



Language and Literacy Development Are Important At Home and in the Classroom

Language, early literacy and writing are critical to a child's ability to learn, work and play with others.

Language and literacy development involve the way children learn to communicate with sounds, words, gestures and, eventually, the way they learn to read and write. Children develop language and literacy through interactions with adults and other children, engaging in purposeful play and educational experiences.

As an educator or a caring community member, you have an opportunity to encourage parents to establish good habits for a child. Early literacy is one of the keys to a child's success in life.

Language and learning develop throughout all stages of early childhood. Because the brain grows quickly within the first five years of life, it is critical to use these years to build literacy skills, support a love for books and a willingness to learn, all of which help a child prepare for kindergarten.

Talking, singing or reading to a child daily strengthens the brain cells, promotes curiosity and problem-solving skills, and expands a child's general knowledge and vocabulary. Share and use the [Reading Tips for Parents](#) from Just Read, Florida!

Encouraging reading 15 minutes a day at home and in the classroom sets children up for the best chance of success in school and in life.

As a child's age and attention span increase, the time spent reading, singing and talking with them should also grow.



Tips for Using CCR&R Resources

Parents:

- Put the *Reading Tips for Parents* on your refrigerator and refer to it often.
- Sign up to receive [Parents' Pages](#).

Program Directors:

- Share with teachers and staff during meetings.
- Build a classroom library using titles from the [Commissioner's Book of the Month](#) list.
- Use the *Reading Tips for Parents* to create a poster for areas that families visit or include the tips in parent newsletters.

Teachers:

- Help children learn routines by providing a picture of the reading schedule for them to reference throughout the school day.



COMMISSIONER'S

BOOK OF THE MONTH

If you are looking to add to your home or school library, refer to Florida Education Commissioner Manny Diaz, Jr.'s [Commissioner's Book of the Month](#). This monthly reading challenge promotes literacy and reading engagement while helping children succeed both academically and in life.



The Florida Grade-Level Reading Campaign (FGLRC) serves as the state lead for all of Florida's local campaigns by engaging community, business and civic leaders and supporting local efforts. FGLRC also promotes school readiness and quality instruction and works to engage parents as their children's first teacher.

Educators, parents and stakeholders can access the quality resources available in the FGLRC's Early Literacy & Related Resources Repository at [FGLRC's Early Literacy & Related Resources Repository | Florida Grade-Level Reading Campaign \(floridaglr.net\)](#).



For Parents

Understand the Importance of Routines

For a child, a consistent daily routine plays a vital role in their development. The structure of a daily routine helps give children a sense of security and predictability that can reduce stress for both you and your child.

Whether it is time to go outside or time to take a nap, when a child is aware of what will happen next, they are able to be more comfortable with daily activities.

Routines are also a powerful tool in creating healthy habits in children such as washing hands before a meal, putting away toys or clothes in the hamper, and brushing teeth before bedtime.

A routine should be reasonable and predictable so that everyone understands what will happen next and what their role is. Begin by creating routines for each time of the day. Set a routine for getting ready in the morning, when you are home in the afternoon or on weekends and bedtime. Remember, this will take time and may require adjustments along the way.

Your reaction to a disruption in plans dictates how your child will react. If possible, prepare your child for any schedule change by telling them what is going to happen.

Having consistent routines helps children build confidence in their abilities and strengthens communication and family engagement.



The New Worlds Reading Initiative is a **free** Florida literacy program for VPK-5 public or charter school students not yet reading on grade level.

Thanks to the support and investment of the Florida Legislature, this statewide book delivery program is a collaborative effort with the Florida Department of Education, school districts and the University of Florida Lastinger Center.

Discover more about the New Worlds Reading Initiative. Books are available in English, Spanish, Haitian-Creole and braille.

Enrollment flyers are available in [English](#) (PDF), [Spanish](#) (PDF) and [Haitian Creole](#) (PDF).

Additional Resources to Support Early Literacy

- [Helping Your Child Become a Reader](#)
- [Just Read, Families!](#)
- [Reading Aloud to Your Children](#)



New Family Guide Helps Parents Understand and Use Early Learning and Developmental Standards at Home

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher, so knowing what to expect and some of the terminology you will see and hear when your child starts preschool or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Program is a strong investment in your child's academic success. The Florida Department of Education and Division of Early Learning has a new [Prekindergarten Family Guide](#) that provides tips on using the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards (standards) to bolster your child's early learning success and prekindergarten experience.

The short guide can help you:

- Learn about the standards and why they matter.
- Talk with your child's teacher and understand what your child will be learning in the classroom.
- Locate activities and resources to support your child's learning in practical ways at home.
- Understand important educational (academic) words that you will see in the standards.

Take time to read the guide and refer to it for ideas on great books and activities that will boost your child's sensory, language and cognitive development. The following is an excerpt from the Prekindergarten Family Guide.

Everyday Activities to Support Learning

- ✓ Making books, poetry and songs a part of your daily interactions with your child.
- ✓ Writing notes to your child and leaving them around the house (e.g., in their lunch boxes or on the table for them to find while eating breakfast or dinner).
- ✓ Reading the notes and encouraging your child to write a note back to you.
- ✓ Asking more specific questions about their daily experiences (e.g., "Tell me three fun things you did at school today?").
- ✓ Encouraging your child to play with the sounds of language (e.g., identify rhymes, recognize beginning sounds in some words).
- ✓ Providing materials for your child to use in creative play that encourage the use of new words while writing notes or creating stories (e.g., pencil, crayons, paper, toy phones, voice recorders and story props).
- ✓ Having daily conversations with your child. Listen carefully and respond to their thoughts and questions.
- ✓ Asking open-ended questions using question words such as "why" or "how."
- ✓ Reading to them daily. Reading aloud to your child helps prepare them for future reading and learning success.