

Reading is as Easy as



Parents Can Help Children Become Better Readers

1. Read, read, read!

Reading is like riding a bike; the more you do it, the better you get. Find out your child's independent reading level from his/her teacher. By learning that information, you can assist your child in finding a "just right" book to read for practice at home. Books that are too difficult do not help. Books *at or slightly below* your child's reading level are best -- especially for reluctant or struggling readers.

Did you know that the amount of time spent reading each day makes a big difference in your child's performance on standardized reading tests?

2. Environmental Reading

Take every possible opportunity to have your child read what is written in their environment -- things like billboards, menus, maps, brochures, recipes, labels, directions, etc.

Make reading fun! If you are in a restaurant, have your child read the menu to find a specific item with a description of something you are interested in. Turn reading the menu into a reading scavenger

hunt. Or, if you are on a trip, let your child read the brochure or map of the place you are visiting. When playing a game, have your child read the directions aloud to the group of players. When it comes time to cook, have him/her read directions and follow them to help make something in the kitchen. This type of environmental reading is fun and engaging! It shows children that reading is a critical skill they will use in "real life."

3. Ask Questions

When your child is reading a fiction story (made up from the author's imagination) ask questions once in a while. Some good general questions are:

Why did the character do that?

What might happen next?

How was the character feeling?

What was that part mostly about?

What details prove it was mostly about -----?

How was this (character, problem, part of the book) the same or different from another (character, problem, part of the book)?

What was the problem in the story? Solution?

What are you wondering?

Do you have any connections to the events or characters?

Did you like the story? Why or why not?

Have your child retell the story's most important events in sequential order.