

Engaging Families with Literacy:

Building Home/School Partnerships in the Early Years

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Today We Will Discuss:

- What does it take to get families into schools to connect with teachers?
- What are Pre-K – grade 3 literacy activities that can be easily implemented at home through the guidance of a family member?
- How can schools foster ongoing partnerships that support literacy development at home?
- What resources are available to help get started in working with families to reinforce literacy development at home?

Family Engagement

- Outside of the instructional environment, family engagement is one of the most important factors impacting student success.
- The benefits of family engagement in education are even more acute for vulnerable populations including, but not limited to, low income and ethnically diverse families that are disenfranchised by education systems
- (Henderson, Mapp, Johnson, & Davies, 2007).

What does it take to get families into schools to connect with teachers?

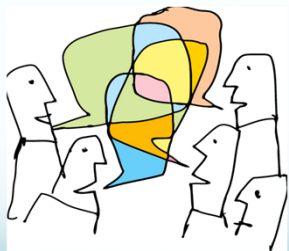


4 Types of Schools

- 1. **Fortress:** "5-minute only parking"
- 1. **Come-if-We-Call:** Only come when we call you
- 1. **Open Door:** Parents can come support learning
- 1. **Partnership:** Families have a voice in what is going on

Karen Mapp, Harvard Graduate School of Education

What type is your school?



How Can We Become a Type 4 School?

- o Ensure communication is regular, meaningful, and **two-way** regarding student achievement
- o Include parents in decision-making processes, such as Site-based Committees and Parent Advisory Committees **
- o Involve parents in the campus planning process **
- o Volunteer in the classroom and/or the school
- o Observe the activity in your child's classroom
- o Warmly and professionally greet families when arriving at the school

Texas Parent Empowerment Toolkit

Immigrant Families

“Traditional parent involvement programs, like back-to-school nights and parent-teacher conferences, were created decades ago, and they meet the needs of parents who are knowledgeable about and comfortable with the American educational system . . .

Many immigrant families, however, find them overwhelming or intimidating and they do not attend.”

Eileen Gale Kugler, Teach Immigration blog

Go beyond traditional programs for family involvement

- Develop programs based on the background, needs and interests of the specific immigrant families in that community.
- A welcoming parent center with bilingual staff can provide space for immigrant parents to begin to feel comfortable at school.
- Explore non-threatening ways to encourage immigrant parent involvement:
 - a classroom celebration of children's writing where family members accompany their child;
 - a breakfast with their child before work with a personal moment with the teacher; or
 - a culture-specific program.

Eileen Gale Kugler, Teach Immigration blog

Go beyond traditional programs for family involvement:

- Targeted small group activities can be more welcoming and effective.
- After parents become comfortable in these meetings, it is important to find ways to connect immigrant families with other families in the school, through classroom-based activities or school-wide projects where families work side-by-side.

Eileen Gale Kugler, Teach Immigration blog

Get Out Into the Community

- Some families find it intimidating to just walk through the school doors. Others may be concerned about going to an "official" building, worried about their own immigration status or that of a loved one.
- Parent meetings can be held in community rooms or at religious institutions in the neighborhood. A meeting at a public library can be a comfortable way to introduce immigrant parents to this valuable resource. Sometimes a lunchroom at a local business is a great place to connect with parents who can't leave work.
- If your school has a process for conducting home visits, they can be an effective way to build relationships with immigrant families.

Eileen Gale Kugler, Teach Immigration blog

Invite Families in Multiple Ways

- Include personal notes home with the child, individual texts, emails and follow-up phone calls – the more personal, the better. Use multiple ways to get the message out.
- Notices in local foreign-language newspapers and fliers at ethnic restaurants, markets, or other community venues can be particularly valuable.

Eileen Gale Kugler, Teach Immigration blog

Connect with Mentors

- Connecting immigrant parents with long-time parent leaders, as welcoming friends or mentors, can be a powerful way to build relationships.



Eileen Gale Kugler, Teach Immigration blog

Type 4 School

- The most effective family engagement begins with an understanding of the background, interests and needs of the particular families within that community.



What is one concrete action that your school can take to become a Type 4 School?

