

English Learner Parent Support

ESC REGION 11 ENGLISH LEARNER SUPPORT • Vol. 1 Issue 4

How to Help Your Elementary Age Child with Reading



Beginning Readers

As your child starts to read, there are lots of ways you can help at home.

Reading a book aloud

Re-reading a favorite story

Talking about a book and asking questions

Playing word games such as, "Tell me a word for the letter 'A'".



Independent Readers

When your child is reading independently, listen to your child read aloud, go to the library to check out books, and:

- Read books in your native language with your child daily
- Talk about the stories you have read together
- Play rhyming games and sing songs in your native language together (Example: I'm thinking of an animal that rhymes with lobo: lobo)
- Encourage your child to write in your native language
- Keep native language print material in your home such as books, greeting cards, magazines, and newspapers
- Play games, puzzles, and music in your native language
- Encourage your child to use your native language to tell stories
- Increase your child's native language vocabulary by teaching him/her new words, pointing out and naming objects, and helping him/her improve pronunciation



Reading Nonfiction

Kids love books about real things because they are about the world they see all around them. Use the tips below when reading with your child:

Take a "book walk:"

- Scanning and skimming the book gives the reader a preview of the book.
- Look at the front and back cover of the book to talk about the pictures, author, and illustrator.
- Look at the table of contents to see what the book will be about. (Not all books will have a table of contents.)
- Look at the pictures in the story to get a preview of the story.
- Look at the glossary in case you need to look up a word's meaning. (Not all books will have a glossary.)

Ask questions. Help your child be an active reader by asking lots of questions and modeling thinking out loud.

- Model by thinking out loud and asking questions as they turn the pages of the book.



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For more information, contact Melanie Yocom at myocom@esc11.net or 817-740-7563 or Gabriel Verrone at gverrone@esc11.net or 817-740-7542.

More Resources to Help Your Elementary Age Child Read



Scan the QR code for more tips to help beginning readers



Scan the QR code for more tips to help independent readers



Scan the QR code for more tips for reading nonfiction

How to Help Your Child with Reading in Middle School, High School & Beyond...

English Learners in Middle School and High School may already be fluent readers in their native language and now face the challenge of learning to read in English! Here are tips, tools and resources to help your older child succeed in achieving literacy in a second language:



Listen to Audio Books

Listening to a second language is the first step in understanding it. Audio books are a wonderful way to expose your older child to complex language, expressive reading, and fantastic stories. Here's what to look for:

Listening to a book versus Reading a book: Listen to an audio book is a very different experience from hearing a book aloud. The narrator's voice and sound effects make the book exciting and interesting.



How to Get Your Preteen/Teen to Read

- Be a positive role model for reading. Read everything: books, letters, recipes, instructions, newspapers, magazines, and e-mail.
- Make sure you have lots of reading materials at home for your teen.
- Ask family and friends to give your teen books and magazine subscriptions as gifts



Help Your Child Understand What They Read

Even if you don't speak English you can help your child understand what they read by:

- Talk about music, politics, sports, history, or whatever interests you both. Conversations with adults help children build understanding.
- Ask questions that make your child think about what he or she just read. Say something like, "Why do you think he did that?" or "What's happening now?"



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Easy-to-use format

Audio books are available as CDs and can be found at your local public library. Some libraries also carry Playaways, which are books pre-loaded onto MP3 player available for checkout. Your library may also provide audio books as digital files through a service like OverDrive and there are also many online digital services such as Audible and Tales2Go.

Quality titles

When choosing audio book titles, seek suggestions from your librarian and lookup recommendations from experts, such as Notable Children's Recordings from the American Library Association or Reading Rockets' Favorite Audio Books.

Good production.

When possible, listen to a sample of the audio book before you make the selection.

If the narrator's voice is annoying or you find background music and sound effects distracting, this may not be the book for you or your family.

- Give your teen a lot of opportunities to read.
- Take your teen to the local library and help him get his own library card. Learn more in Library Services for Teenagers.
- Allow your teen to choose his/her books.
- Teens are more likely to read books or magazines that interest them. Help your teen find books on a topic or hobby that interests her, or give her some time on her own to explore the library and bookstore.
- Look for reading materials related to your family history or culture.
- If your teen is bilingual, encourage reading in both languages.
- Talk to your teen's teachers about reading. Don't be shy — the teacher will welcome your interest! Ask for lists of books for your teen to read independently at home, and ways that you can support reading at home.
- If your teen has difficulty reading, talk to his teachers immediately.
- Talk about different word meanings in your native language. When kids know what a word means, they have less difficulty when reading.
- Buy or borrow a children's dictionary. Show your child how to use it to look up the meaning of words. If you have access to the Internet, your child can also go to a talking dictionary to hear how a word is pronounced (in English).
- Ask your child to retell a story in just a few sentences (summarize).
- Ask him or her to guess what might happen next (predict).
- Explain how to pause while reading in order to ask himself or herself whether he or she knows what is happening, and if not, to re-read the sentence again (monitor).

More Resources to Help Your Preteens/Teens Read



Scan the QR Code to access BrainPOP Jr.



Scan the QR code to access BrainPOP



Scan the QR code to access Khan Academy



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What Can I Do at Home with my Baby or Toddler?



Listening and responding:

- Talk to your baby or toddler
- Make funny faces
- Sing nursery rhymes
- Play games like peek-a-boo.

Reading together:

- Read books to your baby every day.
- As you read, talk about the pictures as you go.

Asking and answering questions:

- Toddlers love to ask questions. Encourage your toddler's new skills by engaging her in conversations, listening to her questions, and answering them patiently.

Sharing family stories:

- Tell your child stories about yourself or other family members, using photos to go with your words. This will help your child both recognize sounds and appreciate your family history.

Find More Tips to Help Your Child with Reading at ESC Region 11 English Learner Support

The ESC Region 11 English Learner Support team has a dedicated page that offers help to families with English Learners in our region: <https://www.esc11.net/Page/9132>. It includes tips and resources to help children read at every level of ability.



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