

BE A READING CHAMPION



Reading Is
Fundamental
RIF.org

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

- **Encourage choice:** If reading one-on-one, let the 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 the reading level and interests of the child you are reading with. 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:** If reading aloud, use different voices to represent characters, 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 material read 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?

- **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 be.
 - Get your mouth ready and try and sound it 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.
 - 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](https://www.rif.org/literacy-central).