

Reading for Success

Work closely with your child's teacher

Teachers and parents need one another's support when it comes to student learning. This is particularly true about reading—whether your child is still learning to read or already reading to learn. When you know how—and what—your child is reading in school, you can reinforce that work more effectively at home. The best way to understand reading expectations is to communicate regularly with your child's teacher.

Ask questions

- **What's happening at school**—upcoming book fair, book report, testing?
- **What methods are used** to teach my child reading?
- **How is my child progressing?** What are my child's biggest challenges?
- **How much should my child read** after school? What if my child has no reading assignment?
- **Which books match** my child's skills? (Some books may be labeled with levels.)
- **Are there opportunities** to help in the classroom, such as reading to the class?
- **What is the best way** to help with reading at home?



Share information

- **What's happening at home**—new baby, illness, recent move, divorce?
- **What reading activities** is your family involved in?
- **Does your child seem** to be enjoying reading—or struggling—at home?
- **Are other languages** spoken at home?

What's your child's learning style?

Consider these learning styles as you read with your child. Share your observations with the teacher.

- **Auditory learner.** Does your child enjoy read-alouds or audio books?
- **Tactile learner.** Does your child learn best with hands-on activities, such as tracing letters or playing word board games?
- **Visual learner.** Does your child recognize words by sight or use picture clues?
- **Kinesthetic learner.** Does your child like to combine an activity with reading?

Stay in touch

- **Use notes, email messages and phone conversations** when you can't visit the school to monitor your child's progress.
- **Attend parent programs** at your child's school.
- **Volunteer in the classroom**, at school or at home.
- **Ask about getting help** if your child is a struggling reader.
- **Ask for suggested reading lists** and activities that you can do at home.

