

Helping Your Child Learn to Read:

Science of Reading-Based Activities

The Science of Reading is based on decades of research about how children learn to read. It focuses on five key areas:

1. **Phonemic Awareness** – hearing and playing with sounds
2. **Phonics** – connecting letters to sounds
3. **Fluency** – reading smoothly and with expression
4. **Vocabulary** – knowing and using words
5. **Comprehension** – understanding what is read

Below are activities you can use at home to help your elementary-aged child become a stronger reader.

1

Phonemic Awareness (PreK–Grade 2)

Activities:

- Clap syllables in names and everyday words
- Play “I Spy” with beginning sounds: “I spy something that starts with /b/”
- Break words into sounds: “dog” becomes /d/ /o/ /g/



2

Phonics (K–Grade 3)

Activities:

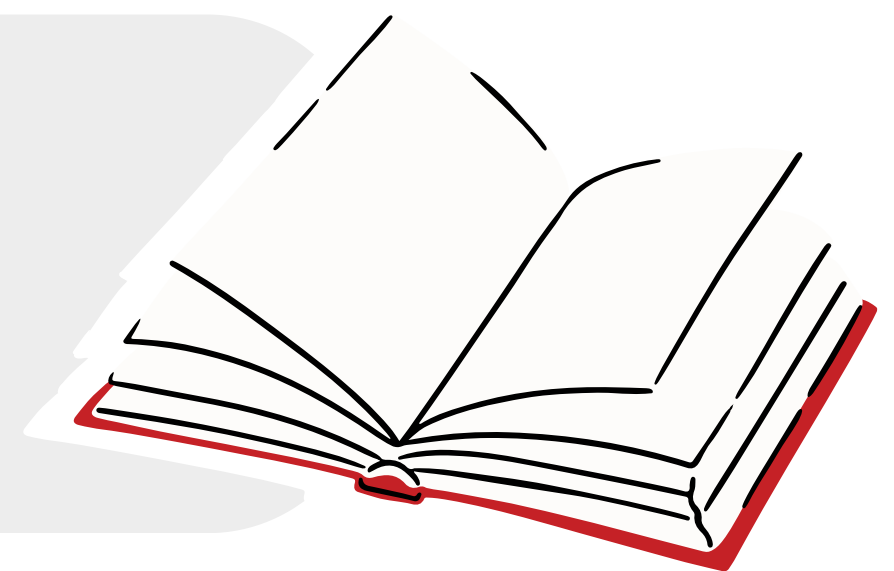
- Make and use letter-sound flashcards
- Build simple words with magnetic letters
- Read decodable books and sound out each word

3

Fluency (Grade 1 and up)

Activities:

- Read aloud daily (even to older children)
- Echo read: You read a sentence, your child repeats
- Re-read favorite stories for practice



4

Vocabulary

Activities:

- Discuss new words during reading and everyday life
- Play word games: “What’s another word for...?”
- Label common objects at home

5

Comprehension

Activities:

- Ask questions while reading: “Why did that happen?” or “What do you think comes next?”
- Have your child retell the story in their own words
- Use wordless picture books and invent the story together



For Multilingual Families / English Learners (ELs)

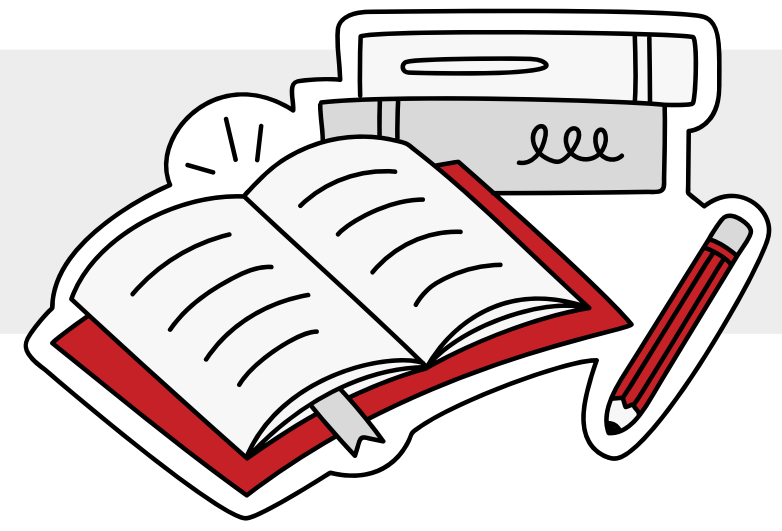
Tips:

- Continue reading and speaking in your home language—it supports English development!
- Make connections between English and your home language
- Use bilingual books and discuss the story in either language

General Tips:

- Read together at least 20 minutes every day
- Let your child choose books they love
- Visit your local library often
- Keep reading fun, relaxed, and enjoyable!

Write With Your Child



1

Journaling

- Have your child write a few sentences daily about their day



2

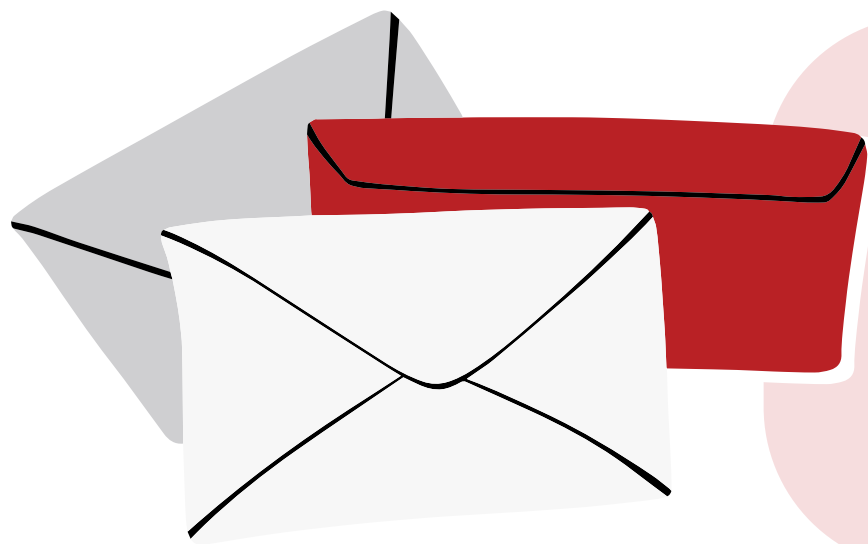
Make Up a Story Together

- Trade off writing sentences of a story you make up together, the sillier the better

3

Caption Pictures

- Draw a picture and write about it.



4

Write a Letter

- Mail a letter or postcard to a friend or family member

5

Sounding Out and Spelling Games

- Play word-building games (like magnetic letters, Bananagrams, or simple dictation) where children sound out and write real or nonsense words.