

# Parents in the Know

## Early Reading

### Becoming a Reader

There are many things that you can do to help.

1. Read aloud daily. Point to the words. Encourage your child to "read" along. It's o.k. if he is reading from memory.
2. Provide a place to write and writing supplies.
3. Talk with your child about his life and interests.
4. Discuss new vocabulary words.
5. Model a love for reading and writing.

Based on: "Reading and Language: Young Child and Kindergarten", PBS, [www.pbs.org/parents/readinglanguage/articles/literatetohome/youngchild Kindergarten-lit.html](http://www.pbs.org/parents/readinglanguage/articles/literatetohome/youngchild Kindergarten-lit.html).



### Meet Rosemary Wells

Rosemary Wells is the author and illustrator of over 90 children's books. She is the author of the popular Max and Ruby and McDuff series. Rosemary has been writing children's books for over 30 years.

She explains that "Reading to your little one is just like putting gold coins in the bank. It will pay you back tenfold. Your daughter will learn, and imagine, and be strong in herself. Your son will thrive, and give your love back forever." You can learn more about Rosemary Wells at [rosemarywells.com](http://rosemarywells.com).

Based on: Rosemary Wells, "Read to Your Bunny and Parents: The Most Important Twenty Minutes of Your Day", [http://rosemarywells.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/READ\\_To\\_your\\_BUttNY.pdf](http://rosemarywells.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/READ_To_your_BUttNY.pdf)

## Learning Words by Sight

Sight words are words that your child can read without having to sound them out. They are often very common words such as "the", "said", and "you". These sight or high frequency words make up at least 50% of the words most students encounter while reading.

To help your child practice, make flash cards on index cards or let her highlight sight words found in the newspaper. You can find a list of the 220 most frequently used sight words if you search the Internet for Dolch Sight Word List.

Based on: Julie A. Daymut, M.A., "Sight Words", Super Duper Handy Handouts Number 200, [http://www.superduperinc.com/handouts/pdf/200\\_SightWords.pdf](http://www.superduperinc.com/handouts/pdf/200_SightWords.pdf)

## Learning Your ABC's



Learning the alphabet is one of the first literacy related activities that children do. Many children begin singing the "Alphabet Song" at three or four years old. In addition to being able to sing the letters in order, we want children to be able to identify individual letters and begin learning their sounds. Alphabet books are a great way to do this.

Miss Spider's ABC Book, By David Kirk  
Museum ABC, by the Metropolitan Museum of Art  
An A to Z Walk in the Park, by R. M. Smith  
Alphabet City, by T. Johnson  
Q is for Duck: An Alphabet Guessing Game, by Michael Folsom

Additional activities for learning letters can be found on the next page of this newsletter.

## What Research Says



Reading aloud to children helps them develop language and literacy skills. The more that a young child is read to, the more likely he is going to experience school and reading success.

Many families may not have books and other reading materials in the home. However, that is not an obstacle. Your child should be able to check books out of the school's library. In addition to that, you can go to your local library. Most libraries lend a variety of types of materials including books on tape, educational videos, software, games, puppets, and big books!

Based on: "Facts About Reading Aloud", Reading Is Fundamental, [www.nf.org/parents/articles/Fact\\_readingAloud.mspx](http://www.nf.org/parents/articles/Fact_readingAloud.mspx)

# Focus on Early Reading

## Literacy Materials for Home

There are a lot of simple materials that you already have or that you can purchase from a dollar store that can help your child learn the alphabet and letter sounds.

Magnetic letters  
Alphabet flash cards  
Letter stamps  
Alphabet puzzles  
ABC books  
Letter tiles  
Alphabet blocks  
Foam letters



## Technology Corner

There are many educational software programs designed for young children (4-6) that you may find helpful.

Sight Words with Samson, by Knowledge Wand  
Clifford the Big Red Dog Reading, by Scholastic  
Reading Blaster for Kindergarten, by Knowledge Adventure  
Reader Rabbit Reading 4-6, by The Learning Company  
Jumpstart Phonics, by Knowledge Adventure

You can learn more about reading software at: Super Kids Educational Software Review, [www.superkids.com](http://www.superkids.com).

## Where to Look for Books

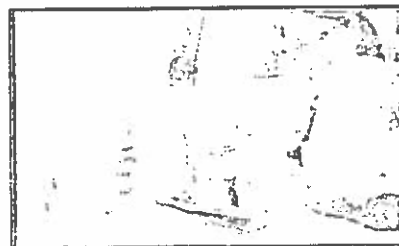
In today's economy, many families find buying books to be a luxury rather than a necessity. This does not need to stop you from reading to your child. You can find cheap books at: garage sales, thrift stores, dollar stores, book fairs, through book clubs like Scholastic, and on the Internet (eBay and Half.com).

Of course, the largest selection of books is available for free at your local library! Borrowing books from the library allows you access to a great variety and number of books for free!

## Books to Read Aloud

My Dog and the Birthday Mystery, by David Adler  
Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me, by Eric Carle  
Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born, by Jaime Lee Curtis  
Giggle, Giggle, Quack, by Doreen Cronin  
Diary of a Fly, by Doreen Cronin  
Koala Lou, by Mem Fox  
Me First, by Helen Lester

Based on: "Read Aloud America (Composite Book List from Years 1999-2005), Read Aloud America, [http://www.readaloudamerica.org/books\\_k1.htm](http://www.readaloudamerica.org/books_k1.htm)



*"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free."  
Frederick Douglass*

## Activities to Try at Home

There are many fun and easy ways that your child can practice letters and the alphabet at home.

- **Rainbow Letters:** Write letters of the alphabet and then let your child trace the letters with different color crayons.
- **Alphabet Book:** Make an alphabet book by stapling paper together. Have your child practice writing the letters of the alphabet on each page. Students ready to work on letter sounds can draw pictures of objects that begin with each letter.
- **Scavenger Hunt:** Write letters of the alphabet on pieces of paper and hide them in the house or yard. Have your child see how many he can find in five minutes.
- **Human Alphabet:** Have your child practice making letters of the alphabet with her body.

Based on: *W. by Ewins (1999). Phonics from A - Z. Teaching Resources.*



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