

# Literacy Tips for Families

Hello LPS Families,

As you support your reader at home, it is important to know there are different purposes for reading. As readers, we read for enjoyment/to be entertained, to learn/to be informed, to develop an opinion/to be persuaded. The literacy tips below are to help you support your reader with fun activities, to support your reader with their reading development, and to support you when engaging in conversations with your reader. However, PLEASE be cautious of taking the JOY out of reading. Read together...for the purpose of ENJOYMENT! Don't ask too many questions or stop too frequently to ask questions. Enjoy -Mrs. Leala Baxter, PreK-6 ELA Supervisor

**Read, Read, READ!** Read anything and read every day! Read cereal boxes, books, magazines...it doesn't matter, it all helps to support your child's reading development.

**READ BOOKS!** You can never read too many books. Read together. Read alone, quietly. Read aloud over snacks. Read outside. Read everywhere!

**Read it, Again!** It's okay if your child asks you to read the same book three nights in a row. It means they are enjoying it and they are developing a love of reading. Each time they hear it, they understand the story better and learn vocabulary.

**Make a Story Space!** Where's your favorite place in your home? Make it a story space! Make it extra cozy with pillows or create the space into a reading fort. Designate this place to tell stories and read stories, and it will make the experience extra special and exciting!

**Don't Stop Reading!** Is your child able to read to you? Great news...just because your child can read to you, doesn't mean you should stop reading to them. Stretch your child's vocabulary and comprehension skills by reading a book or article that is slightly above their ability.

**Talk Books!** Develop your child's critical thinking and comprehension by asking questions about the stories you read, such as, "Why did the character do that?" and "What do you think happened next?"

**Invent a Story!** What would happen if your two favorite story characters from different books joined to create their own story? Making up your own story is a fantastic way to help your child understand how stories are structured.

*"Reading ability is like a muscle, if you don't exercise it often, you will not maintain the same level of reading ability as you get older. So - "use it or lose it!"*

**-Usborne Books and More**

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**Praise Them!** Is your child starting to read, or is your "reader" reading? Regardless of their stage of reading development, acknowledge them for reading and tell them how proud you are of them! They will swell with pride and be encouraged to read more!

**Go on a Story Walk!** Telling a story in a different setting makes it memorable. Try reading a story in a different room of the house or sit outside and read under a favorite tree.

**Try a New Genre!** A nonfiction book is loaded with fun facts and amazing photographs to inspire your child. Try reading different genres to keep reading fun, interesting, and fresh!

**Offer Wait Time!** As children read, we are often eager to jump in and help them if they get stuck. Try waiting before helping them. If needed, use the cues: Look at the pictures. Get your mouth ready and say the first sound. Stretch out the sounds in the word. Ask yourself, "Does it sound right?" "Does it look right?" "Does it make sense?"

**Offer Choice!** Offer your child a few books to read and allow them to choose! You can ask, "Which one should we read first?" Providing your child the ability to make the choice gives them ownership of their learning. For older students, let them select the book they want to read. Allowing them the choice will support interest and commitment to the book.

**Share the Reading!** No matter the child's age or developmental reading stage, share the reading with them. Reading to your child supports fluency and vocabulary development. Let them repeat phrases, read with you at the same time, or leave out a word here and there; see if they can fill in the blank. Support and nurture a child's reading growth by sharing the love of words on the page.

**Make Predictions!** Discuss the characters' next move. Will the setting change? What problem might the character face? For young readers, look at the picture to help them tell the story; ask the child what is happening or what will happen next. The same is true for independent readers with a chapter book/novel...just without the pictures.

**Make Reading Relevant!** Support your child by providing them various genres to read: books, magazine articles, newspapers, phones, music, graphic novels...Talk with them about their interests and what they are reading!

**Favorite Book Challenge!** If you must be trapped in a children's book for a month, which one would you choose and why? Share with one another.

*"Reading is a discount ticket to everywhere." - Mary Schmich*

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**Read About Your Family Culture or Background!** Children think about their own identities and become interested in their backgrounds. Read with your child to teach them about their heritage and culture.

**Reading Together Supports Social and Emotional Development!** The more time a family reads aloud together, the more it increases a child's level of comfort and attachment. It also enhances a child's sense of security. Embrace one another and share the love of reading.

**Broaden Perspectives!** Share with your child what a wonderful, varied, and exciting place the world is by reading stories from different countries, and featuring children of all cultures, races, and abilities. Embrace, and grow from our uniqueness.

**"Play" the Part!** Change your voice for different characters; make your voice soft and loud. Put life and energy into your reading!

**Encourage Questions!** Encourage and take time to answer your child's questions. Their questions mean they are curious and engaged in the story.

**Converse! Converse!** Having conversations when reading with a child helps them develop higher-level thinking skills. While reading books aloud, ask your child questions and talk about the content of the story together before, during, and after reading. Here are some examples:

## Fiction Books:

- Why did the character do what he/she did?
- What else could he/she have done?
- If you were in that story, what would you have done?
- What's the problem in the story? How was it solved?
- How is the character feeling and reacting? What are they learning? Did the character change?
- What picture(s)/movie are you making in your mind?
- What does this remind you of - in your life, in other books, in the world?

## Nonfiction Books:

- What is this part mostly about?
- What question(s) do you have for the author?
- Of the facts you learned, which one would you share with someone?
- What does this remind you of - in your life, in other books, in the world?
- Why do... (i.e. why do birds fly south for the winter?)
- What would happen if...(What would happen if a tree was planted in the desert?)
- Why is this important?

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"The more that you read, the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." - Dr. Seuss

## Conversation Stems to Guide Discussions:

I agree/disagree because...  
What I heard you say is...  
How do you know?  
What strategy did you use to find the answer?  
I can add on to that...  
Is there another way for us to find the answer?  
I'd like to add on to what \_\_\_\_\_ said.

## *Evidence Stems:*

Because...  
For instance...  
For example...  
The author stated...  
According to the text...  
On page \_\_\_\_\_, it said...  
From the reading, I know that...  
Based on what I read...  
I know this because on page \_\_\_\_\_ it says...

## *Ways to Add onto Each Other's Thinking:*

I agree with what \_\_\_\_ said because...  
I disagree with what \_\_\_\_ said because...  
Adding onto what \_\_\_\_ said...  
I can see \_\_\_\_\_'s point, but...  
I found another example of what...brought up on page...  
I noticed some of the things...did, but I also thought...  
What in the book made you think that?  
Looking at that from a different perspective...

***"Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or duty.  
It should be offered to them as a precious gift."***

**-Kate DiCamillo**