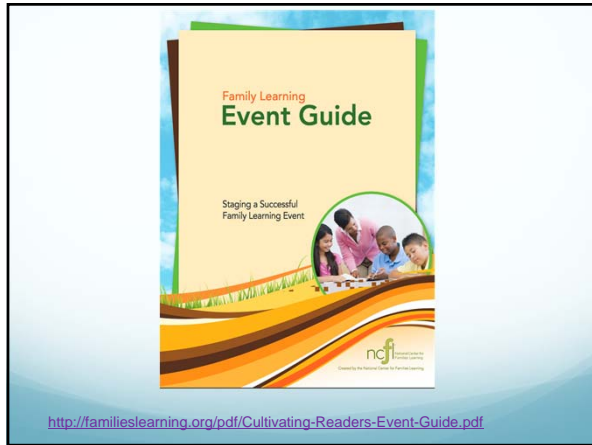


Staging A Successful Family Learning Event

National Center for Families Learning

- **Family Learning Event Guide: Staging a Successful Family Learning Event:**
 - Increasing Attendance
 - Developing a Plan
 - Family event implementation checklist
 - Advertising for family events
 - Sample agendas

<http://familieslearning.org/pdf/Cultivating-Readers-Event-Guide.pdf>

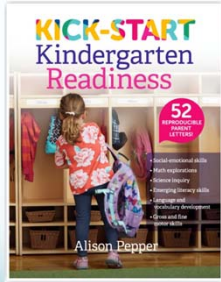


<http://familieslearning.org/pdf/Cultivating-Readers-Event-Guide.pdf>

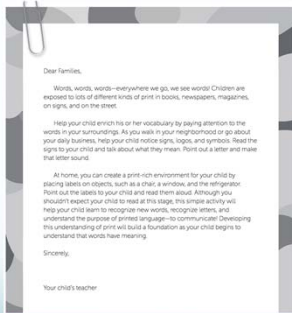
What are Pre-K – grade 3 literacy activities that can be easily implemented at home through the guidance of a family member?



One Possible Model



Parent Letters



Kick Start Kindergarten Readiness by Alison Pepper

Structuring Activities

- What Do I Need?
- What To Do
- What is My Child Learning?
- What the Research Says

Kick Start Kindergarten Readiness by Alison Pepper

Where to Find Home Activities

National Center for Families Learning

- Home Connections: Foundational Skills

Kindergarten
New Topic

Aa

Play a listening game to help your child practice blending sounds. Say a word broken into parts and ask your child to put the word back together. You'll say the consonant(s) sound at the start of a syllable, then pause and say the ending part. Ask your child to blend the sounds together to form a word. Begin by saying a simple word, pausing between the parts. For example, you say, /r/ pause /an/ and the child says "ran." At first, vary the beginning sound and keep the same ending sound. For example, after "ran" you might try "man," "van," "can." You could also keep the same sound at the beginning and change the ending sound, like "man," "mice," "mix."

<http://familieslearning.org/html/readingstandards/rs-hc-home-con-foundation.php>

Where to Find Home Activities

National Center for Families Learning

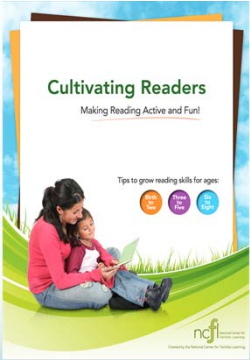
- Home Connections: Foundational Skills

3rd-5th Grade
New Topic

Aa

Third graders are learning to recognize and know the meaning of common suffixes. Fourth and fifth graders continue to build these skills in reading words. Show your child a word with a suffix and talk about what the word means. Common suffixes are "-less," "-y," "-ible," "-able," "-ness," "-ment," "-ion," "-tion," "-ly," "-al," and "-ial". For example, the word "painless" has the suffix "-less" which means without or lacking...so "painless" means without pain. "Sleeveless" means without sleeves. The suffix "-able" means capable of or suited for...so washable is able to be washed. "Breakable" means is able to be broken. Challenge your child to look for words with suffixes on signs, menus, food labels, or in recipes you use together.

<http://familieslearning.org/html/readingstandards/rs-hc-home-con-foundation.php>



Cultivating Readers
Making Reading Active and Fun!

Tips to grow reading skills for ages:

5th Grade 3rd-5th Grade 2nd Grade

ncfe
National Center for Families Learning

<http://familieslearning.org/pdf/Cultivating-Readers-ENG.pdf>

Wonderopolis
 Wonder of the Day #2104
How Does a Wetsuit Work?
 Today's Wonder of the Day is all wet, but you'll stay toasty and warm!

Category: Physical Science
 Tags: Inventions, Science, Technology, Earth, Pacific Ocean, Himalayas, High Pressure

How does a wetsuit work?
 What are wetsuits made of?
 Are wetsuits meant to keep you dry?

To stay the warmest in water, your wetsuit should be what?

SHARE THIS WONDER

<https://wonderopolis.org/>

Today's Wonder of the Day was inspired by Kyle, Kyle Wonders, "How does a wet suit work to keep you warm?" Thanks for WONDERing with us, Kyle!

