

Parent Involvement Tips

Book Nooks: Create “book nooks” with your child. Book nooks are comfy places to sit and read. They should have good lighting and containers filled with sticky notes, colorful pens, pencils, and a small dictionary. Book nooks will motivate your children not only to read, but to select favorite parts with sticky notes, or look up words they don’t know.

Guess the Word: Write a variety of words on notecards or small pieces of paper and put them all in a bucket or small container. Let your child pick out a word and tell you the number of letters in it. Ask your child questions that can be answered in either a “yes” or a “no”, such as, “does the word have vowels” or “is it an animal”, so that your child also must do some thinking. After the word is guessed, reverse roles!

Kid Karaoke: Download songs and their lyrics for a family karaoke night. Seeing words and singing them at the same time is a fun way to develop vocabulary.

Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner? While your family is eating together, discuss what your favorite characters would have for dinner – Harry Potter might like pumpkin juice and chocolate frogs while Geronimo could crave some cheese! Incorporating characters of favorite stories into your eating routine is a delicious way to promote deep thinking about character traits and motivation.

Nourishing the Mealtime: Have your kids read recipes aloud to you while you’re cooking dinner. From ingredient lists to cooking directions, this kind of family reading will help build vocabulary, fluency...and dessert!

Read the Recipe: Using a recipe book or online recipe to cook a meal is a great way to incorporate both reading and math into a family evening together. Have your child read the recipe to you, step by step. Allow your child to measure the ingredients, pour, stir, and mix! In the end you’ll have a tasty meal to share, and your child may not even realize the secret ingredient was a little bit of learning!

Reading Maps and Using Map Skills: Thinking of traveling during this holiday season? Visit the local library or dig deep down in the back of the closet to find a hard copy of a map that shows how to get to your destination! Spend time as a family reading the names of the cities and states that you’ll pass through. Next, calculate the distances you’ll travel. You can even take it a step further and investigate fun tourist attractions to visit along the way or calculate the distances between tourist attractions. Your child can get excited for the trip and develop literacy and math skills at the same time.

Reach Out and Read: Boost family reading by involving loved-ones who live far away. Using Skype or another video conferencing program, have your child share a book with relatives. Make sure the book is one that your reader has read a few times already; repetition is a fantastic way to enhance reading skills. Younger readers love to show-off their fluency, and oral reading builds confidence. Grandma will be pretty thrilled as well.

Who Am I? Choose one of your child’s favorite book characters, then describe his or her personality traits, problems, and physical descriptions until she guesses the character’s identity. This game is a fun way to pass time when you’re stuck in traffic or at a bus stop.

Marking the Spot: Creating bookmarks together as a family is a simple and fun activity. Just cut bookmark-sized cardboard from cereal or shoe boxes, then get crafty! Choose your favorite quotes to add to your bookmarks. Make sure to add quotations and cite the author of the quote! As you create the bookmarks, measure the length and width of each bookmark to find the area and perimeter. Once you finish, line up each family member's bookmark and measure the total length. If each family member made one bookmark for every other person in the family, how many bookmarks is that in total? Use brightly-colored markers, crayons, sparkles, or whatever your reader loves most. You can even cut out pictures from old magazines. Whatever you design, it's sure to be a joyful experience for your whole family.

For more information on Just Read, Florida! Read-at-Home Plan Resources, visit <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7539/urlt/Read-at-HomePlanRes.pdf>.