

# BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Orange County Public Schools  
Title I

## Refresh your family's reading habits at the beginning of the school year

Reading with your child every day is one of the most effective ways to improve literacy skills. Reading together also fosters strong family bonds and creates opportunities to have meaningful interactions.

To add interest to your family's reading routine, include a few of these ideas:

- **Morning mystery.** Kick start the day by reading a short mystery or adventure story together over breakfast.
- **Nature narratives.** Take your storytime outdoors by reading books in a garden, park or backyard.
- **Artistic analysis.** Explore picture books together and encourage your child to interpret the illustrations and create new stories.
- **Travel tales.** Turn car rides into storytime sessions by listening to audiobooks as a family.



### Turn your elementary school student into a book critic

After finishing a new book, encourage your child to dive deeper by writing a short review. In a review, your child should include the book's name, its author and responses to questions such as:

- **What did I like about this book?**
- **What do I wish were different?**
- **Would I recommend this book** to one of my friends? Why or why not?

Thinking about books can foster a greater appreciation for reading, strengthen thinking skills and nurture your child's cognitive abilities. Keep the reviews in a notebook so your child can enjoy rereading past thoughts.

### Music enhances reading skills

Language skills grow when children sing along to their favorite tunes. And rhyming patterns in songs can help boost memory skills, too.

To use music to build reading skills:

- **Read the lyrics** as you and your child listen to a song.
- **Talk about word endings** that make up rhymes.
- **Listen to music** (and sing along) in the car and while you do chores at home.



### Create the perfect reading nook

Help your child create a special place at home for reading. You don't need a lot of space. Just include:

- **A box or basket** filled with a variety of appealing reading material.
- **Comfortable surroundings.** It can be a soft chair or a pile of pillows. Don't forget a bright reading lamp, too!



### Share nonfiction reading strategies

Nonfiction reading assignments are easier to comprehend when your child:

- **Rewrites headings** into questions. Answering those questions can help your child review the content.
- **Pays attention** to words in bold type. This indicates that they're important.
- **Examines the images**, such as graphs and pictures.
- **Answers any questions** that appear at the end of the section.

