

Reading for Success

BENEFITS OF READING

Reading is one of the most important skills in life. Developing strong reading skills is a big challenge for both your child and you. But the benefits of good reading skills are key to your child's future.

- Strong reading skills help children understand what is being taught in school.
- Reading helps children know more about other people and the world.
- Most everyday tasks involve reading. Following directions and reading signs are just a few examples of ways people use reading all the time.

Helping your child build strong reading skills is essential for a lifetime of successful learning.

TIPS FOR READING SUCCESS

- Be a good role model. If your child sees that reading is important to you, it will be important to him or her.
- Read aloud with your child. Find a comfortable spot where the two of you can read together every day for about 30 minutes. Take turns reading.
- Encourage all reading. Comic books and magazines can provide a good reading experience. As long as they are age-appropriate, don't discourage his interest, but keep a stock of high-quality books in your home so he has other options easily available.
- Keep a dictionary handy. Together, look up words she doesn't know and invest in a dictionary he or she can use on her own.
- Use informative books. Encourage reading for information. If he has a science report, help him find books for his research rather than only going to the Web. While the Internet is an easy resource, teach him that books are often more detailed.
- Discuss the books. Ask your child what an author's main theme is, how characters are alike or

different, what she likes or dislikes about the story, and how it compares to other books she's read. Share your own thoughts.

- Encourage your child all the time. Your encouragement and support are important for your child's confidence with reading.

ENCOURAGE READING AT HOME

- Create a home library or visit your local library together
- Talk about what you read. Before you turn a page, ask your child to predict what will happen next.
- Bring stories to life. Create puppets or different hats he or she can wear to represent each character in a story. Then have your child act out the story for the rest of the family.
- Play word games. Do crossword and word search puzzles together.
- Taking reading on the road. Have children read street and business signs. Make it a game to see which of you can spot the most signs.
- Tell your own stories. Take turn making up stories. Help your child write down the story and draw pictures to go with each page.
- Take advantage of library programs. Many libraries offer story time, summer reading challenges and other programs for children. Encourage your child to get involved.

APEC IS HERE TO HELP

APEC provides free training, information, and consultation to families. Visit our training calendar for more information about learning opportunities at www.alabamaparentcenter.com or call our center.

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