

HELLGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

LITERACY TIP SHEET

The Benefits

- It builds vocabulary.
- It improves comprehension
- It provides positive modeling.
- It improves listening skills.
- It stretches their attention span.
- Introduces new information
- It stretches their imagination.
- It exposes them to different genres.
- It expands their interests.
- It's a portal into their interests.
- It's a wonderful bonding time.

Grownups Can

- Engage in conversations with your child (often).
- Read to your child.
- Listen to your child read.
- Have them tell you a "story."
- Ask comprehension questions.
- Create a space that makes reading memorable and enjoyable.
- Change your voice for quotations and punctuation.

Where to Begin

- Practice linking sounds to letters
- Practice blending sounds to make words (e.g. *fl, st, sm*)
- Identify consonants digraphs (e.g. *sh, th, ch*)
- Introduce letters in both upper and lowercase
- Provide memorable pictures with letters

What's Next

- Sound out words (decodable words)
- Practice reading sight words (the, said, friend)
- Read connected text (sentences)
- Read for fluency

Fluency is defined as the ability to read with speed, accuracy, and proper expression.

Play Games

- I spy something that begins with /s/
- Spelling out words that they have to guess by sounds or letters (e.g. /c/a/t/)
- Replace parts of words to make new words (e.g. *cat, hat, ham*)
- Play rhyming games
- Stretch words out
- Alphabet spy game - List items you'd buy at the store starting with A, next person is B, and so on.

Important!

- Be a good reading model
- Read fluently (smoothly)
- Raise and lower your voice at punctuation
- Stay positive and encouraging
- Correct kindly - Don't say "no"
- Allow for mistakes
- Celebrate your child's strengths



HOW TO PRACTICE READING

Say the Sounds

Let's practice some sounds.
My turn to say a sound _____.

Your turn to say the sound
_____. Yes _____.

Slow & Fast

Let's say a word slowly and
then let's say it fast.

My turn _____.
I can say it fast _____.

Your turn. Say _____ slowly.
Say it fast. Yes _____.

Rhyming

Let's make a rhyme.
The pig wore a (wig).
The cat sat on the (hat).

Phoneme Segmentation

How many sounds are in the word fun?
Yes _____. Let's write it.

Phoneme Isolation

What is the first sound in cat?
Yes _____.

Phoneme Identity

What sound is the same in make, mile,
mop? Yes _____.



Take turns reading continuous passages of a book.



Passage A
Adult



Passage C
Adult



Passage B
Child

Reciprocal Reading
Child and adult alternate reading words, sentences, or passages

Read the same passage of a book aloud at the same time.



Adult



Child

Parallel Reading
Child and adult read words, sentences, or passages in unison

Read a passage of a book aloud and then have the child read the same passage aloud.



Adult



Child

Echo Reading
child reads the same word, sentence, passage after the adult reads.

For the Big Kids

- Read to and with the big kids by selecting books with their age characters
- The goal is to encourage the love of the story.
- Listen to audiobooks together
- Discuss vocabulary and content
- 10 Reasons You Should Read Aloud to Big Kids, Too

References & Images

- [National Center for Improving Literacy](#)
- [What Works Clearinghouse](#)