

# MIDDLEBOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## ELEMENTARY LITERACY NEWSLETTER K-2

### What is the Science of Reading?

The science of reading is an approach to teaching reading based on decades of brain research and evidence on how children learn to read. The science of reading research has determined that teaching phonological awareness and phonics, along with vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension, is the most effective way to teach students how to learn to read.

- phonological awareness - the ability to identify and play with the spoken sounds in words
- phonics - understanding the relationship between sounds in spoken language with written letters
- fluency - the ability to read with appropriate rate and expression
- vocabulary - knowing what words mean and how to use and say them correctly
- comprehension - the ability to understand what you are reading

### Online Resources for Home

The following is a list of online literacy resources:

#### [Storyline Online](#)

- Features videos of celebrities reading stories aloud

#### [Reading Bear](#)

- Teaches beginning readers vocabulary and concepts using phonetically spelled words

#### [Nat Geo Education](#)

- Nonfiction articles and videos

#### [Between the Lions](#)

- Videos from the PBS series: includes folktales and fables, read-alongs, and songs

#### [Starfall Education](#)

- Research-based and aligned with state learning objectives for English language arts and mathematics

### More Information

[Reading League](#)

[Reading Rockets Parent Guide](#)

[Science of Reading- Parent Powered](#)

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## ELEMENTARY LITERACY NEWSLETTER K-2

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### Strategies for Reading At Home

- **Read Aloud**—Your child is never too old to be read out loud to. Choose books based on your child's interests and help them explore different genres. Let your child choose the book they want. Read it to them and discuss any vocabulary that they don't know with them while you read. Talk about the book with them and encourage them to make connections to their own life or to other books they have read.
- **Let them struggle**—struggling is not a bad thing, but remind your child to use the skills they know from school. Prompts that will help—
  - "Tap out the word"
  - "Break up the word"
  - "What does the vowel say?"
  - "Let's re-read that sentence."
- **Point to the sounds**— If a word is unknown, have your child point out the sounds on the page. When children read out loud, it also builds fluency (reading with accuracy, speed, and expression).

### Reading Games for your Early Elementary Child

Here are some fun ways to play with sounds and words at home:

- **Sound Swap**— Pick a simple word like "cat". Change one sound at a time: "cat" --> "hat" --> "hot" --> "hop". Have your child identify the change.
- **Word Building**— Write letters on sticky notes. Show a picture (e.g., dog) and have your child arrange the letters to spell it. Start with 3-letter words and gradually increase difficulty.
- **Rhyme Hunt**— Choose a target word (e.g., "make") and take turns finding real and nonsense rhyming words. Have your child listen for matching end sounds. Sort real vs. nonsense words.
- **Sound Stretching**— Pick a short word and s-t-r-e-t-c-h out each sound slowly. have your child blend stretched sounds back together. Progress from 2 to 3 to 4 sound words.

# MIDDLEBOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## ELEMENTARY LITERACY NEWSLETTER 3-5

### What is the Science of Reading?

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- comprehension - the ability to understand what you are reading

### Resources to Use at Home

The following is a list of online literacy resources:

#### [Storyline Online](#)

- Features videos of celebrities reading stories aloud

#### [Libby](#)

- This website offers audiobooks and physical books from thousands of public libraries. It is free-your family just needs a current library card.

#### [Nat Geo Education](#)

- Nonfiction articles and videos

#### [Readtheory](#)

- Personalized reading comprehension exercises for K-12 and ESL students.

#### [Middleborough Public Library](#)

- The library offers access to many free resources online!

### More Information

[Reading League](#)

[Reading Rockets Parent Guide](#)

[Science of Reading- Parent Powered](#)

# MIDDLEBOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## ELEMENTARY LITERACY NEWSLETTER 3-5

### Strategies for Reading At Home

- **Read Aloud**—Your child is never too old to be read out loud to. Choose books based on your child's interests and help them explore different genres. Let your child choose the book they want. If it is too hard, read it to them and discuss any vocabulary that they don't know with them while you read. When children read out loud, it also builds fluency (reading with accuracy, speed, and expression).
- **Let them struggle**—struggling is not a bad thing, but remind your child to use the skills they know from school. Prompts that will help—
  - "Tap out the word"
  - "Break up the word into syllables"
  - "Let's re-read that sentence."
- **Make a picture**— Ask your child to make a picture as they are reading. Have them tell you what they are seeing in the setting, what does the character look like, dig for details.

### Reading Games for your Upper Elementary Child

Here are some fun ways to play with sounds and words at home:

- **Morpheme Detective**— Find base words, prefixes, and suffixes. Have your child break words into syllables and word parts (e.g. un/help/ful). Build word families from these morphemes and connect meaning to the word parts.
- **Mental Movie Strategy**— Read a short passage/chapter/page to your child and have them visualize each sentence. They can either draw this visualization or verbally share what they see with you. Link details to any background knowledge.
- **Text Detective**— Each player gets different colored sticky notes. Set a timer for 3 minutes. Players mark Evidence of the Main Idea (yellow), Supporting Details (blue), and Author's Purpose (pink). Compare your findings and cite your evidence of where each piece was found in the reading.