



PTA TAKE YOUR FAMILY TO SCHOOL WEEK!

Be a Reading Champion



National PTA and RIF have partnered to support families in encouraging their children to become lifelong readers. We know that modeling good reading behavior and taking the time to inspire children to read sets them up for a lifetime of success. Here are some useful tips to help you create a supportive learning environment:

- **Encourage choice:** Let your child choose the type of book or reading material to read during your time together. Choice is a key motivator in getting children to read.
- **Know your audience:** It is important to be familiar with your child's reading level and interests. This will help engage them in conversation and show that you are taking the time to get to know what is important to them.
- **Make reading fun:** Use different voices to represent characters if you're reading aloud, ask questions as you read to guide student thinking, and point out illustrations and details that may add to the story.
- **Model good reading habits:** Surround yourself with reading material and make it a habit to read everyday things such as street signs, recipes and even cereal boxes aloud.
- **Ask questions:** Questions that make a child think about the book or reading material are best. Some examples of questions that encourage deeper thinking skills might be:
 - Which character would you like to meet in real life and why?
 - How would you change the ending of the story?
 - If you could talk to the author, what would you ask?
 - What would be another possible title for this book?
 - What do you think the author wanted you to remember after reading this book?



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- **Strategies are key:** Many books offer new and sometimes difficult words. Guide your child with the following strategies to help figure out unknown words:
 - Look at the pictures, they usually provide clues about what the word might mean.
 - Try and sound the word out.
 - Read on past the unknown word and look for clues within the rest of the sentence.
 - Look for word chunks—smaller words within a larger word—to see if they'll give you clues to the larger word's meaning.
 - Reread the sentence again, try and substitute another word and see if it works.
 - Always ask "Does that make sense?"
 - **Check out supporting materials on Literacy Central:** Visit RIF's online destination to get thousands of free digital resources tied directly to the books children love. Incorporate these resources when reading with your child. Visit Literacy Central at RIF.org/Literacy-Central.
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