When you think of places on Earth that you'd like to explore, what comes to mind? A deserted island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean? A mountaintop deep in the Himalayas? A jungle deep in the heart of the Amazon rainforests?

All of those places would make great places to explore. If you look at a globe, though, you'll realize that some of the most unexplored places on Earth are underwater. After all, most of Earth is covered by oceans!

If you plan to go exploring deep under the sea using scuba gear, there's one essential item you're going to need: a wetsuit. Sometimes called a "wettie" by surfers, wetsuits offer protection from cold water temperatures for a variety of watersports.

If you've ever seen a wetsuit, you might think that its purpose is to keep out water. However, that's not the case at all! Wetsuits aren't

Try It Out

Are you ready to dive into some fun? Grab a friend or family member to help you check out the following activities:

- Have you ever tried on a wetsuit? Ask a friend or family member to take you to a local dive shop or sporting goods store to check out the selection of wetsuits available. If possible, try one on. What do you think? Is it comfortable? How do you think it would feel in the water?
- Do you understand how molecules move differently in cold water compared to warm or hot water? With just a few simple supplies, you can see for yourself how water temperature affects molecules. Ask a friend or family member to help you conduct this simple [Water Temperature Experiment](#) at home.
- What is your favorite temperature? If you could order any weather for today, what would it be? Some people prefer 70-degree weather, while others might rather see the temperature gauge push up past 80 or 90 degrees. Whatever your favorite temperature is, draw a bath and carefully adjust the temperature of the water to match your chosen "perfect" temperature using a thermometer. Now jump in the bath. How does it feel? Does 70-degree water feel as warm as 70-degree air feels? Why or why not?

Wonder Sources

- <https://www.evo.com/guides/wetsuit-thickness-and-temperature-chart>
- <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/wetsuit/>
- <https://www.thoughtco.com/how-does-a-wetsuit-keep-diver-warm-2963069>

Where to Find Home Activities

National Center on Improving Literacy

A Path to Success

Help your child learn to read and write with practical ideas and expert-approved strategies.

For Parents & Families >

For Schools & Districts

For State Agencies

<https://improvingliteracy.org/>

Tools & Events

<p>Resource Repository</p> <p>Recommended websites, downloads, and videos from reliable sources.</p> <p>Find Resources ></p>	<p>Improving Literacy Briefs</p> <p>Research summaries and infographics written by our experts.</p> <p>Read Briefs ></p>	<p>State of Dyslexia</p> <p>Dyslexia legislation in the United States of America.</p> <p>Explore the Map ></p>
<p>Ask an Expert</p> <p>Our experts answer your literacy-related questions.</p> <p>Ask Us ></p>	<p>Glossary of Terms</p> <p>A list of definitions of hard or unusual words used in the educational field.</p> <p>Browse Terms ></p>	<p>Events & Opportunities</p> <p>Upcoming regional professional development, workshops, and conferences.</p> <p>View Events ></p>

Resource Repository

Find recommended websites, downloads, and videos from reliable sources.

Find Resources

By Audience

- Parents & Families
- Schools & Districts
- State Agencies

By Topic

- Advocacy
- Assessments
- Auditory Processing
- Beginning Reading

33 Results

A Child Becomes a Reader: Proven Ideas from Research for Parents (Kindergarten through Third Grade)

Partnership for Reading

This booklet describes activities that parents can do with their children to improve reading skills at specific ages from kindergarten through third grade.

BR

Alabama Continuum of Literacy

A Parent's Guide to Effective Instruction Fact Sheet

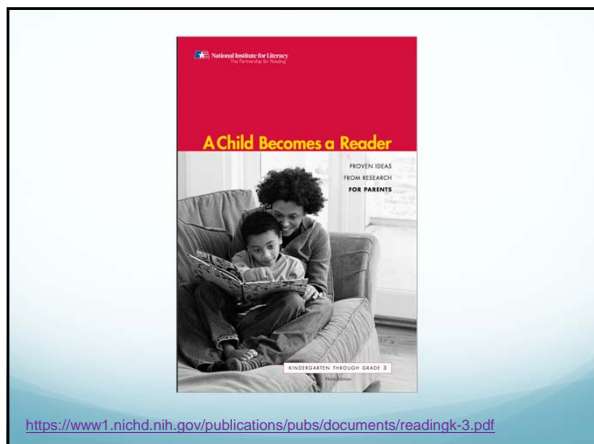
Southwestern Research Network

Read a fact sheet that discusses effective reading instruction and how educators develop and implement effective instruction.

