

Reading With Your Student

Setting the Atmosphere:

- Help your student find a quiet comfortable place to read.
- Allow your student to see you as a reader.
- Visit the local library or bookstore for your student to choose high interest stories.
- Read aloud to your student.
- Re-read favorite stories often.
- Discuss the stories you read together.
- Recognize the value of silent reading.
- Keep reading time enjoyable and relaxed.

Responding to Reading Attempts:

We often tell students to “sound it out” when they reach an unknown word. While phonics is one important aspect of reading development, reading for meaning is the primary goal. The following prompts are recommended for fostering independent readers who monitor and correct themselves as they read. (If your student is still stuck after three prompts, tell him or her the word and encourage continued reading.)

- Give your student five to ten seconds to attempt reading strategies independently.
- Ask, “What would make sense here?”
- Ask, “What do you think the word could be?”
- Say, “Use the picture to help you figure out the word.”
- Say, “Go back to the beginning of the sentence and try again.”
- Ask, “Have you seen the word on other pages?”
- Ask, “What letter sound is at the beginning? Do you know other sounds?”

Encouraging Reading Progress

Focus on what your student is doing well. You might say,

- “I like the way you tried that word.”
- “I like the way you used the picture to help you read the words.”
- “I noticed you _____, that is what good readers do.”
- You are becoming a great reader. I am proud of you!”