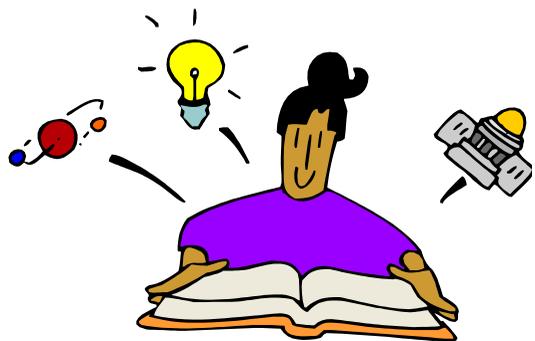


Reading is one of the most important skills your child will ever learn. Mastering reading leads to success, both in school and as an adult. Reading helps us learn and grow throughout life.



You are your child's first teacher. There are many fun things you can do at home to help your child get ready to read.



You and your child's school are partners in the learning process.



This pamphlet lists some fun, easy, and exciting ways to build your child's reading (or pre-reading) skills.

For more ideas and additional resources: Contact the Parent Center Coordinator at your child's school. This person can tell you about activities and materials available at the school.

Reading terms you may hear in your child's school:

Phonemic Awareness: The ability to notice, think about, and work with the individual sounds in spoken words.

Phonics instruction: Teaches children to connect letters or written language with the individual sounds they make when spoken.

Fluency: The ability to read a sentence or paragraph accurately and quickly.

Vocabulary: Understanding what words mean by themselves and in sentences.

Comprehension: Understanding what sentences, paragraphs, and stories are trying to tell us. Making sense of what we hear and read.

Internet resources supporting parents in literacy:

Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Website:
<http://arkansased.org/>
ADE Special Education Website:
<http://arksped.k12.ar.us/>
ADE State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) Website: www.arstudentsuccess.org
www.literacycenter.net
www.readingrockets.org
www.accessarkansas.org/afl/about_us.html

Ideas to Build Your Child's Reading Skills



Activities for Infancy through Kindergarten



**Special Education Unit
State Personnel Development
Grant (SPDG)
(501) 835-3330**



Reading combines many skills. Your child will learn many things on the way to becoming a good reader. Listed are some activities you can do with your child to help him or her become a more successful reader.

Activities to prepare your child for reading success:

Phonemic Awareness

- Read and repeat nursery rhymes with your child.
- Ask your child to name words that rhyme (pat, cat).
- Keep lots of books in your home your child can look at and read.
- Match pictures of things that have the same beginning **sound** with your child (cut, kite, cake).

Phonics

- Place letter magnets on your refrigerator and ask your child to tell you the names and sounds of the letters.
- Practice saying the names and sounds of letters with your child.
- Match pictures of familiar things with the letter representing the beginning sound (a - apple, ant, alligator).

Fluency

- Practice rapidly naming the letters of the alphabet with your child (use letter cards, magnetic letters, alphabet strips to help).
- Read to your child every day, pointing to words as you read.
- Read your child's favorite stories over and over.
- Sing alphabet songs to and with your child.

Vocabulary

- Talk with your child during daily activities.
- Ask your child to name and describe things he/she sees at home and in the community.
- Look through the book before reading a story and ask your child to use words to describe the pictures.
- Pause when reading to your child and explain words he/she doesn't know.

Comprehension

- Check out books from the library with your child. Read the book's title and ask your child what he/she thinks the book is about.
- Allow your child to carry out the steps in simple recipes.

Comprehension (cont)

- Talk about pictures, characters, feelings, etc., when reading with your child. Ask your child, "What's that?" or "Can you find the bear, dog, etc.?" and discuss the sequence of activities.
- Let your child retell stories as you turn pages.
- Give your child crayons or other markers and encourage him/her to draw or write. Ask your child to tell you about the picture or words he/she created.

