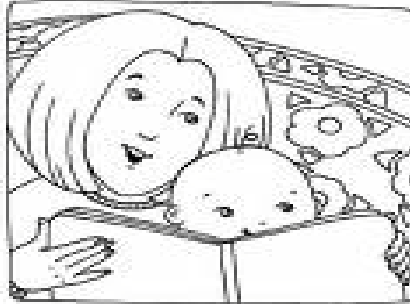


Strengthening Your Child's Reading at Home



Introduction

**The road to becoming a reader
begins the day a child is born and
continues through the end of third grade.**



**Learning to read and write starts at home,
long before children go to school**

The goal of this presentation is to help you help your child at home by:

- Providing an understanding about how children learn to read
- Providing ideas and activities that you can do at home with your child
- Providing an understanding of literacy at home
- Providing resource books to read, and organizations to contact for more information

Keys to Reading

According to research, becoming a reader involves the development of important skills, including

- Using language in conversation
- Listening and responding to stories read aloud
- Recognizing and naming the letters of the alphabet
- Listening to the sounds of spoken language
- Connecting sounds to letters to figure out the “code” of reading
- Reading often so that recognizing words becomes easy & automatic
- Learning and using new words
- Understanding what is read

The Building Blocks of Reading

1. PHONEMIC AWARENESS

2. PHONICS

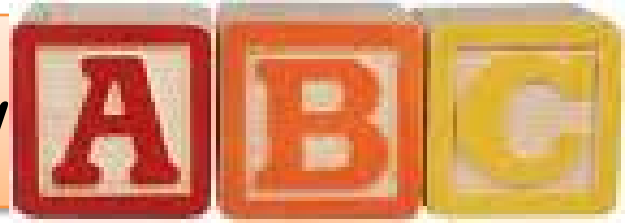
3. VOCABULARY

4. FLUENCY

5. COMPREHENSION

**Five
skills
children
need
to be
readers
by third
grade**

The Building Blocks of Reading

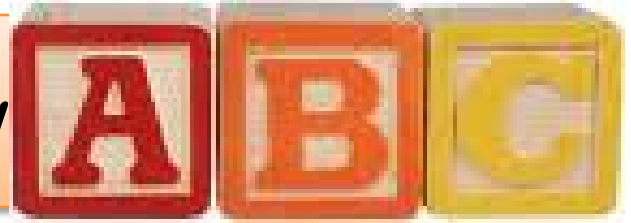


Research tells us that children need five skills to become confident readers by third grade.

1. Phonemic Awareness

- Every spoken word is a series of sounds.
- Before a child is able to read, s/he needs to become aware of how sounds work.
- Build spoken language by talking and listening.
- Learn about the sounds of spoken language.

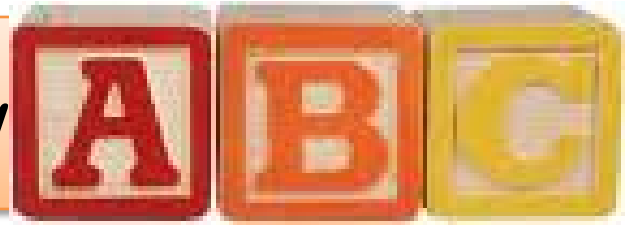
The Building Blocks of Reading



1. Phonemic Awareness – What to do at home

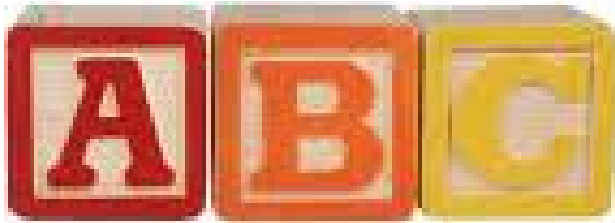
- Play word games; talk about the letters and the sounds they make.
- Read a story or poem and ask your child to listen for words that begin with the same sound.
- Sing or say a nursery rhyme or song.
- Talk with your child often... every day as you eat together, go shopping, and ride in the car.