LD BR

Big Dreams: A Parents & Families Book

https://improvingliteracy.org/resource-repository?field_audience_tid%5B%5D=2&field_topic_tid%5B%5



<https://www1.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/documents/readingk-3.pdf>

1 Introduction

3 The Building Blocks of Reading and Writing

9 Kindergarten

9 What to do at home

12 What to look for in kindergarten classrooms

15 What children should be able to do by the end of kindergarten

19 First Grade

19 What to do at home

20 What to look for in first grade classrooms

24 What children should be able to do by the end of first grade

27 Second and Third Grades

27 What to do at home

28 What to look for in second and third grade classrooms

31 What children should be able to do by the end of second grade

34 What children should be able to do by the end of third grade

36 Some Helpful Terms to Know

38 Bibliography

38 Resources for Parents and Caregivers

<https://www1.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/documents/readingk-3.pdf>

First Grade: What to Do at Home

Encourage your child to spell and write

1. **Say a word your child knows and have him repeat the word.** Then help him write the word the way he hears it.
2. **Write a word on paper and cut the letters apart (or use plastic or foam letters).** Mix the letters and have your child spell a word by putting the letters in order.
3. **As you are reading with your child, point out words that have similar spellings, such as *hop* and *pop*.** Ask him to write similar words, for example, *top*, *map*, and *cop*.
4. **Encourage your child to write often—for example, letters and thank-you notes, simple stories, and grocery lists.**

<https://www1.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/documents/readingk-3.pdf>

New Kid Zone!



<https://improvingliteracy.org/>

Listen

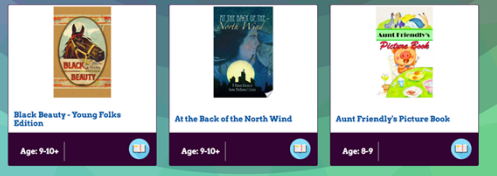
Find Books to Listen To!



<https://improvingliteracy.org/kid-zone>

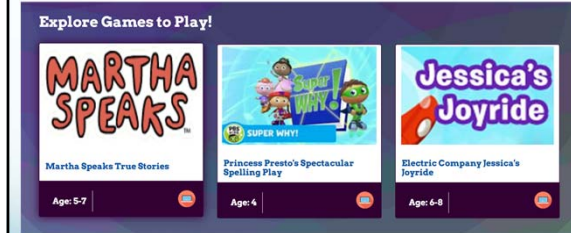
Read

Find Books to Read!



<https://improvingliteracy.org/kid-zone>

Play



<https://improvingliteracy.org/kid-zone>

Activity

1. Take a few minutes to go to the website of either:
 - The National Center for Families Learning; or
 - The National Center for Improving Literacy
2. Explore the resources. Be ready to share one resource that you found with the whole group.



How can schools foster ongoing partnerships that support literacy development at home?

The Goal: “Cradle to career educational partnerships between home and school”



To Sustain Efforts . . .

Engagement initiatives must include a concerted focus on developing adult capacity:

- PD for educators
- Academies, workshops, trainings for families

The Dual Capacity Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships, U.S. Department of Education

Organizational Conditions

- **Systemic:** across the organization
- **Integrated:** embedded in all programs
- **Sustained:** resources and infrastructure

The Dual Capacity Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships, U.S. Department of Education

What resources are available to help get started in working with families to reinforce literacy development at home?



Resources

- Karen Mapp, Harvard Graduate School of Education: <https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/14/11/building-capacity-family-engagement>
- The Dual Capacity Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships, U.S. Department of Education: <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/family-community/partnership-frameworks.pdf>
- Texas Parent Empowerment Toolkit: <http://www.esc16.net/upload/page/0362/docs/Parent%20Empowerment%20Toolkit%20new.pdf>
- Teach Immigration blog: Immigration In and Out of the Classroom: http://teachimmigration.blogspot.com/2015/11/engaging-immigrant-parents-as-partners-10.html?utm_source=Strategies+for+diverse+schools&utm_campaign=Dec+diversity+promo&utm_medium=email

- Kick Start Kindergarten Readiness by Alison Pepper published by Gryphon House: https://www.gryphonhouse.com/books/details/kick-start-kindergarten-readiness?gclid=CjwKCAjws6jVBRBZEiwAkIfZ2pFxpHlJOLRG0e5uvqdMOac4_Z3DMysqjOOmWNF2t5ktcaToTKTShoCbSUQAvD_BwE
- National Center for Families Learning: <http://familieslearning.org/>
- National Center for Improving Literacy: <https://improvingliteracy.org/family>

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Thank you for your participation today!
