

Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!

Tips for Parents:

1. Model good reading habits by reading to or alongside your child; parents set the stage for children to become better readers.
2. Encourage your child to read new and challenging books, articles and magazines.
3. Establish a daily reading routine.
4. Encourage reading, writing and discussions among family members.
5. Be positive when talking with your child about their reading ability and skills.
6. The love of reading begins at home. Create a “home library” for your family to access.
7. Limit TV viewing by controlling the amount of time spent watching television.
8. Play word games with your child.
9. Expose children to different kinds of books such as novels, biographies and informational content. Books about our universe or various species are interesting and engaging for young learners.
10. Visit your local public library and help your child get a library card of their very own.
11. Take books in the car to read, rather than watching a DVD.
12. Create a “reading nook” in your home where your child can read.
13. Comment on new words your child hears on the radio or TV.
14. Play rhyming games during a car trip or at home. Children will enjoy learning their own version of rhymes you learned as a child as well as how spelling affects rhyming.
15. Read the back of the cereal box at breakfast.
16. Select a “word of the day” to add to your child’s ever growing vocabulary.
17. Write out words with opposite meanings on separate pieces of paper and have your child match the pairs together (i.e. huge-tiny).
18. Make up a story by having each family member add a sentence to a story starter; expand on the individual character traits, the setting of the story and exciting events/adventures.
19. Set aside additional reading time or add extra bedtime story time as a reward for good behavior.
20. Encourage your child to write a book about their day.
21. Help your child read the labels on different bottles and containers, including the shampoo and conditioner bottles at bath time.
22. Play the “I Spy” game, looking for uppercase and lowercase letters.
23. While playing outside, encourage your child to create their name out of sticks, stones and other materials.
24. Help your child label artwork with his or her name and age.
25. Before a family dinner, encourage your child to create place settings with first and last names.
26. Turn on the subtitles when watching a movie. Even if your children are not reading age yet, they will learn that what the characters are saying is associated with the text. As they get older, they will be able to match the words with the text.
27. Bake something – when following a recipe, children are not only practicing their reading skills, they are learning how to follow directions and work toward a goal.
28. Play a find-the-street-sign game while in the car. Encouraging your child to find words that start with various letters of the alphabet.
29. Read the description on the movie before starting it – getting a sneak peek into the storyline of the movie, make predictions and asking questions based on the description.
30. Make dessert time reading time. Read to your children while they enjoy their evening snack. Modeling your love for reading is one very important trait you can share with your children.