The Building Blocks of Reading



1. Phonemic Awareness – What to do at home, cont'd

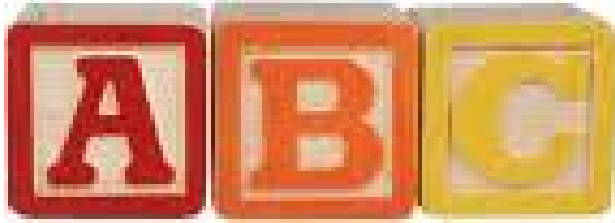
- Encourage your child to draw pictures and use his/her words to describe what the pictures are about.
- Listen to your child's questions patiently and answer them just as patiently.
- Talk about books that you've read together.
- Pay attention to how much TV your child is watching.



The Building Blocks of Reading

2. Phonics

- The leap from talking to reading happens when a child starts to see how written letters stand for the sound of speech.
- Learn about the letters of the alphabet
- Be read to and read on their own
- Learn to understand and use letter-sound relationships and be able to recognize words when they see them.

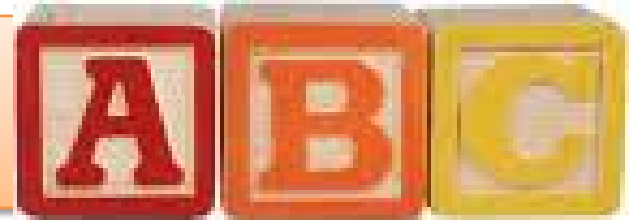


The Building Blocks of Reading

2. Phonics – Strategies for Home

- Show your child how books and print work.
- As you read with your child, talk about how a book works – that it has a front and back cover, and a title.
- Talk about the author's and illustrator's names and tell what they do
- Point to the words as you start reading on a page
- Talk about the connections between the print and pictures as you read.
- Help them predict what will happen next and point out the details in the pictures.

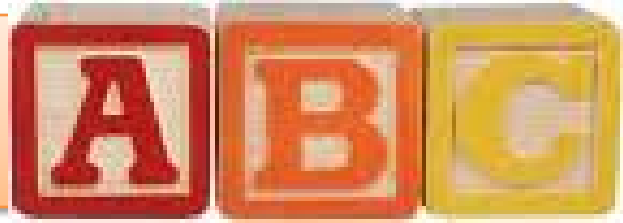
The Building Blocks of Reading



3. Fluency

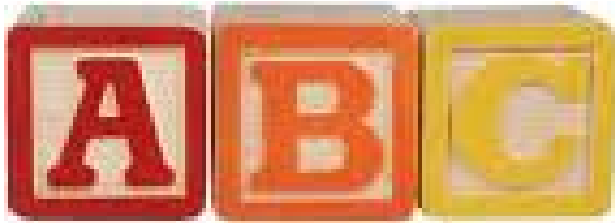
- Fluency is the ability to read accurately, quickly, and naturally – with expression.
- Fluent readers recognize lots of words without having to sound them out.

The Building Blocks of Reading



3. Fluency – What to do at home

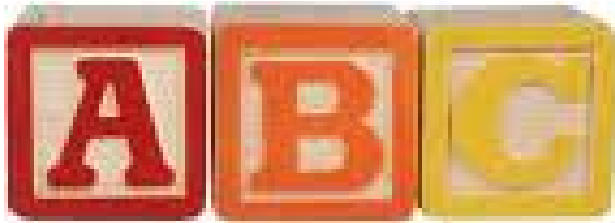
- Read to your child and then listen to your child read the same text to you.
- Listen to your child read the same pages repeatedly until your child is able to read smoothly without having to stop to sound out the words.
- Does your child have a favorite book that s/he likes to read over and over? Re-reading these favorite books – as you've been doing all along – is a great way to help make your child a fluent reader.



