

Essentials for Families

WHAT FAMILIES CAN DO TO SUPPORT READING AND WRITING For children and families Kindergarten to Third Grade



Take it with you when you go! Bring a book or magazine any time you and your child need to wait, like at a bus stop or doctor's office. There is always time to fit in reading!

Promote Reading and Writing

- Have books throughout the home and in a special place. This helps children see themselves as readers and writers.
- Have fun! Write letters to friends and family. Read a recipe. Read and write together to make it fun!
- Be an adult reader so your child sees you reading.

Have Patience

- When children are trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give them time to do so.
- Help your child look closely at the first letter or letters of the word.
- Explain words that your child does not understand.

Encourage Writing

- Provide a place - it is important for children to have a place to write like a desk or table.
- Explain to your child why writing is important as you do things like making grocery lists or text.

Talk About What You Read

- Ask your child questions about the story.
- Lead with questions such as, "Why do you think the fish might have done that?" or "What do you think will happen next?"
- Connect what you read with conversations, such as, "if the children in this story did a clean-up day for Earth Day, what do you think we could do for Earth Day?"

Read Aloud Together

- Story books are fun and so are informational books, magazines, and newspapers. Try reading different types of materials with your child.
- Did you find a new word? Talk about the word, discuss examples, and find ways to use the word. The more we use a new word, the better we learn it.

Read Everywhere

- Provide things to read all over the home like storybooks, newspapers, or poetry.
- Find books or other reading material tied to your child's interests!
- Read and talk about signs in the environment.

For Michigan's Read by Grade Three Guide, please visit: bit.ly/Read_by_Gr3_Guide
Do you have more questions?
Email: mde-earlyliteracy@michigan.gov

