



Office of Academics and Transformation  
***Literacy Tips for Parents from Birth to Grade 5***

<b>BABIES</b>	<b>TODDLER</b>	<b>PRE-KINDERGARTEN</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Sing, Read, Repeat.</b> Read favorite stories and sing favorite songs over and over again. Repeated fun with books will strengthen language development and positive feelings about reading.</li><li>• <b>Talk with your baby-all day long.</b> Describe the weather or which apples you are choosing at the grocery store. Talk about the pictures in a book or things you see on a walk. Ask questions. By listening, your child learns words, ideas, and how language works.</li><li>• <b>Encourage your baby's coos, growls, and gurgles.</b> These are your baby's way of communicating with you, and are important first steps toward speech. Encourage attempts to mimic you. The more your baby practices making sounds, the clearer they will become. Go ahead and moo, woof and honk!</li><li>• <b>Snuggle up with a book.</b> When you hold your baby close and look at a book together, your baby will enjoy snuggling and hearing your voice as well as the story. Feeling safe and secure with you while looking at a book builds your baby's confidence and love of reading.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Recite rhymes, sing songs, and make mistakes!</b> Pause to let your toddler finish a phrase or chant a refrain. Once your toddler is familiar with the rhyme or pattern, make mistakes on purpose and get caught.</li><li>• <b>Choose engaging books.</b> Books featuring animals or machines invite movement and making sounds. Books with flaps or different textures to touch keep hands busy. Books with detailed illustrations or recurring items hidden in the pictures are great for exploring and discussing.</li><li>• <b>Ask questions.</b> Take time to listen to your toddler's answers. Toddlers have strong opinions and interesting ideas about the world. Encourage your toddler to tell you what he or she thinks. You'll build language skills and learn what makes your toddler tick at the same time.</li><li>• <b>Don't expect your toddler to sit still for a book.</b> Toddlers need to <b>MOVE</b>, so don't worry if they act out stories or just skip, romp, or tumble as you read to them. They may be moving, but they are also listening.</li><li>• <b>Every day is an adventure when you're a toddler.</b> Choose books about everyday experiences and feelings. Your child will identify with the characters as they dress, eat, visit, nap, and play.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Read together every day.</b> Read to your child every day. Make this a warm and loving time when the two of you can cuddle close.</li><li>• <b>Read it again and again.</b> Go ahead and read your child's favorite book the 100<sup>th</sup> time!</li><li>• <b>Read with much fun in your voice.</b> Read to your child with humor and ex pression. Use different voices. Ham it up!</li><li>• <b>Be interactive.</b> Discuss what's happening in the book, point out things on t he page, and ask questions.</li><li>• <b>Say how much you enjoy reading.</b> Tell your child how much you enjoy reading with him or her. Talk about "story time" as the favorite time of your day.</li><li>• <b>Point out print everywhere.</b> Talk about the written words you see in the world around you. Ask your child to find a new word on each outing.</li><li>• <b>Give everything a name.</b> Build your child's vocabulary by talking about interesting words and objects. For example, "Look at that airplane! Those are the wings of the plane. Why do you think they are called wings?"</li><li>• <b>Talk about writing too.</b> Mention to your child how we read from left to right and how words are separated by spaces.</li><li>• <b>Point out print everywhere.</b> Talk about the written words you see in the world around you. Ask your child to find a new word on each outing.</li></ul> <p><b>Source:</b> "Tips for parents of Preschoolers." <i>Reading Rockets</i>. Retrieved on: August 31, 2015 from <a href="http://www.ReadingRockets.org">http://www.ReadingRockets.org</a></p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kindergarten</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read to your child every day or have him/her read to you for at least 15 minutes.</li> <li>• Ask your child to retell a story in his or her own words by telling what happened first, second, third, etc.</li> <li>• Remind your child to think about sounds and letters. Link his or her name with words that begin with the same letter (e.g., John and jump).</li> <li>• Trace letters in sand, sugar, or shaving cream. Say the letters as you trace them.</li> <li>• Use a combination of drawing, speaking, and writing to describe an event, give information about a topic, or share an opinion.</li> <li>• Use technology to build your child's ability to match letters to sounds. There are several websites that make the tasks game-like.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>First Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide time and space for your child to read free from distractions, such as television.</li> <li>• Look for opportunities in everyday places to build your child's vocabulary. Sprinkle interesting words into conversation and build on words you have talked about in the past.