

Reading for Success

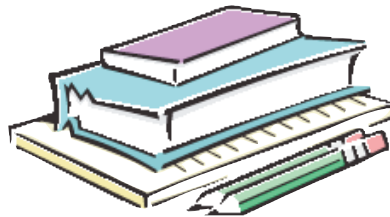
Help your child tackle textbooks & research

Reading textbooks is a lot different from reading novels. Students don't always know the skills they need to get the most from their textbooks. They can read all the words, but the words don't always make sense. Or students may not be able to remember all the information they read in social studies or science. Here's how you can help:

Preview new textbooks

A big step for any young reader is getting that first school textbook! When your child brings it home, preview the book together.

- **Talk about** the title.
- **Read over** the table of contents.
- **Look for** chapters that look interesting.
- **Look at** pictures, graphs and maps.
- **Show your excitement** about what your child will be learning.



Offer guidelines

As your child starts to tackle textbook reading, offer some guidance. Suggest that your child:

- **Read the chapter title** and all subtitles. Check out any charts, graphs or pictures. Flip to the end of the chapter and look for questions.
- **Skim the material.** Read the introduction. Then read the first sentence of every following paragraph. Finally, read the summary. Ask how this might relate to what you already know.
- **Focus on small sections.** Start with a paragraph. After reading it, write down a summary of what you read. Look for key words in bold type. Make flash cards for reviewing these terms.

- **Try setting a timer** for every five or 10 minutes. At the end of that time, summarize the reading out loud.
- **Ask yourself questions.** What are the main points of this chapter? What about details? Is there a major conclusion?
- **Answer the questions** at the end of the chapter. Reread sections if necessary. Ask yourself what questions the teacher might ask. Review the vocabulary flash cards.

Share research tips

When your child is asked to look for information beyond what's found in class textbooks, make sure your child:

- **Follows guidelines** set by the teacher.
- **Uses only kid-friendly** search engines for online research, such as Awesome Library, Yahoo!igans!® and FirstGov for Kids.
- **Keeps track of sources** of information.
- **Is careful not to plagiarize.** Talk about how this is cheating.
- **Visits the library.** The librarian is a valuable resource for pointing your child in the right direction to find information for a specific research project.

