

HIGH 5 FOR SUMMER READING

How You Can Support Your Child in Everyday Ways

1 Read, Read, Read...and Write Too!

Your child should read for at least 20 minutes every day. You can read to them, have them read to you, talk about what they are reading on their own, have siblings read to each other, and read in native home languages. Encourage them to write daily too! For example: writing about what they read but also journaling, lyrics, short stories, grocery lists, and notes. In K-2nd grade, they can use “inventive spelling”-- using what they know about letters and sounds to spell out words, even if it’s not the correct spelling.

2 Play, Sing, Talk!

Have fun building language with your child. For early readers, play sound and word games like listening for the first/middle/last sound of words, clapping out syllables, or playing rhyming games. For example: ask your child to think of words that rhyme with cat to make up a silly sentence: “The cat sat on my hat instead of the mat!” For older students, you might try word challenges like brainstorming words that have similar or opposite meanings, identifying words with multiple meanings, or coming up with as many words as you can that contain common word parts (e.g., un-, re-, pre- at the beginning of a word or -ful, -ly, or -less at the end).

3 Support the Building Blocks of Reading.

To help with reading the words on the page, use chunking it out (no guessing based on pictures or just the first letter). Breaking down words into smaller chunks of natural sound patterns is a good strategy. For example: reading “family” can be chunked as fam- i- ly. At any age, work on smooth, fluent reading by selecting a poem, song lyrics, newspaper article, or short story to reread several times before performing for your family or neighbors.

4 Boost Vocabulary.

Encourage your child to use new words learned from reading and conversation as part of your everyday life. Words take on their meaning in stories, nonfiction books, and in full sentences as we talk about our lives and the world around us.

5 Follow Interests to Grow Knowledge.

Explore topics that interest your child and learn about them through reading, talking, and doing. Visit museums, cultural centers, and libraries. Listen to podcasts or watch informative videos online. Pick a new activity to try or a neighborhood location to explore. This will help them feel the joy of reading by learning about issues, events, and hobbies that matter to them and help them find their passions and purpose.