</li> <li>• Look for books, magazines, or other materials about topics your child likes in order to motivate your child to read.</li> <li>• Play with words. Have your child sound out the word as you change it from <i>fat</i> to <i>sat</i>, from <i>sat</i> to <i>sag</i> to <i>sap</i>; from <i>sap</i> to <i>sip</i>.</li> <li>• Partner with your child to gather facts and information on a topic that interests your child.</li> <li>• Visit Internet sites such as Discovery Education or NBC Learn to gather information about a topic.</li> <li>• Write to describe an event, provide information on a topic or share an opinion.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Second Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be sure your child has a library card. Children should select books in which they are interested to develop a passion for reading. Many libraries have book clubs and family activities that make reading fun for the entire family.</li> <li>• Talk about how related words have similar spellings and meaning; for example <i>knowledge</i> and <i>know</i>, <i>beautiful</i> and <i>beauty</i>.</li> <li>• It is helpful when your child sees other people reading at home. Share what you have read.</li> <li>• Write about a short series of events shared by you and your child. Ask them to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings.</li> <li>• Write opinions on books your child has read using important details and examples to support a position.</li> <li>• Use technology to help build your child's interest in reading. There are several websites where students can read books or articles online; this will help with words your child cannot read independently.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Third Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce your child to a series of books like <i>The Magic Tree House</i> or <i>The Boxcar Children</i>. Consider other books by the same author.</li> <li>• Ask your child to summarize a story in a few sentences. Ask them to predict what will happen next.</li> <li>• Use time spent running errands in the car for word play. If you are in a traffic <i>jam</i>, talk about how <i>jam</i> could also be something you put on bread. Who can think of the most homophones?</li> <li>• Talk about what you see and do in an effort to expand your child's background knowledge. Talk when you are cooking together, going on vacation, or watching TV.</li> <li>• Ask your child to write stories with dialogue and descriptions of character's actions, thoughts, and feelings.</li> <li>• Partner with your child to gather information from online sources to build understanding of a topic.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fourth Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When watching television, mute the sound and turn on the closed captioning option to encourage reading.</li> <li>• Ask your child what he or she has learned from reading and how that knowledge can be used in real life. Have him or her read the most interesting or useful sections aloud.</li> <li>• Note what kind of reading material your child enjoys reading (books, magazines, newspapers, Internet). Subscriptions to their favorite magazine or books about favorite topics make great gifts.</li> <li>• Assist your child in using references such as the Internet or dictionary to look up unfamiliar words.</li> <li>• Show your child how to "read with a pencil". Tell them to underline key details, circle words or phrases they do not know, and write a note in the margin to summarize the main idea of the paragraph or section. This will help make your child's thinking visible.</li> <li>• Show your child how to access safe Internet resources to research a topic of interest.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fifth Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make time for conversation at home. Discuss current events, shared interests, and future aspirations for future or career.</li> <li>• Visit museums, zoos, theatres, historical sites, aquariums, and other educational places to help increase your child's exposure to new knowledge and vocabulary.</li> <li>• Talk about how particular elements of a story, play or television show interact. What effect does the setting have on the characters or the plot?</li> <li>• Talk about how prefixes and suffixes affect the meaning of a word (such as <i>bi-</i>, <i>re-</i>, <i>dis-</i>).</li> <li>• Guide your child to group their ideas while writing by using headings.</li> <li>• Allow your child to use the computer to compose, revise, and edit their writing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sources:</b>  "Standards and Instructional Support." <i>FLDOE.org</i>. Retrieved on: August 31, 2015 from <a href="http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/">http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/</a>  "Parents' Guide to Student Success." <i>National PTA every child. one voice</i>. Retrieved on: August 31, 2015 from <a href="http://www.pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583">http://www.pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583</a></p>