The Building Blocks of Reading

4. Vocabulary

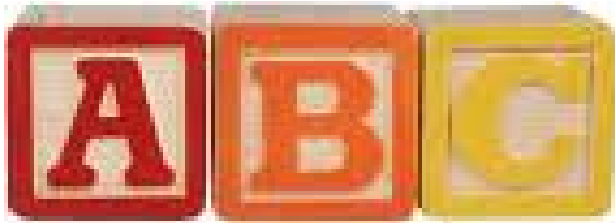
- Learn new words and build knowledge of what words mean



The Building Blocks of Reading

4. Vocabulary – What to do at home

- Read to and with your child every day.
- Start early – the names of colors, animals, family members, and other things around the house.
- Children learn most words by hearing them and then repeating the sounds and words that they hear.

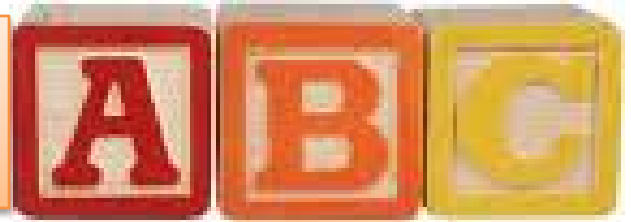


The Building Blocks of Reading

4. Vocabulary – What to do at home, cont'd

- Explain new ideas and words to your child. Encourage him/her to ask questions about what you are reading.
- Use and repeat important words, such as names of buildings, parks, zoos, cities, and other places that you visit.
- Help your child develop an interest in the world.

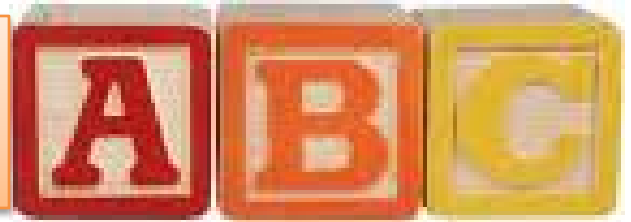
The Building Blocks of Reading



5. Comprehension

- Getting meaning and understanding what is read.
- Build knowledge of the world.
- Build their ability to understand what they read.

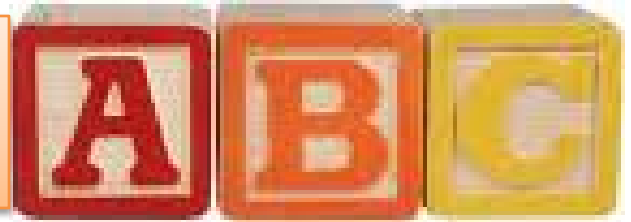
The Building Blocks of Reading



5. Comprehension – What to do at home

- **Talk about new words that your child reads and hears.**
- **Help your child use the dictionary or thesaurus to check on the meaning of new words.**
- **Help your child become aware of the beginnings and endings of words.**

The Building Blocks of Reading



5. Comprehension – What to do at home, cont'd

- Show your child how to use the sentences, words, and pictures around an unfamiliar word to figure out the word's meaning.
- As you read a book with your child, stop now and then to talk with him/her about the meaning of the book. Ask open-ended questions (that don't have a "yes" or "no" answer).
- Encourage your child to ask questions and to tell in his/her own words what the book is about.

Some helpful terms to know

- Alphabetic knowledge
- Big books
- Blending
- Developmental spelling
- Emergent literacy
- Environmental print
- Experimental writing
- Invented spelling
- Literacy
- Phonemes

- Phonemic awareness
- Phonological awareness
- Pretend reading
- Print awareness
- Segmentation
- Spoken language
- Syllable
- Vocabulary
 - Oral vocabulary
 - Reading vocabulary

Resources for Parents



The Partnership for Reading

National Parent Information Network

National Institute for Literacy

No Child Left Behind website

Reading Rockets

PBS Parents

**The White House Initiative on
Educational Excellence for
Hispanic Americans**

The American Federation of Teachers

Parents as Teachers National Center

Parents – YOU can make the difference!

Spending time
with your child
talking, reading, and
having fun together
helps build
a strong relationship
and also
helps promote
a love of learning!

