

THE LANGUAGE AND LITERACY CONNECTION

TIPS FOR PARENTS

INFANTS

- ◆ Infants imitate speech and vocalize needs and feelings through crying and laughing.
- ◆ Talk to your baby throughout the day. Talking today equals reading tomorrow.
- ◆ Reading to your baby is a great way to bond and you can never start too early. Make books a part of your daily routine.
- ◆ Read books with lots of pictures and choose books with bright illustrations that they can see clearly and that will capture your baby's attention.
- ◆ Sing favorite songs and read much-loved stories over and over again. Show the words and run your finger across the page from left to right, as you read to them.

TODDLERS

- ◆ Toddlers understand several simple phrases and have 250-350 word vocabularies.
- ◆ Have conversations with your toddler and ask open-ended questions to promote critical thinking.
- ◆ Toddlers can hold books and look at pictures.
- ◆ Read interactive books and nursery rhymes with your toddler.
- ◆ Vocabulary at age 3 is a predictor of 3rd grade reading achievement.

PRESCHOOLERS

- ◆ Preschoolers have 800-1000 word vocabularies.
- ◆ Your preschooler may like to repeat common rhymes. Nursery rhymes, songs, and poetry are a key part of literacy development.
- ◆ Preschoolers use longer sentences.
- ◆ As you read to your preschooler, focus on new words and use those words in other contexts.
- ◆ Read to your child as often as possible throughout the day and have books readily accessible throughout the house, in the car, and in your bag. The more you read, the more your child understands how books work.
- ◆ Take your child to the library and make it fun. Ask your librarian for recommendations. Register for the *1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program* at the library and model your own love of reading by signing a book out yourself.

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EARLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

- ◆ Children at this age have 3,000—5,000 word vocabularies.
- ◆ At this age, your child will start to read words on the page.
- ◆ Make both fiction and non-fiction books and magazines easily accessible to your child.
- ◆ Visit museums and libraries and talk with your child about any new experiences.
- ◆ Carry a book or magazine with you so that you have it available, as needed.
- ◆ Encourage your child to re-read favorite books.
- ◆ Manage your child's TV and screen time and promote reading during free time.
- ◆ Reading with your child at bedtime encourages quiet time, facilitates sleep, and is a great way to bond.
- ◆ Ask your child questions about school, family activities, friends and continue to build on words you've discussed in the past.
- ◆ Have fun with writing and encourage your child to use lessons learned at school.

3rd GRADERS

- ◆ Children in 3rd grade read chapter books.
- ◆ 3rd graders learn an estimated 3,000 words per year.
- ◆ Limit your child's screen time and replace it with reading and educational activities.
- ◆ Encourage reading and re-reading to promote accuracy.
- ◆ Integrate reading into all aspects of family life and ask your child questions about the books being read and the characters involved.
- ◆ Create books together by cutting pictures out of magazines and having fun with crayons, markers and paints. You can also include family pictures.

For more information on The Language and Literacy Connection, please contact Julie Zygmun, Early Literacy Coordinator, at 772.320.0836, or by email, at jzygmun@hpsfl.org

