel sound for the vowels
 - A short vowel is one that does not have the same sound as the letter itself
 - Short vowels are /a/ as in cat, /e/ as in red, /i/ as in rid, /o/ as in rod, and /u/ as in pug.
- Make three or four letter words with cards, some real and some not, so your child can practice decoding the sounds in words – help your child sound them out

Segment word with your child:

- Have your child say sounds back to you he or she hears in a word
- Start with words with two or three sounds:
 - on
 - in
 - at
 - jet
 - bag
 - ran
 - win
 - coat
- Then move to words with four sounds:
 - hand
 - west
 - slim
 - child
 - drove
 - sand
- Your child will say each sound like: o-n i-n h-a-n-d s-l-i-m

No one knows your child's skills as well as his or her teacher. Below are some suggestions from your child's class room teacher.
