

Tips for Reading at Home



Read for about 15-20 minutes each night. Timing your child with a timer may not be necessary if they are enjoying the book they are reading. Most kids will stop reading mid-sentence when they hear a timer ring rather than finishing the book or chapter, so try it without a timer and see if they have the stamina to read for a 15-20 minute period of time each night. If not, then use a timer that you can see and let them know when it is time to get ready to stop. Encourage them to read until a natural break in the reading. Also, we all have busy lives, but 15 minutes each night is much better than an hour in one night. Regular reading across many days is the key. Find a routine that works for your family.

Read a variety of texts. Second graders get hooked on chapter books. Although they should read chapter books, they should also read picture books, poetry, folk tales, nonfiction, and much more. Picture books help them become better writers because it is a better model for the type of writing they will do this year. Nonfiction is essential to encourage them to understand nonfiction text features and develop comprehension strategies to synthesize information. Poetry encourages phrasing and fluency. Each genre of reading has benefits. Keep a "balanced reading diet." Develop your child's interests.

Focus on Comprehension. Even if you have never read the book, ask questions like: What was your favorite part? What was the big problem the characters faced? What connections do you have to this story? For nonfiction, ask: What was the book mostly about? What did you learn? What else are you wondering about the topic? Talking about the books is very important. If your child cannot carry on a conversation about the book, then the comprehension of the text may be limited and that book might not be a good fit for your reader. Beware of chapter books that are intended for more mature readers, such as the 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' series, which is all about being in middle school. If your child is having a hard time finding books that match their interest or ability, let me know so that I can help.

Post online to Kidblog one or more times per week. We've practiced posting reading responses to our blog in class; your child should know what to do. A set of reading response "starters" are being sent home along with this letter. Their post should include a sentence about the title, one or two sentences that summarize what they read, and one or two sentences using a response starter. If your child has a difficult time typing their blog post, have them try writing it on paper first, then have them type it the next night. It is okay to assist with the typing at first if your child does not have much experience with keyboarding. However, encourage them to do some of the typing each time until they are gradually taking over the job of typing. Some of the kids are more tech-savvy than others. The beauty of Kidblog is the social nature of sharing book titles and ideas that naturally unfolds the more they participate and comment on each others' posts.



