PARENT AND FAMILY LITERACY STRATEGIES

Prepared for Worcester Education Collaborative



FAMILY STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORTING STUDENT LITERACY

Communicate with Your Student's Teacher

- Maintain regular two-way communication with the school and teachers to stay informed about your child's progress.
- Address any concerns or issues related to your child's literacy development in collaboration with teachers.
- **Communicate any barriers** to engagement with the school or in your child's literacy (e.g., transportation, schedules, language).

PRACTICE LITERACY SKILLS AT HOME

- Help your child practice literacy skills at home by reading together, discussing books, and working on literacy-related activities.
- Visit and check-out books from your local library.
- If your family speaks a home language other than English, use home language texts to promote literacy through the transfer skills from one language to another.



PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- Get involved in school activities to support your child's literacy development, including:
 - Family literacy nights
 - Book projects
 - Volunteer reading programs
- **Participate** in school-based teams, committees, and councils to make your voice heard and provide feedback.



ENGAGE IN STUDENT'S LITERACY LEARNING

- Understand academic standards and literacy-related benchmarks appropriate to your child's age.
- Understand how children learn to read and why they might struggle.
- **Stay informed** about your child's reading and writing progress in school and discuss literacy goals.

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Family Fun or Game Night

Reading is involved in games and

activities like charades, board

games, or card games. Have your child read the game's directions.

Recipes

Read the ingredients and steps

with your child while cooking a

favorite dish.





Family Book Clubs

Trade books with other families in the class or community.



Storytelling

Read and tell stories, document or write stories, or record stories on a phone



Table Topics

Read books first then watch the movie.

Family Movie Night

Place topics in a bowl and pull one each night and discuss.



Environmental Labels

Read road signs, grocery items, and building signs. Label items around home.

GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR SUPPORTING LITERACY

Communicate and Interact Often

- What are the school's literacy goals for children and families?
- How does the school partner with families when developing its language and literacy goals for students?
- How can I support my child's language and literacy goals?

Discuss Literacy Instruction and Intervention

Bedtime Reading

Let your child select a book that

you or they can read aloud.

- What does my child need to know and be able to do?
- □ How is reading taught and by whom?
- When and for how long does literacy instruction and intervention happen?
- □ How many children join?
- What school materials or trainings about literacy are available to families?

Practice Literacy Skills at Home

- What activities will help my child practice the skills learned at school?
- What strategies should I use to help my child read or write?
- What tools are available to help my child practice these skills?

Address Concerns Together

- How is my child's language and literacy learning being s supported in the school's system of learning support?
- How are you monitoring my child's language and literacy progress?
- What might happen next if my child continues to struggle?

References available in the Hanover Research report "Best Practices for Family and Community Literacy Engagement," completed for WEC in February 2024 Content on this page adapted from: [1] Special Education Programs, National Center on Improving Literacy, 2017. https://improvingliteracy.org/brief/key-roleschildrens-literacy-success [2] Family Literacy Engagement Strategic Plan: For Schools and School Systems." Louisiana Department of Education, March 2021. p. 11.

https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/literacy/family-literacy-engagement-strategic-plan-for-schools-and-school-systems.pdf